FROM THE PRESIDENT

This is a time of the year when we traditionally think of new beginnings, new hope, return of the light. We think of giving our most precious gifts to others, the gift of friendship, the gift of understanding, the gifts of our knowledge, the gifts of our talents. On the World's stage it appears that we are at the dawn of a new age. We each must play our own role to shape the drama.

At our December meeting we responded to several calls for assistance. Madison's Sister City of Arcatao, El Salvador needs medical supplies and we gave $200.00. The community supported radio station will receive the benefit of our gift of forgiving a WORT bond. A local Mong family will have a special gifts through our generosity. John Click told us of one of his Peace Corps group who is now working with the homeless and victims of AIDS. We gave $100.00 to assist with her work.

On Saturday, December 8, 1989, Rose Anne, Kevin, Alan, and I were in the audience of the American Public Radio show WHAD YA KNOW with the purpose of boosting our calendar. I got to mention that we had sold over 1000 calendars before we discovered that January lacked two days and we wanted to provide correction sheets to these early buyers. I didn't have a chance to explain that the sheets also contain 31 reasons why we have only 29 days in January.

On the 12th, I attended the news conference announcing the UNICEF 1990 report on The State of the World's Children. Each week 250,000 children die of diseases which are preventable. If only a portion of the money spent on recreational drugs and alcohol would be spent on health programs for these children, this tragic loss of life could be prevented.

We have an opportunity to help young people become sensitive to the interdependence of all the world's people. We have just received a grant for global development education. Special thanks are due to Hank Drennen for his tireless efforts in getting the grant proposal written and submitted. Now we need to show the National Council that we can make and important contribution in this area. Our small start with International Games Day at Marquette School was a success for those who were able to participate and we hope to do another program there in the spring.

I almost thought we were not going to have a New Years Party this year and then Peter Joyce offered to host the event. Thanks Peter. Details are inside!
EDITOR'S CORNER:

1. DUES - As I noted on the front page of last month's newsletter, we are now in the middle of our major dues collection period for all members whose dues expire on or around 1/90. We have several membership categories which are listed on the back page. If you cannot make either of the next two meetings, please send in the form on the back page with your check to keep your membership current and assure that you will continue to receive the newsletter. Also, anyone who wants to join the National Council of RPCVs for the coming year can include an extra $15 with their check. We will forward the money and membership information to the NCRPCV. Questions? Contact me - Walt (835-3083).

2. Last month's newsletter also contained an updated Phone Tree. We decided to include all of our current Madison area residents, which required the use of fairly small type. I hope no one is seriously inconvenienced. I also want to emphasize that the Phone Tree will only work if the information contained in it is current. If you change your phone number for some reason or move out of the area (or do not want to be included) please contact me. I can then pass on the information to others through the newsletter. Also, I would remind our Madison area readers to check the newsletter monthly for any phone number changes and record the new information on the Phone Tree.

3. Deadline for submission of material for the next newsletter is Monday, Jan. 15.

On behalf of all of us who work on the newsletter, I'd like to wish all you readers a happy holiday season and a joyful, prosperous and fulfilling 1990. May the winds of peace blow even stronger!

** NEXT MEETING! **

Next month's meeting will be a good-time Potluck, if Wisconsin's winter weather doesn't interfere, with the best food in town, wonderful camaraderie, and a (short ?) business meeting. All of this occurs on Friday, January 5 at Karen King's place - 1032 Fiedler Lane, Madison - starting about 6 PM. Questions can be directed to Karen at 256-2141.

Future meetings are scheduled for:

- Monday, Feb. 5
- Tuesday, Mar. 6
- Wednesday, Apr. 4
MINUTES
DECEMBER 7, 1989
RPCV'S OF WI--MADISON

I. Introductions. About 20 present in addition to a few guests including prospective PCV Tim O'Brien, Tim Erickson from WORT, Dr. Mike Plickinger from the Arcatao Sister City Project and Diana Livermore, Ph.D., from the UW Geology Department.

II. Treasurer's Report. Kevin reported that we have $1348 on deposit with the UW Credit Union and the Randall Bank, but that he is in the process of transferring all the funds to the UW Credit Union.

III. Recent Activities. A good time was had by all at the Christmas Party on Saturday, December 2, at Sophie's. The best present was a piece of pottery; the worst a lampshade.

The Marquette School International Games Day was held December 7 and was satisfactory for an initial effort. We learned that presenters with teaching experience are more effective; that we need to provide transportation and other support for the presenters; and that presenters must be given freedom to structure their presentations as they see fit without being bound to a rigid format. A good idea would be to have people present international programs to our group.

IV. Ongoing Activities.

A. Calendar. It's already time to start thinking about next year's calendar. We should start going through slides again (Winter Retreat would be a good time). Since we have already culled the best from existing members, we especially need input from new members.

Rose Ann reported that our expenses to date stand at $13,716.51, including $1,000 given to National Council in accordance with our marketing agreement with them. Our income so far is $12,776.35, which means that our net loss for now is at $940.16. Our cash on hand is at $7,587.30 with accounts receivable of $2,200 for 440 calendars sold but not paid for. There are 1,252 calendars out among the group and 888 remaining in Rose Ann's basement.

The sales figures are comparable to last year's as of this date, but we printed 5,000 this year rather than 3,000 in reliance upon National Council's agreement to help market them. Bob M. pointed out that National Council has not come through on all of their promises. Specifically, they agreed to send a mailing to all local RPCV groups and to place an ad in 2 issues of World View. Moreover, the agreement provides that we are to recover our costs and to garner a surplus of $2,500 before National Council gets anything.

Accordingly, the group resolved that Ken and Rose Ann should send a letter to National Council reminding them (1) that it is not too late to market the calendar inasmuch as December and January are leading months and (2) that if we don't recover costs plus $2,500, then no more money for them.

More marketing ideas: have a few people attend the national radio program "What Do You Know?" and give as their home town the name of their village so that they can be picked from the audience and plug the calendar. Saturday, December 9 at 9:00 a.m. at Villas Hall, 7th floor. Also, set up a booth at the International Crafts Fair at the Methodist Church (somewhere on the west side) this Saturday.

B. Freeze For Food. Deb reported that the flyers are ready for people to post at local businesses in their neighborhoods. Also, this year in addition to the 10 K run, there will be a 2 mile fun walk, so we will need a few more volunteers and prizes. The event is scheduled for January 27.

C. Cardinal Bar Benefit. February 10, 1990 is the new date. Helene has genuine Pakistani and Indian curry recipes for people interested in preparing food. Please give Jo a call first, so we know what everybody is bringing. Kathleen is in charge of advertising which will consist of announcements in lambs and other local papers, spots on the radio and circulars to be distributed to university and community groups interested in the problem of world and local hunger. Kathleen will need help with design the circular and media outreach, so anyone with artistic talent or contacts with the media should lend a hand.

We will set up starting at 5:00 p.m., start serving at 5:30 and clean up around 8:00. The proceeds will be donated 50/50 between groups dealing with world/local hunger. If anyone knows of any specific groups that are effective and worthy of our largesse, please discuss with Kathleen.

D. Winter Retreat. The weekend of February 23-25 at Camp Lucerne near Wautoma. A good winter getaway with cross country skiing, sledding and skating. Reservation forms will be in the February newsletter.

E. National Council. Meredith reported that the Executive Director, Carol, is resigning effective February 28. Also, to address the financial woes, the Council sent out a mailing to its membership requesting contributions. Also, to keep in mind the Peace Train to Eugene, Oregon next summer for the national convention. Round trip fare is $264.

V. Special Guests.

A. WORT. Tim Erickson, Development Director of WORT, 89.9 FM, the community radio station, proposed that the group help sponsor or underwrite the Monitor Radio Early Edition news program to be broadcast from 5:00 to 6:00 a.m. every morning at a cost of $1300 for six months if we go it alone or $630 if we go halves with someone else. In return the listening audience would enjoy more alternative international news and analysis and the group would be entitled to 2 thirty second announcements.

After careful review and due deliberation, however, the group resolved that we cannot afford such a commitment. In the alternative, the group resolved to forgive the bond and interest thereon purchased several years ago, amounting to a contribution of around $500.
These monies will go to WORT's capital campaign whose goal is to raise $100,000 by June 30 in order to repair or replace old worn out equipment.

B. Madison-Arcatao Sister City Project. Dr. Mike Flickinger, Co-ordinator of the medical component of the Project, spoke to request a contribution to help establish a health care network for Arcatao and the surrounding countryside.

By way of background, Arcatao was once a thriving village of 8,000 in rural El Salvador near the Honduran border until government forces, armed to the tune of $1 million per day by the Reagan-Bush administration, bombarded the place out and forced the relocation of its citizens in its campaign to depopulate the countryside. Slowly the Arcataocans have trickled back to rebuild their home and about 1,000 live there now. They have established a sister city relationship with Madison and since 1986 the Project has raised $50,000 in aid for reconstruction.

Accordingly, the group resolved to contribute $200 because:

"Solo nos caenos
Unidos vencemos!"

C. Speaker of the Month. Diana Livermore, Ph.D., of the UW Geology Department, and soon to be of Penn State, spoke on her field of study, i.e., the impact of climate on social change, with special emphasis on global warming.

Her regional specialization is Mexico which offers an especially fertile area of studying the relative importance of climate vs. political structures on social change since Mexico, unlike most places, has experienced land reform. Diana's data reveal, however, that the small's, or cooperative farms set up during the reforms, suffer more from drought because they were established on more marginal land to begin with. Drought losses have increased with every census and in a severe drought no one is spared, despite expensive irrigation systems.

As for global warming, the general consensus in the scientific community is that the earth is going to get warmer by 3 to 5 degrees C by the middle of the next century. Possibly rainfall will decrease or the ground simply dry up as evaporation increases with the warmer temperatures. In sum, it will be a disaster for Mexico which is drought vulnerable even in the best of times.

So, what can be done? One thing is to promote more sustainable agriculture practices which is something that needs to be done anyway.

Diana is involved in two debates on the issue in the scientific community. The first is over environment and national security. For example, the destruction of the Amazon may impact our quality of life, therefore some would argue for our intervention. This is first world arrogance, Diana submits, Brazil is getting tired of us going down there and telling them not to clear their forests, when that is exactly what we've done and are doing up here. How would we like it if Brazilians took a look at a mess like L.A. and told us to quit burning fossil fuels?

Also, Diana is involved in the debate as to how to cope with global warming and advocates helping those that will be affected first and most severely.

In sum, the potential effects of the global warming theory, if it comes to pass, are so devastating that we cannot afford to ignore them (even if the weatherman is wrong half the time).

VI. Announcements.

A. UNICEF Report on the State of the World's Children. This annual affair will be on January 2, 1990 at 11:00 a.m. in the Capitol rotunda. We are co-convenors of the press conference announcing the year's report.

B. Christmas Gifts. Meredith requested that some of us pitch in and buy Christmas presents for the seven children of the family (HAOng refugees) that gardened on her land last summer.

C. Christmas Brunch. Also, Meredith will be hosting a Christmas brunch on Sunday, December 24 from ten to noon at her place inasmuch as the Union will be closed on that date and our Sunday brunch tradition must go on.

D. Board of Directors. The Board met recently and recommended that two additional members be added to the Board. Walt Zeltner and Gordon Malaise were recommended and the group resolved that their names be placed on a ballot in the next newsletter for approval by the membership.

E. Constitution. Rose Ann announced that our long awaited revised Constitution has now been completed by Jerry Maynard. Now copies of the revisions must be sent to the entire membership for approval.

F. Catholic Worker House, Chicago, Ill. John Click read a letter from someone from his training group who now works with homeless and destitute AIDS victims. They are always in need of money to help the most powerless in our society. Accordingly, the group resolved to donate $100.

G. Old Friend in Town. Julie announced that Mark Visocky will be in town for a couple weeks and will be at the brunch on December 17.

H. Next Meeting. Potluck, Friday, January 5, 1990 at Karen King's.

VII. Meeting Adjourned at 9:45.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Gordon M. Malaise
Assistant Secretary
DATES TO NOTE

18 MON RESULTS - 7 PM - Memorial Union - World's Children Report

24 Sun HOLIDAY BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Meredith Green's - 271-0998
Call to assist with menu item or just come, semi-potluck

25 Mon Christmas Day - Have a Happy Holiday

31 Sun NO BRUNCH - Lakefront Cafeteria Closed

31 SUN NEW YEARS PARTY - 8 pm Peter Joyce's 1134 Spaight St.
Bring Munchies, Beer and Wine. Also dance music and
your fantastic slides


JANUARY

1 Mon New Year's Day Get Calendar Money in A.S.A.P.

5 FRI GENERAL MEETING & POT LUCK -6 pm at Karen King's 256-2141
1032 Fiedler Lane - South of Badger Road.

7 Sun BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union
Ice Skating at Tenney Park immediately following

10 Wed Milwaukee Meeting - 7 pm 1756 N. Prospect - 271-9950
14 Sun BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Location to be announced - Followed by
Cross-Country Skiing at Odana Golf course - rentals avail.
15 Mon NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
21 Sun BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union
Toboganing in Elver Park after brunch

27 Sat FREEZE FOR FOOD - Contact Deb Stapleton - 251-4192
Our big event for OXFAM - Everyone helps out. More info
at meeting. Pot Luck afterwards.

28 Sun BRUNCH - 10-12 am - Lakefront Cafeteria - Memorial Union
Check your 1990 Calendars and do something spontaneous

29 Mon RESULTS - 7 pm

5 Mon GENERAL MEETING - 7 pm - Union South - 227 N. Randall Av

10 Sat CARDINAL BAR BENEFIT - 5:30 pm - Curry Recipe Pot Luck
Suggested donation, $ 5.00 at door. Proceeds for hunger
programs - local and international. To help out, call
Kathleen Quinlan 249-2792 or Jo Thompson 255-1339

23-25 FSS WINTER RETREAT - Camp Lucerne - Winter Recreation - New
member slides and regional updates. Fireplace chats.

BRUNCH on Sunday is where the discussion of our group business occurs
between meetings, plus spirited chatter. Nice days - on terrace.
LOOSE LIPS

CONGRATULATIONS TO HANK!! A JOB WELL DONE. DUE TO HIS EFFORTS OUR GROUP RECEIVED A GLOBAL EDUCATION GRANT FOR $5,000. THE MANY MEETINGS, HOURS AT THE PC, AND WEE HOURS IN THE MORNING IS WHAT HANK PUT INTO THE PROPOSAL TO GET THE JOB DONE. TO TOP IT OFF JERRY CALLED HIM THE NIGHT BEFORE HE FOUND OUT ABOUT THE AWARD AND SUGGESTED WE 'FRANCHISE OUR PROPOSAL' AND SELL IT TO WEALTHY GROUPS, LIKE HIS. THEY COULD THEN GET A FLYING START ON GLOBAL ED AND WE COULD GET SOME DOLLARS FOR OUR EFFORTS TO PUT TOWARD GLOBAL ED.

AND SPEAKING OF JERRY, HE WAS SO EMBARRASSED TO BE HANGING FROM THE THORN TREE, THAT HE OVERNIGHT EX-PRESSED US OUR NEW SO1.3C CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS. THANKS JERRY. ANOTHER MAJOR EFFORT ON THE MAIN BURNER. GORDON HAS TAKEN ON THE TASK TO GET US LEGALLY TAX EXEMPT.

BOB HAD A SMALL QUILTING PARTY AT HIS HOUSE FOR HIS WEDDING GIFT. HE SAID HE WANTED TO LEARN! BUT THE EXPRESSION ON HIS FACE LOOKED MORE LIKE 'I WANNA WATCH YOU GUYS DO IT'.

BOB HAS A JOB AS A EDITOR FOR CUNA. LAURA HAS A HALF TIME JOB. JIM HAS GONE OFF TO THE VIRGIN ISLES AGAIN. GORDON GOT A JOB IN THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH AND MOVED TO MADISON. DEB GOT PROMOTED TO INSTRUCTOR.

KEN GOT ON 'WHAT DO YA KNOW'. HE WANTED EVERYONE WHO HAS A CALENDAR TO GET THEIR ERA FOR SHEETS. HE ALSO IS THE PROUD OWNER OF A "WHAT DO YOU KNOW" POCKET PROCTOR.

PETE HAS HAD A SUCCESSFUL YEAR IN THE SMALL POTATOES BUSINESS.

SOPHIE HAD A LOVELY HOLIDAY PARTY FOR US. THANKS A MILLION! THERE WAS ODDLES OF FOOD, JO AGAIN BROUGHT SOMETHING EXOTIC, AND OF COURSE IT WOULD NOT BE THE SAME IF YVONNE DID NOT BRING HER POPPY SEED CAKE. (NOW WE ALL TEST POSITIVE FOR COCAINE!)

Buck ran the gift exchange with the flair that only he has. It started out with Nathan's art project that looked like a seashell on a stick, and continued with Lena getting a world wildlife calendar that she cherished, Julie the ugliest lampshade ever, Betsy refusing to take gift number 7 because she was 3, Jessica not wanting a kids present and then keeping wonder pup when she got it, Laura refusing to take her gift out of the box because it was so ugly, Suzanne receiving origami ornaments, Judy trading Ken for a pig candle holder, Dave getting a turquoise sweater vest, and Betsy receiving the matching adult sized shorts, Pat's top with a peacock, all the children on the steps with slinkies, Matthew looking for the pitcher and ending up with a pot of honey, Jane trading for a pig, a wolf howling at the moon, a zebra vase with plastic flowers, Don with a crooked cup, Yvonne with a crazy carpet, the Ashoka dish, and to keep us all literate, a supply of paperbacks.

After all was done, the gift master redistributed the gifts to whom he thought should have them.

Allen arrived with a gift with only 5 people left at the party. Only he knows what was inside!

Lee is enjoying her job in DC. She has an in office 70 yr old boyfriend. Between him and her work there are very few hours left in the day. She will be home for Xmas. Mark will also be here for the holidays.

May everyone go near and far, and may you all find something that binds you to special people in this season of lights.
NEW YEARS EVE PARTY
AT PETE JOYCE'S
1134 SPAIGHT STREET
SUNDAY DECEMBER 31, 1989
251-9405

COME AFTER 8 PM
HE HAS A GREAT DANCE FLOOR
FIREPLACE, AND SLIDE ROOM.
BRING DANCE MUSIC, MUNCHIES,
SLIDES, YOB AND LIVELY SPIRITS.

FREEZE ON THE FREEZE FOR FOOD!
Volunteers and warm hearts needed January 27th. This
year a 2-mile walk is included at 12:15. Dress warm
and bring munchies, cookies, bars for the runners.
Contact Deb Stapleton, 251-4192 to volunteer. (First
come, first to get to work inside the shelter.)

ENVIRONMENT CAMP FOR CONSERVATION AWARENESS
P. O. Box 2772
6th St. NW
Kalaheo
Kauai

Dear Tom and friends in Madison,

Greetings from the foot of the Himalayas.

It seems like another world but the day I spent in
Madison is still vivid and really enjoyable. Since I
came back to report, ECCA has come a long way.
The International Union for Conservation of Natural Resources
(UNESCO) and the International Trust for Nature Conservation
(London) have allocated money and resources for the
project for the next couple of years. This makes it
possible for us to look into the future a bit more
confidently. In the meantime, help continues to
play a heavy price for its fossil fuel dependence on
India. Finally people there don't even see
an end to the current problem in the near future. If anything, people
have realized the importance
Conservation Education in reports.
Thank you for everything.

We have not inherited the earth from our forefathers but borrowed it from our children.

Reggae to the Rescue

THIS MONTH'S CONCERTS IN SIERRA
Leone by Ziggy Marley and the
Melody Makers (Nov. 4 and 5) are the
Jamaican group's first in Africa—and
the start of fund-raising for a proposed
Marley Foundation to support several
charities in Sierra Leone and perhaps
elsewhere on the continent. The foundation
would honor Bob Marley, late
superstar of reggae music, and the con-
tinuation of his work by son Ziggy and
other members of the Marley family.
Photographs of the event fill an album. In the pictures, balloons and flowers decorate the hospital room. People are smiling. But their eyes give away a somber mood.

Around her neck, Chris now wears a gold chain with a ring attached. It's Leah's ring, the gift of a friend, and it has a peridot in it, one of the birthstones for August. The baby girl wore it during her naming ceremony at the hospital on Sunday, the day after her birth. Chris touched it several times as she recalled the day.

"The most painful moment was when we had to say goodbye to her, leave the hospital and leave her there," she said.

Leah's body was cremated.

A memorial service was held the next Wednesday. More than 150 balloons were released, many of them bearing messages to Leah. It was the same day as the lunar eclipse, during which the moon turned a rosy color.

"That night we looked up at the moon and thought about Leah's balloons crossing in front of it," Wade said. Wade is lean-faced, with thin-rimmed glasses; he smiled often when he talked about his daughter.

Analyst Savage said the convergence of birth and death brings out crossed emotions, and rituals can ease the discord.

"Parents should be given permission to do what they need to do" by society and by hospitals, Savage said. But there shouldn't be a standard way of handling grief, she said.

"(Rituals) may be for some parents, but not for everyone," she said. "Decisions like that must be made on a case-by-case basis."

In the months since Leah's death, it has been a slow walk for Chris and Wade. "In order to get through the pain, you have to get through it," Wade said. "We are walking through it."

Sometimes the pain stops, like at Halloween, "I thought about Halloween being a holiday," Chris said. "But when it came, unexpectedly, it was hard."

"I didn't miss Leah and my newborn baby. I was missing fun a little girl can have on Halloween."

Still, there has been a friend. Wade and Chris, both 37, are teachers: he at Edgewood High School, she at Oregon Junior High School. Before Leah's birth, they had made plans to take leaves during Leah's first year. After Leah's death, they changed some of those plans; they had to pick up the pieces.

And then their son, Luke. Because he was included in preparations for Leah's birth, he has been included in dealing with her death.

On the day they learned Leah had died, the couple gave the little boy the news. Because he had been to siblings class at Jackson Clinic, Luke already had a simple understanding of his mother's pregnancy. Wade and Chris built on that, explaining that the heartbeat he had been allowed to hear in the doctor's office wasn't there anymore and that Leah wasn't kicking anymore.

"The big one was that we couldn't bring our baby home," Chris said, trying not to cry.

The couple let Luke express grief in his own ways, neither prodding him to do so nor stopping him when he does. He talks about Leah and writes letters to her. Sometimes he tries to sort out the difference between life and death.

"He'll see a baby in a car," Chris said, "and he'll ask, 'Is that baby alive?'"

This identification of Leah is good, analyst Savage said. "Future children won't be confused with the past one. There won't be any unfinished business."

Savage went on to say that the value of the living child must be reinforced, so that the living child doesn't feel like he's in competition with the one who has died.

"The baby's deadness may need to be emphasized," she said.

As for Wade and Chris, they look hard for solace. They've been to seminars on grief and read many books on the subject. They keep journals and write letters to Leah.

And they talk — with each other, with friends, with the support group led by Krantz and Lisa Schafer, whose daughter was born still.

The group brings a sense of community, Wade said. "It's good just to know that you're not alone in your pain. (The support group) gives us a chance to talk about our babies, just talk about them."

"Not many other people want to hear anymore," she added softly.

A more concrete tribute to Leah recently was completed in Wingra Park: children's swings. The family left messages in its foundations as it was being built: footprints and messages scrawled in cement. A plaque bearing Leah's name is nearby.

"We feel as though they're Leah's gift to other toddlers," Wade said.

This past Saturday, the couple attended a holiday remembrance service at Lake Edge Lutheran Church for families whose children have died. More than 70 families participated, and the names of more than 100 babies were read as part of the service. A large Christmas tree bore ornaments for families to take home and personalize in honor of their infants who died.

Wade spoke at the service. "(The service) was incredibly powerful," Krantz said. Wade was able to speak, she said, "in such a way that his pain was evident . . . but he didn't let it sound hopeless.

"Wade has spoken to me before about the serenity he felt when Leah was born . . . I think he'll be able to focus on that peace, that happiness, and return to it some day."

By Elizabeth Briexey
Lifestyles reporter

The week before Leah was due, she died. Chris Antonuzzo's face went slack, her dark eyes filmed over, as she talked about her daughter's stillbirth. She didn't look at her husband, Wade Dallagranza. Instead, she stared across the kitchen table, fixing her eyes on the wall above the sink — and on the memory of Leah Marie, who died before they got to know her.

When their doctor told them, unexpectedly, that their baby's heart had stopped beating, they were shocked. "Stillbirth is not something you learn about when preparing to become a parent," Wade said.

In 1967, stillbirths in Wisconsin numbered between 550 and 600, and between 7,500 and 8,000 live births; in Dane County, there were approximately 50 stillbirths. Those numbers have remained fairly constant in the past several years, said Dr. Richard Pauli, who heads the Wisconsin Stillbirth Service Project at the University of Wisconsin Women's Center.

How parents handle stillbirths varies widely. Many couples downplay the births and repress their grief, fearing that other people will call them morbid. A few couples, though, celebrate the births and publicly recognize their babies.

When the doctor told them their baby had died, Chris and Wade went home for a few days before labor was induced. They let the news soak in and decided how to handle the birth and, subsequently, the memorial service.

"We had to ask ourselves, 'What do we do when they're going to give birth to a stillborn baby?"' Wade said.

They called Pat Krantz from the Bereaved Parents Support Group. Her name was supplied by a hospital in a packet of information compiled by the support group.

"I was able to be a friend," Krantz said. "Just someone who's been there." Krantz had two sons that died and, unbeknownst to Chris and Wade at that time, her 3-year-old daughter is named Leah Marie.

When Wade and Chris decided to go through on their original birth plans, which included balloons and celebration, Krantz told them to go ahead. "(Wade) just needed someone to say, 'Yes, this is OK to do,'" Krantz said.

That affirmation was just what they needed. "We wanted someone to say . . . that we could do what we wanted for Leah," Wade said.

The couple treated the birth late in the afternoon of Saturday, Aug. 12, as a real one, with the excitement of new parents. When she was born, "Wade said, "there was part of me that thought maybe . . . she'd fool the experts and she'd come out with a cry."

They held the still child, bathed her, dressed her and took her footprints. And they brought in 4-year-old Luke for his first of only two looks at his little sister.


Family members had flown in from as far away as Long Island, N.Y., Boston and Miami. They gathered at the couple's home on the near West Side to await the phone call every parent looks forward to. "It's a girl," Wade had told them.

"You know, there's a lot of pride in making that call," Wade said. "It effects a feeling that Leah is real."

Judith Savage praises the couple's courage. Savage is a Jungian analyst in St. Paul, Minn., and the author of "Mourning and Unlived Lives," which discusses the need for parents to grieve for children who die at birth or shortly afterward. Savage's interest springs from a loss she had several years ago and from her work with patients.

"What they've allowed themselves to do is be parents," Savage said. "Their grief will ultimately be less because they've given a reality to the child and their own parenthood."

Seeing Leah took on special meaning for the friends and family support available.

The Bereaved Parents Support Group is open to anyone who has had pregnancy or infant loss. It meets monthly at Meriter-Madison General Hospital in Conference Room A. The next meeting is at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 21. For information, call Pat Krantz at 645-9522.

who joined Wade and Chris at Meriter-Madison General Hospital. They had been told about the baby's death a few days earlier, but they made the most of the one chance to see her.

plaining that the heartbeat he had been allowed to hear in the doctor's office wasn't there anymore and that Leah wasn't kicking anymore.

"The big one was that we couldn't bring our baby home," Chris said, trying not to cry.

The couple let Luke express grief in his own ways, neither prodding him to do so nor stopping him when he does. He talks about Leah and writes letters to her. Sometimes he tries to sort out the difference between life and death.

"He'll see a baby in a car," Chris said, "and he'll ask, 'Is that baby alive?'"

This identification of Leah is good, analyst Savage said. "Future children won't be confused with the past one. There won't be any unfinished business."

Savage went on to say that the value of the living child must be reinforced, so that the living child doesn't feel like he's in competition with the one who has died.

"The baby's deadness may need to be emphasized," she said.

As for Wade and Chris, they look hard for solace. They've been to seminars on grief and read many books on the subject. They keep journals and write letters to Leah.

And they talk — with each other, with friends, with the support group led by Krantz and Lisa Schafer, whose daughter was born still.

The group brings a sense of community, Wade said. "It's good just to know that you're not alone in your pain. (The support group) gives us a chance to talk about our babies, just talk about them."

"Not many other people want to hear anymore," she added softly.

A more concrete tribute to Leah recently was completed in Wingra Park: children's swings. The family left messages in its foundations as it was being built: footprints and messages scrawled in cement. A plaque bearing Leah's name is nearby.

"We feel as though they're Leah's gift to other toddlers," Wade said.

This past Saturday, the couple attended a holiday remembrance service at Lake Edge Lutheran Church for families whose children have died. More than 70 families participated, and the names of more than 100 babies were read as part of the service. A large Christmas tree bore ornaments for families to take home and personalize in honor of their infants who died.

Wade spoke at the service. "(The service) was incredibly powerful," Krantz said. Wade was able to speak, she said, "in such a way that his pain was evident . . . but he didn't let it sound hopeless.

"Wade has spoken to me before about the serenity he felt when Leah was born . . . I think he'll be able to focus on that peace, that happiness, and return to it some day."
Migrant suit cites treatment

By Melissa George

Migrant laborers worked on a Cottage Grove farm without pay this summer and lived like a herd of cattle inside a cramped, rundown trailer, a lawsuit filed Wednesday contends.

The 31 workers were employed by Whispering Pine Farms and its owner, Wayne Jacobson, who had promised them a biweekly salary and housing, states the suit brought by Legal Action of Wisconsin.

Most of the Hispanic laborers were housed in a dilapidated trailer with two mattresses and no running water, said John Greene, an attorney with the law group that represents state migrant workers.

"I think the worst aspect is these workers were struggling very hard to support their families and were treated beneath the dignity of any human being," Greene said.

Twenty-two farmworkers lived in the trailer and others sought shelter in junked cars nearby. Greene said. The trailer's windows contained no screens, allowing flies and roaches to enter the structure, states the complaint, filed in federal court in Madison.

Jacobson and his wife, Janet, jointly own Whispering Pines. They recruited the Hispanic workers to tend the farm's cattle and fields from June to August, the suit states.

The Jacobsons promised to pay the workers $2.50 an hour, 15 cents above the then-minimum wage, Greene said. The guarantee was not in writing, and most workers never saw a paycheck, he said.

Neither the Jacobsons nor sons Gary and Donn, who are also named in the lawsuit, could be reached for comment Wednesday night.

Greene said the Jacobsons continued to sell cattle to come up with the pay. The family never told the employees they had filed to reorganize under Chapter 12 of federal bankruptcy laws, he said.

When workers demanded their wages, Wayne Jacobson refused to feed them and threatened to kill them if they stopped working, the complaint states.

Lacking any money, the workers were yoked to the farm because it offered them only hope for survival, the lawsuit said.

Greene said the workers, who are teen-agers to middle-aged adults, face "legal complications" on their residency status in the United States, but he declined to elaborate. They stopped working at the farm in August.

The lawsuit seeks $36,000 in back wages for the workers. It also seeks thousands of dollars in damages from the farm owners for alleged violations of federal laws guarding seasonal workers.

District Judge John Shabaz.

\[ Image of Migrant workers claim in a lawsuit they resided in the trailer above. \]

OUR RPCV GROUP PROVIDED EMERGENCY FUNDS FOR THESE LABORERS WHEN THEY HAD NO FOOD.

DEB STAPLETON VICE-PRESIDENT

I am a true Madison native, having been born under the sign of "St. Mary's Hospital". My dad, a true L_______, took us for Sunday drives to watch the Mifflin Street riots, and there I experienced my first whiff of mace. My mother, not so L_______, would confiscate the incense given to me by the Moonies, fearing I might start hallucinating. In a place like this I heard early on of the Peace Corps, and made it a personal goal. After a few years living in the Republican wilds of Shawano and working as social workers on the Menominee Reservation, Dave "The Man of My Dreams" Atkinson and I found ourselves in the mountains of Honduras, teaching gardening, soil conservation, and other things we had never done before. It's almost a cliche for RPCVs to say that they received much more than they gave, but I know I came away with a treasure of experience and memories from my women's groups and grade school kids. After nine months of travelling around South America, I was ready to get back to the States and find a canned food drive to get involved with. I found this RPCV group instead, and have very much appreciated the comraderie, support, and fun times it has given me. We're a great bunch of people!
It's rough, but rewarding

Peace Corps volunteer helps Africans survive

The life she lives is a far cry from the life she lived before. Her scrapbook of memories would include remembrances of Edgewood High School, the governor's mansion in Maple Bluff and treks up Bascom Hill.

But what some would consider a sheltered upbringing had the opposite effect, for it planted the seeds of political, social and environmental concern that has blossomed into full-fledged activism.

She has spent the past two years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Mali, a landlocked country in West Africa. As we spoke in the comfortable confines of her parents' home on Madison's west side, she was preparing to return for a third, and final, year. She is earnest, vibrant and committed. The spirit of the Peace Corps is alive in Julia Earl, daughter of former Gov. Tony Earl.

She earned a bachelor's degree in political science and undergraduate certification in environmental science, with a focus on African studies. When she began her Peace Corps training in June 1987, she was realizing a goal she had had since high school.

"I was taught the basics: to bathe with a bucket and dipper, to give appropriate greetings, to eat rice out of a bowl with my hands, and the art of cross-country bicycling."

"I live in Sikasso, a regional capital with a population of about 80,000. Although there are 8 million people in Mali, only 2 million of them live in cities; most of the population is rural."

"I remember arriving at the airport — it felt like a blast furnace. The soil is a bright orange, tropical soil, highly leached of nutrients. In the rainy season, it becomes very slippery mud; in the dry season, there's dust everywhere."

"My title is community forestry agent. I ride my motorcycle to four small villages 30 kilometers from the city. I have a lot of animation, an education technique developed by a West African research group that's committed to peasant self-promotion and action. It's designed for non-literate people, and it encourages participatory dialogue with the villagers, using culturally appropriate and understandable pictures."

"Our premise is that the people are aware of the problems they face — we outsiders don't have to tell them. They recognize soil erosion in their fields, that the women have to go longer distances to gather fuel wood, that although the men are cultivating larger areas of land, the yield is lower." "We ask them what solutions they think will work. Together we analyze changes, and attempt to recognize cause and effect."

"When I ask them what caused their problems, they say 'Allah and the drought.' I say 'Yes, that's true, but is there anything we humans have done?' It's a major breakthrough to accept the notion that human beings play a role in environmental degradation. That's not part of the culture — they're fairly fatalistic. Tree planting is not part of the culture. We have pursued some small-scale forestry projects; I could spend 20 years in Mali trying to develop this idea."

Julianne WHITE
Special to Capital Times
Heart-to-Heart

Julia Earl

Julia Earl

She paints a picture of her life in Mali.

"I live in a three-room apartment with cement floors. I get my water from a well, and the toilet and bath area is outdoors. I have a battery-powered shortwave radio and tape player."

"I feel very comfortable in my neighborhood — it reminds me of Norman Rockwell's America. I can walk the streets alone, in the dark. People call out to me, give me greetings. They look for out for each other; they know when you're sick, they share water in times of shortage. In the evening, my neighbors come over to talk, to sit there as the children play, to watch me write. They think it's unusual for someone to live alone — especially a woman of 26! It's a big source of joking and concern, since Malians marry and have children at age 14 or 15."

"At the end of each day, I take stock of the good things that happened. When things go well in the villages, I'm on Cloud 9 — I sing when I'm riding my motorcycle!"

"When I come back to Madison, it seems so much like a fairyland: soft, so comfortable, so clean, so easy. But since I've been gone, the division between the poor and middle class has become so much wider in this country. It's very hard to see."

"I care very much about the state of the world, our treatment of each other, our treatment of the earth. I went to Mali with low expectations — people cautioned me about what I'd accomplish. But I see it as a challenging opportunity to apply myself. If we've had blessings in our life, it's our obligation to share with others."
RPCVs of WISCONSIN MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:

NEW MEMBERS:

ESSER, Julie 6721 Carlsbad Dr., Madison, WI 53705.
Home: 833-6465 Work: Cameroon 1985-87

MERRIAM, Lori 214 N. Brearly, Madison, WI 53703.

O’BRIEN, Kevin Colegio Marymount, Apartado Aereo 51766,
Barranquilla, COLOMBIA Botswana 1981-85

ADDRESS CHANGES

DUERKOP, James 41 S. 2nd St., Barron, WI 54476.

Other RPCV organizations have our permission to use any material of interest in this newsletter.
NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

All RPCVW, Inc. members receive the newsletter on payment of annual
dues shown below. To avoid record-keeping hassles, we would prefer that
our members pay through December of the year of joining ($1 a month for
each month to December), 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 Council of RPCVs through us by paying
a further $15. We strongly encourage all members to join the National
Council, which provides us a way to affect national issues.

☐ I want to join RPCVW, Inc. and am enclosing $______.
   ___ Individual - $12 for one year (or $1 per month to next January)
   ___ Joint - $17 (Two people receiving one newsletter)
   ___ Overseas Individual - $20
   ___ Overseas Joint - $25

☐ I am also enclosing $15 for National Council membership.

☐ I do not want to join, but I would like to receive the newsletter and
   am enclosing $7 ($15 for overseas) to cover the costs.

☐ I'M MOVING! Please change my mailing address on your records.

NAME: ___________________________ COUNTRY OF SERVICE: ______________
ADDRESS: ___________________________ SERVICE DATES: ______________
_________________________________________ TELEPHONE: ______________

Please make checks payable to RPCVs of Wisconsin, Inc. and send to:

RPCVs OF WISCONSIN, INC. - Madison Chapter
P.O. Box 1012
Madison, WI 53703

marked ATT'N: MEMBERSHIP!

QUESTIONS? PROBLEMS? Call me at 608/835-3083 most evenings and weekends.
Or try 608/262-2470 weekdays and ask for me - Walt.

RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS OF WISCONSIN
   MADISON CHAPTER

Walt Zeltner, Editor
P.O. Box 1012
Madison, WI 53703