November 1996
Volume 16, Number 10

Come visit us on the World Wide Web at: http://www.execpc.com/~wirpcv

Calendar of Upcoming Events

**October**
- Saturday, Oct 26
  - Halloween Bash, 2406 Sommers Avenue, Madison; 8 pm; 244-8609

**November**
- Monday, Nov 4
  - General Membership Meeting, Union South, 227 N. Randall, Madison; 7 pm
- Wednesday, Nov 6
  - Calendar Packing Party, 1447 Spaught Street (basement); 7 pm; 233-9031
- Monday, Nov 11
  - Calendar Steering Committee, 2714 Oakridge Avenue, Madison; 7 pm; 241-0845
  - *Everyone is welcome to attend!*
- Friday, Nov 15
  - Deadline for December issue of World Roots; 244-0289
- Wednesday, Nov 20
  - Newsletter Mailing Party, 1447 Spaught Street; 7 pm; 244-0289

**December**
- Tuesday, Dec 3
  - General Membership Meeting, Union South, 227 N. Randall, Madison; 7 pm

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**Post-Retreat Planning Recommendations**

There has been a group of people meeting since the August Retreat, with the overall objective of capitalizing on the momentum exhibited at the Wil-Mar Center. This group has developed some recommended goals for consideration, amendment and adoption by the membership. The starting discussion will occur at the November 4 meeting at Union South. Hopefully there will be a good turnout of folks, both "new" and "old" members. Don’t worry about the discussion being boring and dry -- that won’t happen, we promise, primarily because we’re committed to a strict time limit!

**Group Goals for 1996-1997**

The Post Retreat Planning Group’s (PRPG) is recommending is that the group adopt six organizational goals for the coming year. These goals would eventually be realized by all Committees or function areas. It’s important to realize that these goals reflect the input received through the surveys and retreat.

Following are the seven proposed organizational goals recommended for discussion, amendment and adoption:

1) Mobilize RPCVs to join, re-join and become involved to the extent they’re able or comfortable.
2) Maintain a variety of social and recreational activities that are designed to support traditions while reaching out.

3) Re-examine and re-define the organizational culture of the group.
4) Provide philanthropy, education and community service.
5) Form and nurture relationships with other organizations, local and national, to further common goals.
6) Expand the visibility of the group in the various communities to which we belong.
7) Recognize the contributions of the Peace Corps community to the group and to the community.

Any comments? Come and share in the discussion, and help determine how these goals can be realized!
Executive Committee, 1996-1997

President
Deb Stapleton, 244-8609 (home)
  e-mail: staplda@dhsf.state.wi.us

Vice President
Melanie Brooks, 257-8630 (home)

Secretary
Buck Trawicky, 241-2392 (home)

Treasurer
Rose Ann Scott, 241-0845 (home)

Members-at-Large:
  Don Sauer, 244-0289 (home)
  e-mail: rochele@goodwin.com
  Rochelle Goedken, 243-0298 (home)

Registered Agent
Gordon Malaise, 255-3261 (home)

Project Contacts

Adventure
Buck Trawicky, 241-2392 (home)

International Calendar Project
Barbara Chatterjee, 271-2405 (home)
Calendar Order Hotline, 608-829-2677

Events
Freeze for Food
  Dave & Deb Hamilton, 873-5437 (home)
  e-mail: davesdime@aol.com

Family Brunch
  Rochelle Goedken, 243-0298 (home)

Cardinal Benefit
(your name here?)

Finance
Rose Ann Scott, 241-0845 (home)

Global Education
(your name here?)

Speakers' Bureau
Erik Jensen, 262-1121 (office)
  e-mail: enjensen@students.wisc.edu

Membership
Membership Directory / Mailing Labels
  Susan Mendrysa, 255-7053 (home)
  e-mail: mendrysa@students.wisc.edu

Pre-Connect / Re-Connect
  Sharon Lewandowski, 241-2392 (home)

Visibility
Newsletter
  Earl Bricker, 244-0289 (home)
  e-mail: dbricker@facstaff.wisc.edu

Website
  Dean Jefferson, 245-0606 (home)

Campus Peace Corps Recruiter
Erik Jensen, 262-1121 (office)
  e-mail: enjensen@students.wisc.edu

Treasurer's Report

9/15/95 to 10/15/95

Calendar Bal Fwd  8,236.28
  96 Calendar Sales  180.00
  97 Calendar Sales  6,491.58
  Intetest  51.31
  Newsletter Postage  82.96
  Postage Meter Rent  169.89
  Artifax  180.80
  World View Ad  345.00
  Copying  75.00
  Pamphlets  108.00
  Returned Check  28.75
  UPS  473.24
  Phone  107.39
  Chairs  75.54
Balance  13,484.52

Group Bal Fwd  530.23
  NFCA Rebates  75.00
  Willy St Fair  50.00
  Newsletter Print  73.13
  Newsletter Postage  82.96
Balance  399.14

Global Education  2,096.20
Large Projects  7,414.00
Giftaway  0.00
Annual Projects  2,675.04

Account Balances
Checking  2,660.60
Market @ 4.79%  20,679.70
Calvert @ 4.70%  2,728.60
Total  26,068.90

Calendar Inventory
Purchased  20,350
  On Hand  9,243
  Ordered  8,895
  Sold  496
  Consignment  422
  Marketing  102
  Production  436
  Vendors  13
  Informants  98
  Donations  645
Total  20,350

Other RPCV organizations have our permission to use any material of interest in this newsletter.
Are you “connected?”

The number of people with access to computers is growing all the time. Do you?

Do you have an e-mail account, at home and/or work?

One reason for this nosy question is because we’d like to create a distribution list for messages about events or other issues to be quickly transmitted. This would either augment or complement the idea of a Phone Tree / Web, not replace it.

If you do have an Email address and want to be contacted in this way, send a message to dbrinker@fasstaff.wisc.edu. He will organize the addresses sent to him and pass them on to the appropriate person(s). Future membership forms will have a space for that information, as well as the roster of officers and contact people -- hey, it’s the 90s!

More Computer Information: The World Wide Web

While we’re on the subject, if you have access to the “World Wide Web” through a browser (e.g., Netscape or Microsoft Explorer), here are three interesting sites for you to check out:

1) Peace Corps Crossroads - an extremely thorough listing of websites having anything remotely to do with Peace Corps (http://www.concentric.net/~jmuehl/links.shtml),

2) the Home Page of the National Peace Corps Association (http://www.rpcv.org), and

3) the InterAction website, offering “one-stop surfing for anyone with global interests and humanitarian concerns (http://www.interaction.org).

The first two have a link to our own website, but if you want to go directly to the Website of the RPCVs of Wisconsin-Madison, the address is: http://www.execpc.com/~wrpcv/.

It’s been suggested that future issues of World Roots be placed there -- what do you think about that?

If you come across other interesting sites with either a Peace Corps or international focus, share the location with us.

Still More: Newsgroups / Listservers

In addition, Mike McQuestion (mquestion@ssc.wisc.edu) recommends a listserver for RPCVs to which he subscribes. The topics of conversation are as varied as anything you’ll hear at a potluck: missionaries, keeping up with languages learned, weight gain, great books read, love (and sex) in the Peace Corps, and so on. People subscribe to this, so you have no choice about what you get, and that is a potential drawback -- some days the number of messages can be overwhelming (and many of the topics uninteresting).

But, if you’re interested, to subscribe you need to send a message (SUBSCRIBE PCORPS-L your first name your last name) to LISTSERVER@CMUVM.CS.V.CMICH.EDU. Your message will be acknowledged right away, and you’ll start getting messages from nice strangers soon after that.

Message from the President

So as I was notifying people that they’d been nominated for an office (and believe me, many were called but few chose to be chosen), one recently-returned nominee stated, “I don’t know if I know enough about how the group works.” Ouch. I hope and believe that we are not quite in a rut, and that creativity abounds, and that new ideas and ways are welcomed.

Take a look at our Calendar! It’s BEAUTIFUL! Though I haven’t been directly involved in its production, as a member of our community I still grin with no little pride when I see it in the office of a non-RPCV, or hanging in a shop. Speaking of which.....

... never given a second’s thought to chairing the Calendar Steering Committee? Me neither. But give it one now -- Barbara Chatterjee plans to move on after 4 very favorable years as its leader, and with all the talent in our group one would think there’d be no problem in finding an able replacement. Please consider this position; you’ll be working with a top-notch team on a world-class product, and you might even learn a few things. Barbara is available to talk about the duties, so check it out.

I’m going to attempt (with a little help from my friends) to recruit an interesting speaker or topic for discussion for each meeting -- still with the overall goal of short, interesting meetings! The next meeting’s presentation will describe the follow-up to the retreat and survey, and recommendations for the future direction of the group. Also, during the intros at the November 4 meeting, we’ll tell a little bit about our most memorable / favorite experience in “bringing the world back home.” Hope to see you there!

Peace, Deb Stapleton

Center for Russia, East Europe and Central Asia Lectures

Uzbekistan After Independence: Dr. Gennady Ivanov, Tashkent Agricultural State University
Thursday, October 31; noon; 422 North Hall

Masaryk, Benes, and the Creation of the Czechoslovak State; Dr. Frank Hadler, Leipzig
Monday, November 11; noon; 1418 Van Hise Hall

Since we’re always trying to get new members, we’ll send three copies of our Newsletter to anyone we think will be interested. After that, they have to join (or subscribe) to stay on the mailing list.

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

Minutes of Friday, 4 October 1996

This was a potluck meeting at the home of John and Mary Frantz, in Monroe. (It's a nifty house, with many moving parts.) Despite the further-than-normal distance, 22 were present, and in a dandy mood after all that nice food.

**Most Important:** The first item of business was to learn if anyone had arranged to tape the "X Files"--we were all missing the season premiere. Yes! Pam Crutchfield has it (238-0559).

**Money:** See separate Treasurer's Report (on Page 2).

**Donation:** We voted AYE to donate $400 as proposed by Pam Crutchfield in the October World Roots. The donation will be sent to the Education Center for the Deaf in Costa Rica, going toward the purchase of a sewing machine for student use and to help pay for a basketball court.

**Calendar Report:** Half the calendars are gone already. Very Nice. We get many raves from the buyers. Lots of RPCV groups are buying them.

**Slide Library:** Buck reported that he and Jim Good will catalog our Slide Library. This is gonna be a big job, so don't expect it to happen at the speed of summer lightning; we probably have well over 1000 slides. Dave Hamilton revealed that he knows all about this, because he had to do a similar thing himself; he offers to serve as non-working consultant. We also voted AYE to approve expenditure of up to $100 for cataloging supplies. Money will come from the Global Ed. account (see below).

We have gotten several feelers about using our Slide Library (which is why cataloging now seems a good idea). In particular, the North Carolina PC Association is making a video on the good effects of humanitarian (not military) foreign aid. They've asked us to help by providing slides of faces, places, and projects. We said we would (though photogs will have to give permission for use of their slides). There will be some expenses involved in helping them, though they'll probably reimburse us.

**Posters for Schools:** Mary Grace wondered if we could produce some more poster-sized photo blowups, as we have once before (about 4 images, app. 2 by 3 feet). These are wonderful teaching aids. She and Phyllis Noble will work on making this happen. Clearly, we need a revived Global Education Committee. We have about $2000 just waiting for good projects. (This is the left-over from a $5000 grant we got to produce a Global Ed. Video with Teacher's Manual.) Someone needs to be thinking about all this stuff, and making recommendations to the group.

Buck Trawicky has compiled a data-base list of all our donations, from the very beginning. It's a very impressive list. He'll give it to anyone who wants to play with it (sorting by destination, source of money, etc.) Mike McQuestion, for instance, has the data now, and will perhaps write up a little article for *WorldView* magazine. In brief, since 1981, we've donated $92,304, and given another $30,915 worth of calendars to schools etc.

**A Newsletter Idea:** after each potluck meeting, publish the recipes for the tastiest offerings (*Editor's note: an idea unrealized for now; next time we'll make a more concerted effort to get them gathered up.*)

**Elections:** We voted AYE to elect the following: President, Deb Stapleton; VP, Melanie Brooks; Treasurer, Rose Ann Scott; Secretary, Buck Trawicky; Members-at-Large: Don Sauer and Rochelle Goedken. And then, back to the party.

--Buck

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Looking Back

Treats from Previous Newsletters
*by Buck Trawicky*

**Five Years Ago This Month -- November, 1991**
(1) We were at the start of producing our Global Education video, "Unheard Voices."
(2) We held a New Members Slide Show at Meredith Green's; finally, someone would appreciate their slides!
(3) We had two (yup!) Halloween Parties.

**Ten Years Ago This Month -- November, 1986**
(1) Paul Thompson showed off his Sargent Shriver Award, presented by the National Council (now NPCA) for his disaster relief work [which he and Jim Good are still doing]. He passed on the $250 award to us.
(2) We had just finished making a quilt (called *Geese For Peace*) to raffle at the Freeze For Food Run.
(3) The Deadwood Committee was formed, to put past presidents to work in their dotage.

**Fifteen Years Ago This Month -- November, 1981**
Our first year. We were called "Re-Action" at first.
Committee Reports

Freeze for Food News

Dave and Deb Hamilton are still seeking ideas for a T-shirt design for the FFF. If you have artistic sensibilities, or know someone who does, put pen(cil) to paper and get it to them. If you want some general guidelines for what it might include, call them at 873-5437. Of course, just thinking of all the various components will yield creative solutions: RPCVs, freeze, food, OxFam America, 10K Run / 5K Walk, 16th Annual, January 25, 1997, and so on. How do all (or some) of these elements fit into an attractive design?

In addition, is there anyone out there who will volunteer to host the Post-Freeze Potluck? The host(s) ideally lives in the Vilas area so people won’t have to travel far after their volunteer stint, or running, is completed. Call Dave or Deb at the above number if this describes you.

Newsletter Advisory Committee

The change in Editorial ‘staff’ allows an opportunity to make some changes, but rather than do them willy nilly, a number of group members were asked to be part of an World Roots Advisory Committee (WRAC). Some of these people, selected to represent as broad a spectrum as possible of group longevity and level of involvement, met on October 16. Current Editor, Earl Bricker, offered a series of topics and some specific ideas for for discussion. Following are the recommendations of the WRAC, pre-sent in the hope for discussion at the November meeting.

•World Roots serves the following “customers” (in order): current local members, current “distant” members; prospective (including former) members, and community and other RPCV groups.

•The mission (purpose) of World Roots is to provide information about group goals and activities, as well as information about other community and RPCV organizations.

•The list of contacts on page 2 should include names and numbers of people filling an identified, and accepted, role.

•The membership / subscription form is not needed in all issues as long as prospective and lapping members are provided with one at the time it’s needed.

•In the interest of contributing toward printing expenses, advertising deserves some consideration in the future, as long as it’s targeted to our “friends” (Cardinal Bar; Bahn Thai; etc.) and not excessive or overly space-consuming (business card-sized, 4 per issue @ $25 - for example).

•Bulk mailing is something to explore, when the mailing list for the City of Madison (537___ zip codes) is 200+. Newsletters should always be sent 1st Class to members / subscribers outside Madison to ensure timely delivery.

•Regular features being planned include: Where Does the $ Go? (an update on recipients of annual gift-away $); Of A Like Mind (focus on community organizations doing work of possible interest to RPCVs); Open Mike (an opportunity for members to share their writing - essays, poetry, etc.); New In Town (whenever we’re blessed with a new member, maybe s/he would be willing to share some thoughts about the place they’ve just left). Loose Lips and Thorn Tree come up frequently as features that would be welcomed back. In the case of Thorn Tree, the recollection is that it was classified ads for members, more or less. This is still a great idea, but it’s up to individuals to get stuff to the Editor. Loose Lips is another story altogether -- someone must come forward to do it... anonymously, of course.

•Other odds and ends: there will be regular deadlines and mailing parties, hopefully piggy-backing on the Calendar packing parties since both will occur on Wednesdays.

As noted at the start of this piece, there will hopefully be some discussion of the ideas contained here, as well as other thoughts and ideas to allow continued improvement.

Help Boost Membership!!!

For some time, membership issues in our RPCV group have been addressed rather passively. People have been given the opportunity to pay dues and get involved in our wonderful group of people, but active solicitation of members has not been really occurred. Plans are afoot to conduct such an active approach through a targeted mailing to prospective members, probably in January. But do it well, we need to have a good list of names, and you (yes, you) can help us accumulate those names.

Before the November General Membership Meeting (and/or the December), take a few minutes and make a list of ALL the RPCVs you know in Wisconsin. Don’t assume they’re already members (although if you know they’re active participants, that’s another story), and most of all, don’t assume they’ve been asked before and won’t join so “why bother?” That may be true, but what’s different about this proposed membership appeal-to-come is that we’ll be blowing our horn and putting ourselves on the back – not easy to do at the same time, we’ll tell ya! We’re going to make a case for joining and give them reasons to support us through dues even if they never intend to come to a meeting or social gathering. And don’t worry about repeated names -- better we get a name two or three times than not at all because someone assumed it would be shared by someone else.

But to repeat, it starts with you. Bring the many, many names (and, ideally, addresses) you’ll have written down to the November and/or December General Membership Meetings at Union South. Or, you can mail them to Deb Stapleton at 2406 Sommers Avenue, Madison 53704, or send them to her via e-mail (staplda@dhfs.state.wi.us). Thanks!
International Calendar Steering Committee

MINUTES
2714 Oakridge, Madison WI
Monday, October 14, 1996

PRESENT: Rose Ann Scott (RAS), Alan Weiner (AW), Buck Trawicky (BT), Barbara Chatterjee (BC), Prudence Barber (PB)

Meeting began: 7:10 p.m. with approval of 9/9/96 minutes as published in World Roots.

Local Marketing: PB has created several neatly designed forms for managing local sales: they include a small flier for stores, plus 3-ply invoices and consignment agreements. She started contacting previous outlets and will begin delivering calendars this week. Additional prospects were suggested for her follow-up. We will have no ads in the Madison papers this year as we cannot monitor their impact on sales, but are looking into a generic ad for international newsletters on the UW-Madison campus.

National Marketing: The Peace Corps recruiting offices have ordered about 4000 calendars, and an ad appeared in the Forestry Association newsletter. Watch the fall issue of Worldview for our full page ad. The RPCV home page on the Web page is up, but as yet we cannot determine its impact. BC is to recontact the United Nations and possibly a travel magazine like Conde Nast Traveler placing ads.

Inventory status as of meeting: Approximately half of the printed 20,350 calendars have been distributed, with about 9000 of these sold. (see Treasurer’s Report for details)

Finances: RAS reported on treasury (see Treasurer’s Report for details). She needs to work with Gordon re: management of postage meter. Further she will check with Dean Jefferson to get a list of accounts receivable. BT noted that with the clear information on shipping & handling charges, more orders appear to be prepaid. RAS is also reorganizing all financial records for income tax filing in 1/97 which includes a required 5-year evaluation of our profit status.

Distribution Management: Weekly packing parties will begin by early November—call AW (233-9031) if you would like to join the work and fun but have not signed up. Work space in Gordon Malaise’s basement for packing is being set up. Several doors and sawhorses for use as tables were donated by Don Olson; our thanks to him and RAS. BT will compile “wish list” of equipment we need to make the space fully operational, e.g., lamps, extension cords. The new computer has not yet arrived; RAS will check with Dean J. to complete the purchase and get it set up. The Microsoft Office software has arrived and is in the possession of Deb Stapleton.

Schools Distribution: Elinor Gbedey is again handling the process of getting free calendars into school classrooms. A total of 2,000 are targeted for this use, including distribu-
tions handled directly by group members. The final amount available will be affected by the quantity needed for sales.

Calendar Staff Openings: As announced, BC will step down as Steering Committee Chair in February 1997; interested parties can call her for more information and begin coming to the meetings on the 2nd Monday of the month to learn about the job. Marketing and sales planning for the 1998 calendar is an area in which the calendar project needs help; if you might be interested, this is an excellent time to start.

Next meeting: November 11 at Rose Ann Scott’s, 2714 Oakridge, Madison. Topics will include marketing, postcards to previous buyers, and looking ahead to 1998. We’re looking for help with the calendar operations, and welcoming any and all who wish to see how we work and/or get involved.

Adjourned: 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Barbara Chatterjee

The UW Women’s Studies Research Center is convening a public symposium on Women’s Health in International Perspective from 1-5 p.m. on Friday, October 25, and 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 26. Admission is free. (Editor’s note: Due to the late date, and since no one will get this before Friday the 25th, I won’t take up a lot of space with this, but the lectures on Saturday do sound very interesting: “The Effects of Conjugal Politics on Women’s Reproductive Decisions” and “Lifting the Veil: A Program View of Women’s Health and Nutrition.” It’s all happening in Memorial Union, so check it out if at all interested.)

Ethical dilemmas in international business will be explored at the Grainger Business Ethics Symposium being held on Friday, November 15, at Grainger Hall, 975 University Avenue, starting at 8:30 a.m. The day-long event will feature panels of experts; the morning session will cover the issues of “Sexual Discrimination and Harassment in a Multicultural Context” and “Clash of Cultures: Bribery and Corruption.” The afternoon session will cover “Child Labor and Other Ethically Problematic Labor Practices” and “Doing Business in Countries with Governments that Violate Human Rights.” The keynote speaker will be Craig Keilburger, age 13, who founded Free the Children, a youth group dedicated to the elimination of child labor and the exploitation of children.

Admission to all events is free. Reservations are needed and should be e-mailed to dwallace@bus.wisc.edu or faxed to 265-4194 by November 8. More information: 263-3648.
Editor's Corner

In the interest of making room for other articles and contributors, I'll be brief. Maybe I'll make it a habit!

I've appreciated the feedback I've gotten so far on my first issue. I have to admit that I enjoy doing volunteer tasks like newsletters because of the tangibility (is that a word?) of it all. It's something that I and others can look at and hold and critique. I can say, "I did this," and point to something. I won't shun the more obscure (and less glamorous) assignments, but this is enjoyable for the moment.

I think doing this might be important for me at this point in my life, too, since my self-esteem is a little "low" at the moment. I'm still looking for a job (some would say a "life"), and that's never easy for anybody. So it's good for me to have this creative outlet. Thanks, I guess. I just hope I don't have to find my next job/life/career outside of Madison!

There's a lot of stuff going on, as always, as evidenced from the various reports and the Calendar of Events in this issue. I hope there will be a great turnout for the November meeting and the discussion of the proposed Goals for the group for the coming year. This sort of discussion is important, and everyone needs to chime in on their perspective of what this group is... and what it isn't. There are quite a few changes being offered, and some folks are put off by structure. Don't be; if there was anything that's been loudly and clearly stated during the past few months, it's that this group wants to accommodate a wide range of involvement. Some of us are quite happy paying annual dues to support activities we'll never attend; others attend and enjoy the social activities, but have no interest in meetings or other non-social gatherings. And some of us go to everything! In other words, if there seems to be an increased emphasis on organization and committees, don't be afraid.... no one will be required to do anything they don't want to do. And all of us will benefit (in my not-so-humble opinion).

Well, not so brief, I guess. I try, I try. If you have any ideas for World Roots, don't be shy -- especially if it's a (brief) essay you'd like to share or just your general thoughts and comments. Send them to P.O. Box 1012, Madison 53701, and I'll get them. Thanks,

Earl Bricker

For Your Information

Alan Stanchfield, Peru Coops, 1964-66 reports (via the Peace Corps Listserv) that the book, Come As You Are: The Peace Corps Story, by Coates Redmon is a "fascinating story of the early days of the Peace Corps. It amazes me that this organization was created so fast, by JFK executive order rather than approval by Congress. It also shows how Sergeant Shriver and his cohorts were really flying by the seat of their pants. It is amazing how fast they got things up and running and how quickly they got eager volunteers out to so many diverse countries. If you were ever a PCV in the 60's, this is must reading."

Several Madison neighbors have come together as volunteers to start what they're calling the Community Thrift Store (CTS). The purpose of the store is to raise funds for nonprofit groups in Madison and Dane County. When people donate goods, they decide which nonprofit(s) they want the proceeds to support. The concept for the CTS comes from others around the country, successful ventures.

At this point, the CTS Founders Committee is seeking nonprofit partners -- like the RPCVs of Wisconsin-Madison. There are no requirements for nonprofit partners, only strong encouragement by CTS to:

- promote the store in communications with members, like World Roots;
- encourage members and friends to donate goods to the store and become customers themselves; and
- asking members to donate any time they aren't giving to our own organization.

Should we join CTS as a nonprofit partner? Come to the meeting and share your opinion.

The deadline for the December issue of World Roots is Friday, November 15. The mailing party for this next issue will be the evening of Wednesday, November 20. Call Earl Bricker at 244-0289 if you can help label, staple, or whatever.
Where Does the $ Go.....?

Our Money Works for So Many.....
by Sheila Przesmicki

The retreat legend lives on! One of the issues discussed in August was all the money we give away to various groups and organizations, large and small, in and out of the U.S. So much of it is seen or heard of for a brief moment in time, whereafter we hear nothing of what’s happened, how it’s being used, or even if it was received.

That’s certainly not the fault of those who have been the “keepers of the file,” for at that August retreat, we discovered that there are files, not only of the donations we have approved, but also of the many responses we’ve received from the recipients of the donations.

But to continue to update the group on each response received would be yet another task that our already tasked-out volunteer records-keepers did not have time for.

So, it is in this section of World Roots that we shall intend to inform you of just what is going on with all our “heard-earned” and carefully donated money. We guarantee no specific order -- in other words, there may be donations of a month or a year ago mentioned in this and future issues -- and by all means, feel free to call in corrections if you see the need. Not all the material is easily legible, nor complete, so we KNOW that information will be missing.

The first donation we’ll highlight is one we recently approved, sponsored by Gina Cowell in May 1996, for the Kandy Children’s Centre in Kandy, Sri Lanka. The best description of the recipient comes from the sponsor herself: “The centre provides food, shelter & basic education to children of Kandy’s street families. RPCV Madison has supported this community-based and supported organization since 1989. Continued support will allow KCC to maintain staff salary (less than $30/month), buy provisions for the children’s lunch, purchase learning materials for the preschool program. The RPCV $ allows KCC to plan for the future. Funding cuts from NGO’s (Non-Governmental Organizations) affected its operating budget for the last two years.”

This year we approved a donation of $400, and in July, we received a letter of gratitude from Rev. George S. Stephen at the Centre. Following are some excerpts from that letter:

Dear Deb,
It has been a joy to receive a letter from Ms. Regina Cowell, giving cover to the RPCV’s Cheque for US$400/- for the work of the Kandy Children’s Centre..... Perhaps, you are already aware that the Kandy Children’s Centre is housed in the Kandy YMCA premises and the children are taken care of by three full-time female staff. These staff handle the educational activities of the little ones who are too young to be sent to regular schools and those who are over-age for the lower school grades, because they have hardly gone to

schools.... The food preparation is also done by this staff daily..... we are presently doing only the day-care of the children - health and nutrition and education.

Even though costs have gone up by almost one hundred per cent within the past three years and the Save the Children Fund (U.K.) in Sri Lanka has come down to 30 per cent financial assistance in their ten-per-cent-per-annum phasing out programme started seven years ago, through assistance that come to us from the RPCV, Madison Chapter, and a couple of small financial contributions that come monthly from locals, together with supply of school needs, coconuts, eggs etc. through the Women’s Development Centre (a community development NGO), we continue to maintain the KCC services at optimum level.

I have initiated action with the Kandy YMCA in order to obtain some assistance from the National Council of YMCA’s in Sri Lanka for children’s development work, such as setting up a small scale Vocational Training Centre, especially for the category of children the KCC handles, so that those outgrow the age level of the KCC (15 years of age) can be introduced to the VTC for skills training which lead to self-employment individually or in groups.

With the ethnic conflict still going on..... the poverty situation in Sri Lanka has aggravated very much, and the Government has had no chance of looking into this growing problem of poverty as a priority concern and launching any speedy and effective and concerted measures to salvage this category of victims of unethical economic proliferation..... Nevertheless, we are struggling along with this programme, as we feel it is our basic human responsibility to care for them and to save them from this iniquity.

I close with my very best wishes for inner satisfaction in the sharing of peace.

Yours in Christ our Peace,
George S. Stephens, HONY Secretary
Kandy Children’s Centre

The UW-Madison Community Development Group, the Overseas Development Network and the Latin American and Iberian Studies Program are sponsoring a talk by Juan Felix Arias, Bolivian sociologist and the Director of Kechuymara Foundation. Kechuymara supports self-sustaining grassroots development efforts in indigenous rural communities of Bolivia. His talk is titled “Structural Adjustment and Community Development in Bolivia,” and it will take place on Tuesday, November 5, at 6 p.m. in Memorial Union (check TITU for the exact location).
Following is a list of upcoming African Studies events:

Tuesday, October 29 -- Claude Ake, Visiting Professor from Port Harcourt, will speak on “What About the Public?: Interrogating the State-Civil Society Discourse on Democracy.” (3:30 p.m., 1418 Van Hise Hall, UW)

Sandwich Seminars (all of the following take place in 206 Ingraham Hall on campus at noon):

Wednesday, November 6 -- Carolyn Hamilton, Professor of History, U. of Witwatersrand; “Bushmen and Zulus: The New Politics of Identity in South Africa”

Wednesday, November 13 -- Frank Jolles, Research Associate, U. of Natal, South Africa; “Political and Social Information in Zula Earplugs from the Late 19th Century to the Present Day”

Wednesday, November 20 -- Harriet Birungi, Research Fellow, Makerere Institute of Social Research, Uganda; “Infection and Self-Help: Risk and Trust in the Ugandan Health Care System”

Wednesday, November 27 -- Rudo Gaidzanwa, Professor of Sociology, U. of Zimbabwe; “Gender and Citizenship in Zimbabwe”

Wednesday, December 4 -- Antonia Schleicher, Professor of African Languages & Literature; “New Ways of Learning & Teaching: Technology in Foreign Language Acquisition”

Enjoying stimulating conversation over a meal shared with other community members is a simple but powerful concept. This strategy is proving to be an effective way of enriching participants, building community and positively involving youth.

Begun in Madison by the staff of the Wisconsin Clearinghouse for Prevention Resources at UW-Madison, Family and Community Town Suppers (FACTS) are an innovative way to promote family involvement, to bridge our society’s too-frequent separations of race and class, and to provide a fresh, new avenue for involvement in key community issues.

Each FACTS meeting is developed around a current issue of interest to the community in which it is held. Topics can include a variety of issues: the drinking age, the death penalty, and land use are a few examples. Most important is that the topic be compelling for community members of all ages. The dinners can be held in any number of public places - restaurants, schools & churches are possibilities.

FACTS events can feature a panel of several persons who are knowledgeable about the issue and have opposing views. The event begins with brief presentations by panel members. Over dinner, participants discuss the issue at their respective tables, bringing together young and old, black and white, and rich and poor.

For information on how to organize a FACTS in your community, contact:
The Wisconsin Clearinghouse for Prevention Resources
phone: 262-9007
e-mail: calobes@facstaff.wisc.edu

Madison Friends of International Students (MFIS) was founded in 1952 to provide a bridge between campus and community. “Cross-cultural awareness,” that is what international friendships are all about. MFIS, through its members, hopes to become involved in the process of learning and sharing with persons from other cultures. MFIS volunteers gain cross-cultural awareness of their neighbors in our ever-shrinking world. International friendships developed in Madison through MFIS have lasted for many years and have led to rewarding personal and business relationships. More than 4,000 international students and faculty want to know more about how Americans live. MFIS is always looking for volunteers to help these international visitors make their stay in the U.S. meaningful. Some of the volunteer opportunities include: holiday hospitality (invite one or more students to share your observance of the upcoming holidays); temporary housing (provide overnight hospitality for a new student or family while they seek permanent housing); and tutoring (assistance with conversational English). Volunteering for MFIS is a logical extension of the Peace Corps experience -- returning the favor, as it were. If you’re interested in any of the activities briefly described above, or in knowing what other options are available, call the MFIS office at 608-263-4010.
Thanks to the following folks for kindnesses rendered:

- *John and Mary Frantz* for opening their home to a crowd of rowdy potluck-ers. It’s a beautiful home -- their commitment to Mother Earth is obvious and inspiring.

- As the Calendar goes into the sales season, all involved in the Calendar Project are reminded how much they enjoyed working with *Kevin Nies*. His efforts to build the market, especially with other RPCV groups, continue to help sales. His former Calendar colleagues wish him and *Deb* every success in grad school and in life in sunny Arizona!

- *Mary Grace, Dan, Betsy and Anna Rose Ott* for hosting the Harvest Moon Drumming Party and Bonfire. All accounts have this established as a much-loved RPCVW tradition, and only after 2 years!

The next General Membership Meeting is:

Monday, November 5
7 p.m., Union South,
227 N. Randall Avenue,
Madison

After Committee reports and other agenda items, this meeting will be devoted to a discussion of the recommendations of the Post-Retreat Planning Group

Come to the meeting and be part of this important next step, and help guide those to follow.

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Wisconsin - Madison
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Exp. Date:
1/97