Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in RPCVs of WI-Madison. Don't forget to add worldrootsnews@gmail.com to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

You may unsubscribe if you no longer wish to receive our emails.

APRIL 2015
World Roots News

World Roots News Returns
Help us thrive!

It's my pleasure to welcome you to the revived and redesigned World Roots News. Our goal is to bring you timely news about the RPCVs of WI-Madison, updates from the National Peace Corps Association and the U.S. Peace Corps Office, as well as opportunities for involvement.

To submit stories, articles, news, etc., and/or to offer suggestions regarding World Roots News, please write to World Roots News.

Send Off Brunch
April 19, 2015

All Madison area RPCVs are invited to give this year's new Peace Corps invitees a hearty sendoff. The Sunday Brunch on April 19th will be a time of sharing and solidarity with our newest ambassadors of peace and
friendship. Thirty-three invitees from the UW Campus and an additional 16 from throughout Wisconsin will be guests of honor. New invitees are going to Africa (29), China (6), Eastern Europe (5), Latin America (8), and the Philippines.

The morning will begin with coffee and sharing from past volunteers about their service, next a wonderful brunch supplied by the University Club staff (803 State St.), and then an actual live Skype hook-up with a serving Peace Corps Volunteer. The program will be coordinated by Eric Luckey, Peace Corps recruiter on campus and Kera Halvorson from the Chicago Peace Corps office. After brunch there will be sharing groups about region specific and service sector specific topics. Invitees can ask as many questions as they like from our experienced RPCV’s who are also co-sponsoring the event. The cost of brunch is $15, but free for Peace Corps invitees. The event begins at 10 AM. Brunch is at 11 AM.

Please register for attendance at:
https://uwmadison.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_56XnjDWCJxUaG5D.

Submitted by Warren Kmiec

Peace Corps Partnership Projects
Allocate Funds by April 12th!

As a paid individual member of our group, you can allocate $500 at this time, toward a single Peace Corps Partnership Project of your choice. (If two or more people are on one membership you only can allocate the funds to one Peace Corps Partnership Program, the amount to donate ($500) is based on paid membership not the number of individuals on a membership.)

1. Visit the Peace Corps Partnership Program website at: https://beta.peacecorps.gov/donate/projects-funds/
2. Review the list of current projects, and select the one that you want to fund.
3. Send the project information - Country and Name of sponsoring volunteer - to Tom Brodd by Sunday April 12. Please do not send your selection directly to Peace Corps.

This is the last chance this fiscal year to donate your share of the Calendar funds to a PCPP project. We will start again in the new fiscal year sometime this summer.

Submitted by Tom Brodd

Story Slam Smashing Success!

RPCVs of Wisconsin-Madison's first-ever Story Slam on March 5, 2015, was a smashing success. RPCVs, world travelers, and friends of story-tellers made an attentive audience, cramped into Brocach’s on the Square, in Madison. There was complete silence as all strained to hear the quiet voice of Dr. Mary Frantz, who told the story of her husband and fellow RPCV, Dr. John Franz, together with their two children, crossing Afghanistan's Hindu Kush in a 200-
mile trek in 1969, riding heavily-laden donkeys over swinging bridges with no side rails, rivers rushing far below. Other story tellers, all enthusiastically received included:

- Danny Zawacki (Ukraine 2010 - 2012, Education/TEFL)
- Warren Kmiec (Moldova 2012 - 2014, Community Development)

A single family contributed three stories, Elsa and Jeff Shaver (Botswana 2012-14) and their son Lee Shaver (El Salvador 2007-09). Tiny Lesotho, Africa's Mountain Kingdom, was the focus of two stories, one by recently returned RPCV Zoe Schroeder (Lesotho 2013-14), and the other by Madeline Uraneck (Lesotho 2007-09).

UW Peace Corps Recruiter Eric Luckey (RPCV Mongolia 2010-12) was the smooth-talking Master of Ceremonies. Zoe Schroeder coordinated two training nights, during which interested story tellers practiced and received tips about storytelling, the oldest form of human entertainment.

Submitted by Madeline Uraneck

International Book Club
April 26 at 2:00 pm

The RPCVs of Wisconsin-Madison Book Club has been reading and discussing books with an international focus for seven years. The initial book was *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson. Char Thompson graciously hosted that first meeting in April of 2008. Since then the book club has read and discussed over 70 books, fiction and non-fiction. The book club reads an average of 10 books per year and generally meets on the fourth Sunday of the month at 2 PM.

The most recent gathering occurred on Sunday, March 22nd when members met at Kate Schachter’s house to discuss *The Lowland* by Jhumpa Lahiri. The Lowland is a story of two brothers, born in India, whose lives diverge in adulthood. All in attendance enjoyed the novel and a lively discussion examined the emotions and motivations of the characters.

April’s book is *Toxic Charity*: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those they help, and how to reverse it by Robert Lupton. Book Club members will gather on Sunday, April 26th at 2 PM to discuss this book. Anyone is welcome to join. Please contact Mary Ann Feutz if you would like to be added to the book club e-mail list.

Submitted by Mary Ann Feutz

Let Girls Learn
What can YOU do?

First Lady Michelle Obama is joining forces with the U.S. Peace Corps to Let Girls Learn! Mrs. Obama is in Cambodia promoting the initiative today.

Globally, 62 million girls are not in school, and barriers to adolescent girls completing school are particularly significant. In some countries, fewer than 10 percent of teenage girls complete secondary school.

The Peace Corps’ collaboration with the First Lady will start this year in 11 targeted countries: Albania, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Georgia, Ghana, Moldova, Mongolia, Mozambique, Togo, and Uganda.
Under Let Girls Learn, Peace Corps will be training Volunteers and counterparts to become local champions of girls’ education, working hand in hand with communities on projects through a new Let Girls Learn Fund, and increasing the number of Volunteers working to break down barriers to girls’ education in the communities they serve.

Find out how you can get involved Here.

Contact
RPCVs of WI-Madison
PO Box 1012 Madison, WI 53701
WorldRootsNews@gmail.com

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