WORLD ROOTS NEWS

Online at www.rpcvmadison.org

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News From “A-Brodd”  
(contributed by RPCV Tom Brodd-Ghana, as he keeps us informed of his journey)

Around the Neighborhood

The area I live in is what one could call a suburban, middle class Gambian neighborhood although it is not what we would recognize as such. I am fortunate to live on one of the few paved roads in the area, called Kanifing and my particular area is called Kanifing South. I am only a couple of miles from the ocean, so most of the roads are sand. The sand roads sometimes make getting around interesting, especially during the rains. They (the roads) and their large potholes are filled with water and frogs. Now, during the dry season, they do pose much of a problem and they keep the dust level on the high side.

Almost all of the houses/compounds here and throughout The Gambia are surrounded by a wall. In the city, the walls are usually built of cement blocks, plastered over and painted white, while in the villages they are mostly made out of tall reeds/grasses. The reason for the walls is not so much security, but rather to delineate the property that one owns. The deeds and land surveys do not exist in the same way they do back home, so it is up to the homeowner to make sure their land is marked out.

Neighborhoods here tend not to be all one thing or another, but are a mixture of houses and small businesses, like the older parts of Madison are. At every corner and sometime more often there are small one room Mom and Pop convenience stores attached to people’s homes. There, you can buy basic food items, such as bread. There are two kinds, produced twice a day, once in the early morning and again in early afternoon. Of the bread types, both are a French bread shape but one is a heavy, dense bread and the other is smaller, lighter and crunchier. Aside from food, most of these stores carry sewing supplies. There are also many convenience stores and almost as many tailor shops. Many people have their clothes made for them by the tailors, along with the children who have to wear school uniforms. Since every school has a different style of uniform, the only way to get the correct one for your school is to have it custom made.

Since the Gambia is a warm climate people do much of their living outside. On any given evening, you will see many people sitting outside of their compound walls, just watching the world passed by or talking with the neighbors. Also, children have, in certain ways from us, a much freer life. From the time that they can walk, they are allowed to go outside and play without any supervision from their parents. It is not uncommon to see groups of children ages 3, 4 and 5 playing together with only a slightly older sibling to watch over them. To us, this may sound odd, but here, with people living closer together in addition to the adults having the right and obligation to discipline any child, the system works very well. You see many pickup games of soccer, the main sport in Gambia for children and adults. The children use a very beat up soccer ball and a make-shift soccer field in an empty corner of a side street, as there are no parks in or near the neighborhood. All of the children’s activity/play is what they make of it and none of it is scripted or controlled by the parents. When school is out, it is up to the children to entertain themselves, similar to the way it was when I was growing up.
Since most people cannot afford a car, people get around by walking, or if you have a great distance to travel, by taxi or mini bus. Most people walk a lot, to work, to mosque, to visit neighbors, to buy something from the local store, children coming home school in their uniforms, etc. All this walking means, aside from keeping in shape is you frequently see your neighbors as they are go about their daily business.

Normally every evening I take my chair and sit outside the compound to read and watch the neighbors go by. Here are a few of the things I will see in a normal week:

Some young men have started a car washing business in the taxi park across the road from my house. These guys have no access to water, so they carry water from their homes in 5 gallon containers.

You will also see other young men pushing wheelbarrows around the streets. Some of them will be full of peanuts or oranges for sale, but the more interesting ones are what I call the "Wal-Mart on wheels." These are wheelbarrows have a wooden frame attached to them, from which hang a wide multitude of items ranging from toothpaste, soap, small radios and soccer balls. Now here is the next great marketing idea: you do not go to the store but the store comes to your house, unlike internet or catalogs.

Many small children, many under 5 years old, run around and have a good time. They occasionally try to get at some of the mango fruit hanging on the lower branches, even though it is not ripe.

A man leads his donkey pulling a cart loaded with a refrigerator, furniture or sometimes lumbers.

Market women walk around the neighborhood, selling fruits and peanuts from plates they carry on their heads.

There is also much wildlife in the streets. If it is not the neighbor’s dog, which always seems to be sleeping in front of his gate, there are random sheep, goats and chickens walking by, looking for something to eat. I cannot forget to mention that most exotic of African animals is the sparrow.

As evening come, you see and greet people walking to the mosque, as they go to evening prayers. Here, there is a mosque every two or three blocks. For the most part, they are small, but the one across the street from my house is a “grand mosque”, one of the mosques people go to for Friday afternoon prayers instead of the smaller mosques, as the sun sets behind the palm trees.
In May, Ken Coffeen and Sharon Isensee traveled to Montreal, Canada to promote our calendar at the annual week-long meeting of NAFSA which is an Association of International Educators.

The NAFSA 2006 Annual Conference & Expo was held in Montréal, Québec, Canada, May 21-26. Housed in the Palais des congrès de Montréal, the conference is the largest and most important gathering of international educators, administrators, policy experts and world leaders, and is your connection to colleagues, learning and career expansion.

To learn more about NAFSA go to http://www.nafsa.org

The CALENDAR UNVEILING PARTY will be held Saturday July 29th at the home of Prudence Barber, 1050 Jenifer Street, starting at 5 PM. This will be a potluck event to celebrate the 20th annual production of the International Calendar (We will also have a short calendar meeting for the month of July while we all are gathered). Please note that this is the same day as the Atwood Festival so you could make a day of it on the East side. Prudence sold her home on Jenifer Street and this party will be a great way to say so-long to the gathering spot for the calendar meetings we have held there monthly for about 15 years. Prudence will light the grill at 5 PM (any volunteer grillmasters?) and folks can bring something to throw on the grill or a pre-prepared dish for the actual eating which will probably begin about 6 PM. Call Prudence at 251-0852 if you need directions or if you can help with the grilling.

For your information, I also sent a letter to Governor and Mrs. Doyle inviting ourselves to the Governor’s Mansion for a calendar unveiling party, but as of the printing of this newsletter, I have not heard back from them as to whether they have the interest or the time to host a potluck event at their home. We thought since the Governor and Mrs. Doyle are both RPCVs that they might like to celebrate the 20th annual production of the International Calendar. We thought that this might be good PR for our group and for the Doyles and it would be a great way to unveil the new calendar, but having a party at Prudences is also a great way to unveil the new calendar, so if I do hear back from someone at the Governor’s office, we will send out postcard invitations to the celebration (we can never have too many parties in the summertime).

The 2007 calendar is printed. 33,075 calendars were printed and 11,725 were already shipped out directly from the printer to various groups. A BIG THANK YOU TO ROSE ANN SCOTT, OUR BUSINESS MANAGER, for putting in the time to get this all organized. Considering she was also getting ready for the big Lupine Lolypag, this was an extraordinary effort on her part and it saves the group the storage fees we would have to pay if they were stored at the printing company all summer. It is also nice because the other groups get the calendars early enough to sell them at events all summer long in their region of the country.

Troy Rutter, former RPCV-Madison treasurer, now helps the group by coordinating the selling of calendars at local street festivals. Two of the summer festivals he will need help with are the:
1) Atwood Summerfest - Saturday July 29th (note that this is the same day as the party at Prudences so anyone who helps Troy that day will not need to bring a dish to the potluck)
2) Willy Street Fair-Sunday September 17th
Please get in contact with Troy if you can help sell calendars at either of these festivals. His contact information is (608) 245-9964 at home or email: http://tdrutter@usgs.gov

Margot Kennard is working with Sue Kummer to get the advertisement ready for the next edition of the World View Magazine (the quarterly magazine produced by the National Peace Corps Association in Washington DC). **THANKS MARGOT!!**

Rochelle has moved to Baraboo (about 8 miles outside the city) and hopefully soon I will have a cell phone number I can give out. Meanwhile, please call my Madison phone number and leave a message (243-0298). I will be back in Madison frequently for the next few months and will collect my messages whenever I can.

Each September we do a **CALENDAR PACKING PARTY** and as I look ahead I think it would be good for everyone to pencil in the date of Friday, September 8th as the **tentative** date for the packing party. I still need to see if this date works out with Alan but the following weekend is the Willy Street Fair and the weekend after that is Rosh Hashanah. Then it starts getting late in the month.

I think that's all the news I have for the group. I hope to see as many of you as possible at Prudences on Saturday the 29th of July so we can give a **BIG THANKS to Prudence for hosting the calendar committee so graciously for so many years.**

**Announcements!!**

- **At our next meeting, we will vote on a motion brought forward by RoseAnn Scott. The motion is to donate $1,000.00 to the Don and Marilyn Anderson Hospice Center, in memory of Kristina Bigler. Kristina Bigler, age 34, passed away on Sunday, June 25, 2006, after a courageous battle with cancer. Kristina was the daughter of Sharon Isensee and step-daughter of Ken Coffeen (RPCV-Ecuador). Both Ken and Sharon have been active volunteers and participants for our group and the calendar committee.**

- **How about attending a Mallards game as an RPCV social activity?! Sounds like it would be a great thing to do together...e-mail Laura Buchs or Troy Rutter if you’re interested.**
## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

### JULY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Type</th>
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<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Second Friday</td>
<td>Jul 7, 2006</td>
<td>Happy Hour</td>
<td>Memorial Union</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>Greg Pepping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Wednesday</td>
<td>Jul 19, 2006</td>
<td>General Meeting</td>
<td>UW Campus</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>Laura Buchs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fourth Tuesday</td>
<td>Jul 25, 2006</td>
<td>Calendar committee meeting</td>
<td>1050 Jenifer</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>R. Goedken 243-0298</td>
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### AUGUST

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>First Saturday</td>
<td>Aug 5, 2006</td>
<td>Atwood Summerfest</td>
<td>Atwood Ave</td>
<td></td>
<td>Troy Rutter 245-9964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Friday</td>
<td>Aug 11, 2006</td>
<td>Happy Hour</td>
<td>Memorial Union</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>Greg Pepping</td>
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<tr>
<td>Third Wednesday</td>
<td>Aug 16, 2006</td>
<td>General Meeting</td>
<td>Red Gym</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>Laura Buchs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fourth Tuesday</td>
<td>Aug 22, 2006</td>
<td>Calendar committee meeting</td>
<td>1050 Jenifer</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>R. Goedken 243-0298</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid August</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Annual Pig Roast</td>
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### SEPTEMBER

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<tr>
<td>2nd Friday</td>
<td>Sept 8, 2006</td>
<td>Happy Hour</td>
<td>Memorial Union</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>Greg Pepping</td>
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<tr>
<td>Third Wednesday</td>
<td>Sep 20, 2006</td>
<td>General Meeting</td>
<td>Red Gym</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fourth Tuesday</td>
<td>Sep 26, 2006</td>
<td>Calendar committee meeting</td>
<td>1050 Jenifer</td>
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<td>R. Goedken 243-0298</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid Sept.</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Calendar Packing Party</td>
<td>Weiner's</td>
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<td>R. Goedken 243-0298</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid Sept.</td>
<td>Sept 17, 2006</td>
<td>Willy Street Festival Harvest Moon Celebration</td>
<td>Willy St</td>
<td>11am-7pm</td>
<td>Troy Rutter 245-9964</td>
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### OCTOBER

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<tr>
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<td>Oct 13, 2006</td>
<td>Happy</td>
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<td>7 PM</td>
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<td>Third Wednesday</td>
<td>Oct 18, 2006</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fourth Tuesday</td>
<td>Oct 24, 2006</td>
<td>Calendar committee meeting</td>
<td>1050 Jenifer</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>R. Goedken 243-0298</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last Saturday</td>
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<td>Halloween Party</td>
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### NOVEMBER

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<tr>
<td>2nd Friday</td>
<td>Nov 10, 2006</td>
<td>Happy Hour</td>
<td>Rathskeller</td>
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<td>Greg Pepping</td>
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<td>Third Wednesday</td>
<td>Nov 15, 2006</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fourth Tuesday</td>
<td>Nov 28, 2006</td>
<td>Calendar committee meeting</td>
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<td>R. Goedken</td>
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### DECEMBER

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Saturday</td>
<td>Dec 2, 2006</td>
<td>Fair Trade Holiday Festival</td>
<td>MATC</td>
<td>All day</td>
<td>Troy Rutter 245-9964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First/Second Sat</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Holiday Party</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Laura Buchs</td>
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### JANUARY

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 1</td>
<td>Jan 1, 2007</td>
<td>Sheboygan Polar Bear Plunge</td>
<td>Sheboygan Lakefront</td>
<td>1 PM</td>
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All dates and locations are tentative. Please check latest newsletter or website for updates.
Update on Status of Donations from Calendar Proceeds

This report provides a quick update on the status of the donation requests we received for consideration as published in the March 2006 newsletter. These requests do not involve Peace Corps Partnerships, which we handle separately and are coordinated by Rose Ann Scott.

We received 9 requests for a total of $10,900. With carryover from past years, we have a little over $10,000 available to fund requests this year, so not all of the requests can be funded in full. 4 proposals were approved for funding at the April meeting: Well/Latrine Construction in Chacocente ($1,000); Education Program for AIDS Orphans in South Africa ($1,000); Dane County Timebank ($1,000); and Maternal and Child Health in East Timor ($1,000). A fifth proposal was approved at the May meeting: Health Clinic Accountants in Guatemala ($1,900). Two more proposals were approved at the June meeting: Maasai Cultural Village and Kirumbi Primary School, both in Kenya with each project receiving $1,000. Therefore, we have approved 7 proposals for a total of $7,900, and checks have been sent to all projects.

Of the two remaining proposals, one was presented to the group at the April meeting - Beekeeping in Chacocente ($1,000). Brad Hinkfuss sponsored this proposal but with some reservations. He is working with the requesting group to resolve his questions, so we have tabled this proposal until Brad decides how he wants to proceed with it. One possible approach that was mentioned briefly at the April meeting was to withdraw the beekeeping proposal and use the funds to support a second well/latrine construction project in the area. The second proposal was to help purchase a van for the Chernobyl Center ($2,000). This proposal has not yet been presented to the group. If it is approved, we will probably only be able to provide part of the requested funds.

In the past, we have sometimes had funds remaining at this time of year that we could use to fund additional proposals. However, based on the discussion above, it does not seem appropriate to me to accept additional proposals at this time. I believe that, once we determine how to respond to the remaining proposals, there will either be no funds left or $1,500 at most. Given our current newsletter publication schedule, I would prefer to simply roll over any remaining funds for use next year.

Sincerely,

Walt Zeltner
Donations Chair

Those of you who worry about such things may note that the volume numbers of recent newsletters have been changing somewhat randomly. I think the volume number for this newsletter is correct, but I will have to check to verify that. - Walt
All RPCV of Wisconsin - Madison members receive a monthly Newsletter, World Roots, on payment of annual dues shown below. To avoid record-keeping hassles, we prefer members pay through September of the year joining, then pay for a full year membership in September. Members renewing or joining between September and December should pay $15; members renewing or joining between January and April should pay $10; members renewing or joining between May and August should pay $5. 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 $35. We encourage you to join the NPCA, which provides us a way to affect national issues.

(Please check all that apply)

___ Individual - see above
___ Joint (Two people receiving one newsletter) - $5 additional
    I am also enclosing $35 for NPCA membership
___ ($45 for joint membership - two people with the same address)
___ I don't want to join but would like to receive World Roots and am enclosing $7 ($15 for overseas) to cover costs.
___ I'm Moving! Please change my mailing address.

$____ TOTAL ENCLOSED

Name: ________________________________
Address: ________________________________
Phone #s (H):_ ____________________ (W):________________________ E-mail: _____________
Country of Service:_________________________ Service Dates:_________________________
PC Job: ___________________________ Birth Date: (Optional - M/D/Y) ____________________

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

___ I am interested in doing something - Call me.

To get information on joining our listserv, contact Laura Buchs at lbuchs@hotmail.com.
Send completed form and check to: RPCVs of Wisconsin - Madison, P.O. Box 1012, Madison, WI 53701.