November 1997

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.

RPCV of Wisconsin - 1998 International Calendar Purchasing Information

The International Calendar Project is a multipurpose effort. RPCV of Wisconsin - Madison began this project in 1987, to share Peace Corps experiences with our home communities and to raise money for grassroots projects in the countries where we served or in which we live. The Calendar and postcard pictures are windows into our memories and introduce you to the people who welcomed us so warmly into their communities. The International Calendar is more than just another annual time marker with pretty pictures. It is also designed as a teaching aid, introducing varied life styles, terrain, foods, occupations and crafts from around the world. Our group donated over 2,000 1997 Calendars to schools and other educational institutions. Nearly every day marks a festival somewhere on earth. Postcards from past editions of the Calendar are also available. The Calendar and postcards always feature countries in which the Peace Corps is currently active or has been hosted in the past. The Calendar is distributed by other Returned Peace Corps Volunteer groups which use it for their own fundraising. It is sold through bookstores and other businesses. In 1994 it was honored by the National Peace Corps Association with the Loret Ruppe Award which is given in recognition of work by former Volunteers that implements the goals of Peace Corps.

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</tbody>
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Send orders to:
International Calendar RPCV of Wisconsin - Madison PO Box 1012Madison WI 53701
Or call our Calendar hotline (608) 829-2677 for quantity pricing information.

Treasurer and Members-at-Large Election

Melanie Brooks was able to confirm that Troy Rutter is accepting the nomination for Treasurer, so we will officially vote for that position at the next meeting on Wed. Nov. 5th at Union South. She is also accepting nominations for Members-at-Large as well. They were inadvertently left out of the nomination process for October elections. Melanie can be reached at 255-8131 for nominations if anyone interested in being a Member-at-Large. Self nominations are highly encouraged.

Announcement

Susan Mendrysa is looking for someone to replace her as the Membership Directory/Mailing Labels coordinator. If you are interested in this job, please call or Email her (608)255-7053 or mendrysa@students.wisc.edu

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.
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

Members-at-Large:
Don Sauer -- in Pakistan (truly at-large)
Email: sauer@dhsa.psw.erusm.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

Calendar data entry and packing parties

<table>
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<th>Data Entry</th>
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<td>M 10/27</td>
<td>W 10/29</td>
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NOVEMBER

| M 11/03  | R 11/06 |
| M 11/10  | W 11/12 |
| M 11/17  | W 11/19 |
| M 11/24  | T 11/25 |

DECEMBER

| M 12/01  | W 12/03 |
| M 12/08  | W 12/10 |
| M 12/15  | W 12/17 |

JANUARY 1998

| M 1/05   | W 1/07 |
| M 1/12   | W 1/14 |
| M 1/19   | W 1/21 |
| M 1/26   | W 1/28 |

All packing parties start at 7:00 PM and usually end before 9:00 PM.

Calendar Numbers 10/13/97

Contributed by: Rose Ann Scott

| Total Purchased | 23,815 |
| Photographers  | 325   |
| Donations      | 1     |
| Production     | 2     |
| Sales          | 10,233|
| Total          | 10,561|

Thank you grandes to Troy Reutter, Ken Coffeen, Terry Stark for doing the order processing. More people are needed to come on Monday night, because these guys need relief. Also a big thanks to Alan Wiener, Buck Trawicky, Rochelle Stillman, Deb Stapleton, Rose Ann Scott, Terry Stark, Troy Reutter for calendar packing. Another round of thanks to Prudence Barber for putting calendars in the Madison stores. And to the people who come to the calendar committee meetings to keep the train on the track, Barbara Chatterjee, Walt Zeitner, Alan Weiner, Prudence Barber, Rose Ann Scott, Troy Reutter, Buck Trawicky, and Rochelle Stillman. The calendar committee would like to be thanking more people. There is a lot of work and we are breaking it down so you can volunteer an occasional hour now and then at your convenience. So contact chair Rochelle @ (608) 243-0298 or show up at order entry, packing, or the meeting.
On August 24th I went to Mazar-i-Sharif in northern Afghanistan to see what the situation there was like and to offer what help I could to the people working there for DHSA and our sister organization, National Bureau of Sustainable Development (NBSD). After about 2 weeks there I had been able to make contacts and help with concepts and proposals for the organization in the area quite well. I was becoming convinced that our agency must spend more time, money and effort becoming involved in discrete regions or communities of the country if it is to be an agency which is relevant during the current chaos and warfare and then be able to make the transition into a functioning organization when the warfare finally ends. I was scheduled to leave on September 7, 1997 to return to Peshawar to try to work on some of these ideas from here. I was in a state of high motivation and eagerness to get to work. The opportunities seemed quite real and very important.

As I was waking up that morning my companion from Peshawar came into the room where I was staying and said, "Pack quickly. The situation has changed." I soon found out that he meant that the Taliban had attacked Tashqurgan, a city about 60 km east of Mazar-i-Sharif. We went and immediately booked a flight for the next day on the UN plane. It did no good because all flights were canceled as of the 7th and as of this writing no regular flights have resumed. I was airlifted out in an evacuation by the ICRC just before the sun set on the 20th of September. I guess I can say now that I am a veteran of the Afghan War. It was not a distinction I was seeking.

During the two weeks that I was there after the fighting started I was a virtual prisoner in the compound of our offices. Expats were not really safe walking about the streets because they invited robbery and assault. There is a high level of anti UN feeling among many in the populace and it spreads into the expat community as a whole. There was also the danger of random ordnance falling on our heads if we walked about the streets. We found a spent bullet about the size of my index finger lying in the garden of the compound one morning. It was probably fired in celebration but it would have hurt mightily if it had happened to hit somebody when it landed. The artillery, rockets and bombs that kept us cooped up in the basement of the house we were staying in did not ever fall anywhere especially nearby. We did hear some small arms fire in the streets nearby but that was no immediate threat to us as long as we stayed indoors. The most immediate threat was the thieves who hit our house four times in three days. They did not come after that because apparently they believed that they had cleaned us out. They took vehicles, air conditioners, a two way radio, and money as well as scaring the bejeezus out of us. However, we survived very well and on the positive side the food was better than I am used to in Peshawar (they have a couple of very good cooks) and the weather was excellent for viewing the Afghan Sky. So, although I was mentally drained and physically exhausted by the time I got back to Peshawar on the 20th of September, I didn't really suffer any great privations. Stalingrad this was not.

Some interesting things happened in Mazar just before the shit hit the fan. I believe that I have found the level at which I can personally be effective in the task I set out to do when I came here. That is, to help build an organization. From an organizational standpoint, the question of relevance, it seems to me, is this: How does an organization with humanitarian goals function in a war torn and chaotic society in such a way that it can make the transition to an organization with humanitarian goals functioning in a relatively stable society when that time finally comes. The events of the last two weeks have made this question even more pertinent, it seems to me.

I have seen many parallels between this organization's struggle to gain its balance and earlier years in the NPCA and the local RPCV groups struggle to find their way. The question that NPCA and the local groups have had to find answers for bear a real resemblance to this organization and its groping toward a genuine mode of useful existence.

There are the conflicts between the local outposts of the organization with the central office in a neighboring country. Does that sound familiar to the Deadwood Committee? The local feels underserved by the central office and the central office gripes about sloppy report and information generation from the field. The local office feels resource poor, especially when they are asked to take on a task with national significance. The central office feels the field executes sloppily and doesn't
follow through. These are questions which lie in the
dynamic of organization building in general. There
will always be conflict between the central office of
an organization and its field counterparts. The key
decision in this realm is what portion of your staff
resources do you devote to the field and what portion
to the central office. I lean toward more
resources to the field and less to the central office.
This decision ties in with the question of relevance
and adherence to goals in the current chaotic
situation with the ability to make a good transition
into a more stable society. What is a strategic
approach to that question? I believe that an NGO
must establish solid roots in a particular place. It
should minimize the tendency to spread itself too
thin and should build real connections to the
community in which it is based. It should cultivate
the virtues of voluntarism by practicing it in the
organization as a matter of policy. Here’s the deal.
NGOs are chronically short of money so much time
and effort is spent merely trying to hold a good staff
together. The result is that a couple of people are
kept busy keeping the accounts straight for the
house maintenance and other minor details but much
of the available staff time is spent aimlessly sitting
around with little useful or at least usefully focused
work to do. I am trying to push the idea of asking
these people who say they are in this for the good of
humanity to offer their services freely to the
community in exchange for the opportunity to
actually do useful work. The exciting thing about
Mazar for me is that the mechanism for offering
volunteer services is in existence throughout the city
of Mazar. The UN program Habitat helped to
catalyze a program of Community Centers in the
city. These centers appear to be functioning as an
opportunity to involve the women in the public
productive capacity of the city and allow them to
learn the basics of organizational structure. This
does not even mention the sense of empowerment
that people receive. Certainly Habitat has funneled
resources into these centers and continues to
provide capital support. One of the centers I visited
needed an expansion of its kindergarten facilities. It
had the land and some labor available. Habitat
provided the capital for building materials. That was
impressive but not as impressive as the charts on the
wall which named all the employees of the
organization which are all paid by income that these
community centers are able to generate. There are
eight community centers in the 10 districts of the
city and work is proceeding on starting two more
centers in the last two districts. I want our idle
people, who have a variety of good and useful skills,
to make themselves available to these community
centers because they want to build the community,
not because some donor in far off Europe or
America is paying them to do it. We have
experienced Extended Program of Immunization
(EPI) supervisors. We have people who have
extensive knowledge of keeping temperature
sensitive vaccines viable in extremely difficult
conditions. We have engineers coming out our ears.
We have the ability and knowledge to make
proposals and manage programs in the field. If we
put this kind of knowledge at the disposal of these
community centers and other local groups freely we
will be in an ideal position to make joint proposals
with a viable and functioning community
organization. This is much more likely to find favor
with donors than for us to sit in Peshawar and churn
out reams of paper for the donors to wade through.
I have lots more to say on this topic and a much
fuller explanation is due. For now I will say that it
seems I have found a level at which my particular
skills may have a very real value. One last note.
During my recent enforced inactivity in Mazar my lifeline
connection to the expat community and its frantic plans for
an evacuation was Chris Johnson of Oxfam. Oxfam has
been working for several years in the Central Highlands of
Afghanistan AKA the Hazarajat. My colleague and I had just
had an interview with her the day before the war came in
earest to our area. I told her that our RPCV group has
sponsored Oxfam for a number of years with the Freeze for
Food (once thought by Deb Stapleton to be some sort of
midwinter canning bee). I hope there is a very large turnout
for the Freeze this year and with some luck and good fortune
I just might be able to take my place at the 5k mark again.
Till next time. Love and Peace

Don
Don's address is: Don Sauer c/o DHSA House 95, Street 6,
N3 Phase 4, Hayatabad, Peshwar, Pakistan

Don Sauer Funding proposals
1) Don will be returning to US to establish funding
for his NGO agency. He is asking for $150 stipend
to cover for fund raising expenses.
2) Coming up with the money for rent is sometimes
a challenge, Don is asking for 2500 to cover approx
6 month rent for their office space. It's felt that if
their office space is being secure for that time a lot
of important organizational work can be done.
3. Don requests that our group establish a matching fund of 2500 and challenge other RPCV groups to make donations that we would match for additional funding for his agency.

Email Rose Ann or myself. No obligations, no pressure, no bad feelings. We can just give you more information and let you decide if its right for you. We're volunteers, aware of community needs, aware of our own skills and abilities to help.

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**Position Announcement**

**Community Organizers for the Gamaliel Foundation**

The Gamaliel Foundation, a national community institute, is seeking experienced community organizers to serve as lead organizers in a number of locations in the Midwest. The foundation, based in Chicago, supports a network of grassroots leaders and their organizations in 35 locations in 11 states; foundation-affiliated organizers work with congregational and other local institutional leaders to create, build, and sustain institutionally-based organizations working for change in low-income urban communities. Central responsibilities of these positions include helping community leaders work strategically to influence political and economic decision-making in their cities and regions, and ensuring that the local organizations function effectively. Lead organizers are responsible both to the Gamaliel Foundation and to the boards of directors of their local organization. For more information call Susan Himmelfarb @ (708) 848-0086 or send a cover letter and resume to Susan @ 711 Superior Street, Oak Park, IL 60302. Deadline to apply is Oct. 31.

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**Come celebrate United Nations Day on Friday, October 24, 6 pm at the United Nations Dinner**

Where: West Side Club, 3706 Junction Rd., Madison. From Mineral Point Rd., go west past the beltline & Menards and turn south at the stoplights onto Junction Rd. (Hwy M). The Club is on your left.

Outlawing Land Mines: How can we get rid of them?

Speaker: Daniel Gomez-Ibanez, Executive Dir. Peace Council

The program is sponsored by the Governor's Commission on the United Nations and the Dane Co. United Nations and World Federalist Associations. Invited guest include Mayor Sue Bauman, County Executive Kathy Falk, Senator Russ Feingold, and Governor Tommy Thompson. The meal cost is $15. For reservations contact Harry Ludwig at (608) 233-6174.

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**Dates to remember**

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Wed., Nov. 5</td>
<td>General Meeting (Union South)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs., Dec. 4</td>
<td>General Meeting (Union South)</td>
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**Calendar Steering Committee Meeting**

Monday, November 10th @ 7:00 p.m. at the home of Rose Ann Scott. 2714 Oakridge, Madison
The December newsletter deadline is Thursday, November 13. Please make sure you submit your notices, minutes etc. on, or before the deadline.

Treasurer's Report for the month of September 1997
By: Rose Ann Scott

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<td></td>
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Visit us at: http://www.execpc.com/~wirpcv

Oh yes!... another party!

NO, this is not just another party! This...is...THE Holloweeeen Party! So...bring some munchies and something to drink. Wear a costume, or if you must...scare people by wearing your business attire! it's up to you! but, do join us!

The spooky event will take place October 31st, at Ms Deb Stapleton's castle (2406 Sommers Avenue), starting after 8 p.m. For more information call her at (608) 244-8609 or simply show up at the party.

And don't forget your Thursday, November 20th date at the Cardinal Bar!

Thursday - 8 to 10 p.m.

November 20th and December 18th Welcome to the new RPCVs in Madison. Especially welcome are those who served in the 90's. From 8 to 10 PM at the Cardinal Bar, 418 East Wilson.

A note from the editor

"Small projects need much more help than great." Dante

Thanks to all of you who make this newsletter possible: Rose Ann Scott, Rochelle Goedken, Peter J. Joyce, Deb Stapleton, Melanie Brooks, Jim Oakley (George Hofheimer), Jennie Lane, Buck Trawicky and Don Sauer for your contributions. Dean, Erik, Rebeca, Maruja, and Terry who help me out every month with the production and the mailing of the newsletter. This is your newsletter and your participation is important. Notices, announcements, information that you want to share Email to imolina@inexpress.net or mail to 710 Brook Street, DeForest, WI 53532 or to PO Box 1012, Madison, WI 53701-1012.

You are invited to participate...

Madison Physicians for Social Responsibility, Student Physicians for Social Responsibility and the Truth in the Middle East/Arab American Antidiscrimination Association invite you to participate in their conference. It is schedule for November 13 & 14 here in Madison. The goal of the conference is to educate its participants about the wide-reaching effects of economic sanctions on civilian populations during the last thirty years. The conference will examine the effects of sanctions on countries in both the developed and developing world, as well as explore the ethical, legal and political problems inherent in the use of sanctions to encourage political change. For Program information call Madison Physicians for Social Responsibility (608) 232-9945 or Email mvohmann@belville.fammed.wisc.edu

The cost of the conference is: $10 Students, $25 General Public (scholarships are available). Sponsors: UW Dept. of Famility Medicine, UW School of Nursing, UW Medical School Dean's Office, UW Dept. of Agricultural Journalism, UW Center for South Asia/The Madison Institute, and the National Lawyers Guild, Madison Chapter

Calendar Steering Committee minutes of 10/8/97
By: Rochelle Goedken
Present: Prudence Barber (PB), Alan Weiner (AW), Rose Ann Scott (RAS), Barbara Chatterjee (BC), Buck Dawicky (BD), Troy Rutter (TR) and Rochelle Goodman (RG).

The September minutes were approved as printed.

Marketing/Sales  PB put together a beautiful packet of information which she is using to market the calendar locally. She also reported that the large bookstore chains have been sent information but there have been no orders received from them. BT revised the release form for the photographers to sign and this will begin with calendar year 1999. All release forms have been received for the 1998 calendar. We discussed at length the new color brochure that BC produced. This included ways to use the brochure in our marketing and how to track the success of the new brochures. BC finished the two page spread for the Worldview Magazine. She also placed an ad in the United Nations magazine, and she will also check with Network News to see about placing an ad with them. Deb Stapleton will coordinate the volunteers who agreed to market the calendars at the International Holiday Festival booth on Sunday, Nov. 16th, from 11:00 am to 5:00 p.m.

Distribution  AW continues to coordinate the calendar packing parties and RAS is working with the data entry volunteers to enter calendar order information into the computer and generate invoices. To date, 9,000+ calendars have been distributed. (Which means that there are approx. 14 thousand calendars remaining.) Volunteers are always appreciated. We finished our meeting by discussing the distribution of calendar donations.

Next calendar steering committee meeting will be on Monday, November 10th at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Rose Ann Scott.

Minutes from the 10/7/97 general meeting  

by: Buck Dawicky

We met in the Humanities Building, by mistake. 14 were present. Present for the first time was Bill Klase, of PC/Nepal.

Calendar: (1)  They're selling fast. People love it.
(2)  We have a glossy ordering brochure showing all the photos. It's very scrumptious. It's an experiment, to see if its distribution will boost sales. Barbara Chatterjee and Sue Kummer(our Typesetter) created it.

International Holiday Festival:  On Sunday, 11/16, at the Civic Center on State St. Lots of us signed up to come and sit at our table (it costs $40), and sell calendars, and hand out info on Peace Corps. Come on down, between 11 and 5. Annual RPCV Conference, 1999: The Minnesota/Minneapolis group is applying to host this. Their application will receive greater weight if neighboring groups promise to help. We discussed this. Dean Mahan pointed out that if MN hosts this Conference, and if Conferences continue to occur only every other year [which is really regrettable, muttered some: they should again be annual tribal gatherings], then it's gonna be about 10 years before the Upper Midwest plays host again. If we want to host, we'll have to wait that long. Deb Stapleton pointed out that: (1) She has several times (at meetings or at other gatherings during her tenure as Pres.) raised the subject of our hosting a Conference, and gotten a tepid response: it's a HUGE job, and would require the strong long-term commitment of a number of people. (She also said it came up again at the Sept. meeting, no one could find this in the Minutes, and the Secretary was silently reproved.) (2) Acting on this impression, when she was asked at the recent PC Conference in San Diego if we would be interested in hosting the '99 Conference, she said that we probably wouldn't. The MN RPCVs are surely assuming that she spoke truth, and would be dismayed if we at this late hour weighed in with a bid of our own. (3) Finally, this is really late to enter the bidding process. The initial proposal is due in a week (c.Oct 12). Dean argued that we shouldn't just be discussing this among those who attend the monthly meetings: this represents only a fraction of our membership. [nb: We get a max. of c.45+ at potlucks, counting children, but c.20-30 at other meetings, and sometimes fewer; but we have over 300 human members, and most of these live in or right near Madison. And meeting attendance has slowly declined over the past 10 years. So we're obviously not doing everything right. Moreover, many meetings now end with everyone's departure, instead of hanging around to guff'. So, said Dean, we should consider hosting a Conference as a galvanizing act for our group [it would coat us with zinc], and we should poll the members who don't attend meetings. He therefore proposed this MOTION, which was seconded: The just-about-to-be-elected President would swiftly poll, by phone, about 10 local members seldom seen at meetings, and ask them how they feel about helping the MN RPCVs host the '99 Conference, knowing that if we don't host this one we'll not have another chance for years. (If the poll response was negative about helping, the implication would be that we should consider bidding to host the '99 Conference ourselves.) We voted, and the result was NAY (with very few Aye votes). The discussion broadened. If MN hosts the Conf., then many lovely opportunities
open up: (1) Minneapolis is close, but few of us ever visit. Let's all go! It's LOTS closer than San Diego. We could even combine it with a Bayfield/Apostle Islands field trip. We could even walk there if we wanted, over a very very long weekend. (And those born since the Wright Brothers could bike.) (2) The Conference could be an opportunity to strengthen ties with other Wisconsin and Minnesota RPCV groups, and help them grow. Milwaukee has a budding reborn group, Green Bay has RPCVs who formerly had a sorta-group, and there are other clusters all around Wisconsin. Cooperative efforts could help all of us, not to mention Minneapolis itself: this could be a chance to help strengthen the Minneapolis group, with benefits to the whole RPCV family. (Hosting a successful Conference is a big boost, if it doesn't kill you.) Wouldn't it be great to have strong webs all over Wisconsin and Minnesota? And if we help, we'll probably get to sleep for free on the floors of Minneapolis homes! (Forever!—but just on visits, of course.) (And they can sleep on ours.) (3) Helping with the Conference would be good for us, and give us interesting projects that some seldom-seen members might be interested in. Granted, we don't want to take on the job of an entire Conference. (Especially since we've already done one, back in 1987; this was where our 1st Calendar saw public light. Though we think we could sure do a conference cheaper then recent examples. On the other hand, ours wasn't nearly as fancy as recent ones.) Now, how could we help? Obviously, lots of tasks can only be done by people on the ground—Minneapolis folk. But some stuff can be done from a distance. The most immediately attractive area is Workshops. These can be organized at a distance. (If someone in MN takes care of the local logistics.)

Workshops would be FUN to organize. Our group has LOTS of members with deep knowledge about interesting areas. Some of us have done them at previous Conferences. Let's do some! (Including some weird ones.) We could also offer to help find and recruit Speakers. [We might also offer to help staff/[staff?], during the Conference itself.] [We might also offer to get involved somehow in the early planning stages, to insert additional Upper Midwest ideas. Particularly low-glitz high-funky ideas.] SO, a MOTION: We support the Minneapolis bid to host the 1999 Conference, and vow to help them in unspecified ways. Vote was AYE, with Dean abstaining. Re-Connect (Deb Stapleton, 244-8609): We're invited to a gathering in Chicago on Sat., Oct. 25, about Re-Connect, the program to help recently-back RPCVs adjust to the USA, their current foreign country. (The program is funded by PC, and administered by the NPCA.) This met with a tepid response: for a year, we put our backs into work on this for fresh-back Madison RPCVs (honcha'd by Sharon Lewandowski). We discovered that our newguys didn't feel they needed much help on anything except developing a lively social life. Which we're happy to try to provide. Speaking of which, Get-Togethers for RPCVs, especially those freshly back, are gonna start up, to happen at the Cardinal Bar, on the 3rd Thursday of each month, from 8-10 p.m., or longer. (No cover to get in, and there's good background recorded Latin music. And the Cardinal has long been a very supportive host for us.) Something you missed: Kevin Nies is coming to town. (For those who remember him. Who could forget?) He'll be holding forth at the Altenbach Bar, near American TV on the Beltline, from c.5 p.m. until closing. He and Deb are back from Phoenix, for a wedding [they have to support the institution], and will be intown through the weekend. Don Sauer's 3 Proposals: We decided to deal with these at the Nov. meeting. Briefly, they involve: (1) a modest stipend for Don, who'll come back from Afghanistan to fund-raise for his NGO; (2) a donation for his NGO, to cover 6 months' rent; (3) a grant to use as a matching fund, to inspire others' donations. Barbara's Motion, re: donations to be given only at certain times. See the October Newsletter for details. We discussed this, and at Barbara's suggestion agreed that this discussion should continue at least into the November meeting before voting on what to do. Presently, we donate money, the profits from our Calendar sales, to a bunch of projects at the May meeting (in some years in June): this is our annual Giftaway (Rose Ann Scott gave this its name). We also set aside money to use for donations throughout the coming 12 months. We also set aside money for Large Donations (in the $1000+ range); Large Donations must meet stricter criteria than Small Donations. Background numbers: The 1997 Calendar gave us c.$25,000 to donate. Presently, we give about half away at the Giftaway, set aside about $2000 for rest of the year, and reserve the rest for Large donations. In years where the Giftaway proposals are fewer than normal, we set aside more for small donations for the rest of the year. Each year, our profits increase by about 15% or more. And we still have carry-over money for categories 2 and 3: see the Treasurer's Report.] The Argument: The Rule is that we don't make financial decisions of this sort without prior notice in the Newsletter. But: (1) By having donation proposals dribble in throughout the year, and by considering each at a general meeting following their formal proposal in a Newsletter, we micturate away a lot of meeting time and group attention. (2) Donation proposals are best evaluated in a bunch, so we can compare each with others. (3) It's easy for the group to lose perspective about how much money we have remaining to donate. [Though the Treasurer knows, and so does anyone who studies the monthly Report.] Therefore, Barbara proposed that we limit our times of donation to a fixed number per year, perhaps 3 for small donations, including the Giftaway (the exact details can be hammered out.) With similar restraints on Large Donations. We discussed this topic. Several points emerged: Most donation proposals can wait a few months: the recipients don't suffer because the proposals were considered and voted on at certain fixed times of the year.

It is very helpful to have a cluster of donations to consider at once. (This applies to both the Small and Large Donation categories.) It gives us perspective, and improves our judgement. And allows us to apply consistent standards. It is true that most proposals considered after the Giftaway are granted, with only brief discussion. But so are most of those granted at the Giftaway. This is in good part due to the discrimination used by our members: they make good
proposals, and don't ask for outlandish sums of money. However, the Giftaway proposals are first evaluated by a committee of those interested in this work, so they get a deeper screening. However, there are some donation proposals that are time-sensitive. If we don't make them fairly promptly, the money will arrive too late to do any good. There should be provision for this. Large Donations and Small Donations are different. We are MUCH more picky about Large Donations. But if we make a Rule, and yet allow exceptions, it becomes a Rule without meaning. Either do it or don't. Should we aim for a certain ideal number of donations per year? Or a certain number of small donations following the Giftaway? We were on the frontier of reaching resolution, but wisely decided to let everyone (including those not present) brood on this for a month. Elections: The Slate was formally offered. There were no additional nominations. MOTION: It was moved, and seconded, that the following candidates be elected by acclamation: all voted AYE:

President: Peter Joyce
Vice President: Kevin Jenkins
Secretary: Buck Trawicky
Treasurer: (no candidate)
Director 1: (none proposed)
Director 2: (none proposed)

Re. Directors 1 & 2: These are required by the Feds (the IRS). Last year, we forgot to include these on the October ballot, and elected them in November. Peter Joyce's Acceptance Speech: "I vow to end all meetings at 9 o'clock." A Group Resolution: Thank You, Deb, for being such a good President. And thank you to all the other officers and directors. And then we adjourned. Many of us, though, were hurrying home to catch our John Elder on TV at 10 p.m., interviewed about mutant frogs!

Profile of an RPCV of WI
Written by: George Hetherlein  Contributed by: Jim Oakley
Excerpted from the fall issue of The Newsletter of the College of Letters & Science at UW-Madison.

In the Spring of 1992, Professor Harold Scheub (Evjue-Bascom Professor of African Languages and Literature) personified for me the liberal idealism of education at UW-Madison. When he urged my graduating class to "get on an airplane and leave the country for a couple of years," I had acquired the skills to pursue Scheub's advice and the inclination to follow it.

Several months later I was a member of the first group of Peace Corps volunteers to disembark in the former Soviet Republic of Uzbekistan. My official assignments were to advise a regional department of the state government on methods of privatization of the assets and to teach English to a group of university economics students. But I knew that most of my activities for the next two years would require personal change and development to meet my ultimate goal: acceptance in a culture renowned for its closed, clannish behavior. Methodically, I acquired the skills to accomplish my goals: language and cultural understanding. After six months as a veritable mute, I was transformed (with an enormous amount of effort) from a well-intentioned, educated American into an informed Peace Corps Volunteer - one who was beginning to grasp the linguistic, social and economic realities of the newly independent state of Uzbekistan.

Uzbekistan's membership in the Soviet Union meant that the vast majority of the population had limited, if any, contact with foreigners. Thus, I was an anomaly: a young American who could speak their language, marginally understand their culture and society and live among the citizens at their socio-economic level. As a result I had the opportunity to know some of the town's most interesting and influential individuals: civic leaders, entrepreneurs, decorated war veterans, and exceptionally intelligent students. The combination of understanding Uzbek culture and these exclusive contacts helped to mitigate the difficulties of my assignments. With the assistance of Peace Corps volunteers, the regional government at my site was able to raise millions of dollars in revenues by selling the state's stake in a variety of properties via cash auctions, and several of my students used their sharpened English language skills either to receive academic scholarships in the US and Europe or to obtain key private and public sector employment within Uzbekistan.

In retrospect, the successes of my Peace Corps assignment were not much of a surprise. Since the country had been habitually ignored or exploited by the Soviets, the introduction of an idealistic individual into a neglected society was bound to cause change. My most surprising and rewarding achievement, though, was my acceptance into society by the individuals with whom I worked. Sabithon Abdullaev was a forty-five year old English professor at the local technology institute. We worked closely developing curriculum at the institute and authoring an English textbook. He and I were as different as people can be. He is rotund; I am a stick. He is a communist; I am a capitalist. He is from a rural, farming community; I am from suburban U.S. Despite our obvious differences,
Sabithon immediately caught my eye as the individual who would be able to provide me with the essential home-away-from-home or "citizenship" in his village culture. Without such personal relationships, the technical achievements would simply stand alone. According to Uzbek customs, the first several visits to Sabithon's house were very formal. A guest is considered the most revered individual in a household; thus I was not allowed to wash my own hands, help with food preparations or even put on my own shoes! This treatment lasted for the first dozen or so visits. I was astounded at the generosity from a family that was living in abject poverty and underemployment. After the initial courting period with Sabithon's family, I was offered a position at the village school to teach fifth graders English. I accepted enthusiastically, knowing that this offered a unique opportunity for me to become not only a technical consultant, but also an active participant in the development of the village. During my one year stint as a teacher in Sabithon's village, I quickly became a member of the community. I made friends with such individuals as the director of the village school, the guy who fixed flat tires in a decrepit shack on the edge of town and cotton pickers at the local collective farm.

We worked hand in hand to acquire grants to update the village school's antiquated heating system and develop the very beginnings of an English language program at the school. Each day, entering Sabithon's village, a feeling of exhilaration filled me knowing that I belonged and contributed in some way to the betterment of the villagers' life. This overshadowed all I can remember of my two years in Uzbekistan.

After completing my Peace Corps stint, I returned to Washington, DC, to work for a large management consulting firm. The lack of purpose and personal attachment to my work there caused me to move back to Uzbekistan and work for several non-profit and for-profit groups on a variety of initiatives. Oddly, at times, I feel more of a citizen in Uzbekistan than in my own country because I was so connected to my work there. Perhaps Professor Scheub should have offered a disclaimer to his advice in 1992 by stating, "Get on an airplane and leave this country for a couple of years, but also remember this flight results in deep connections in other cultures that will touch your heart and head forever". I will never be the same...and I am happy for that.

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Wisconsin-Madison
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Announcement
Have your own great 1 bdrm. apartment in an RPCV house. Available November 1. For more information call Jo or Marc at 255-1339 evenings. Excellent location and price.

Rose Ann Scott
2714 Oakridge
Madison, WI 53704

Exp. Date: 1/98