I hope there will be Jan. donation proposals concerning help for Honduras and Nicaragua.

Christmas Party!!

Our annual potluck Christmas Party will be on Saturday, Dec 12 '98, at the home of Sophie Zermuehlen, 317 Bodner Dr, Madison 233-7886. From 6:30 p.m. onward.

Bring good stuff to eat and drink. And bring a wrapped Present. Mark any presents for kids. Everyone will get a number, presents will be handed out, one at a time.

With rules for involuntary exchange. Presents can be thoughtfully chosen but inexpensive things, unneeded treasures from your house, or white elephants you've longed to unload.

Note that this Saturday is the day before St. Lucia's Day. She is the patron saint of all those suffering from gastrointestinal illnesses: the perfect patron saint for PCVs!

Greetings, O Gentles.

I suggest that we should endeavor to be of help to Honduras and Nicaragua following the destruction of Hurricane Mitch. On Oct. 27-29, Mitch stalled just off the Honduran coast, and thereafter staggered across to the Pacific and then reeled north. In about 3 days, 30 years of development were wiped out in Honduras and Nicaragua. (See the New York Times, Mon. Nov. 5 '98, for an ample report.)

(1) At our Nov. meeting, we unanimously agreed to send $100 immediately to help—this is the most we can donate without prior notice in the Newsletter. (We'll send it to WCCN, to transmit to "Cispes" in Nicaragua, which handles disaster relief there). (2) We also passed around a sign-up sheet of folks willing to help bundle up packages of relief supplies; a dozen people signed up. (Contact Kristine Torres, RPCV/Honduras, if you want to help: 243-3312(w); 221-3372(h).) I urge anyone else wanting to help, to contact Kristine. (3) For other ways to help, you can also contact Sherin Bowen, of Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners of the Americas, at UW/Pointe, 715/346-4702. (4) I hope there will be several donation proposals in our January Newsletter, concerning help for Honduras and Nicaragua. (5) And perhaps we should dedicate our Cardinal Bar Benefit in March to this purpose. Let's discuss all this at our December meeting.


Our Christmas Party is coming up. On Sat., Dec. 12, at Sophia Zermuehlen's house (see notice elsewhere). Come! Bring an inexpensive wrapped present, for the pile.

And, is anyone going to hold a New Year's Eve party?

If you have good Donation Proposals, get them written up and submitted by Dec. 10 (see elsewhere). We vote on these at the January meeting. And we'll have an ad-hoc Donations Committee to review them in advance, and make recommendations. If you want to serve, please call me, or volunteer at the Dec. meeting.

Lastly, slide selection for the 2000 Calendar will be at the February meeting. If you have any dandy slides, from any present or past PC country, do submit them, by the end of January. Send them to Jim Good, at Interworks, 116 N. Few, Madison WI 53703. 251-9045(w).

---Buck

HOLIDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES of DECEMBER

insert on pages of 8 & 9

---Seasons Greetings to All!!
**Officers and Contacts**

**Executive Committee**
- **President**: Buck Trawicky (608) 241-2392
- **Vice President**: Rick Lackey (608) 223-9995  
  Email: rick.lackey@gte.net
- **Secretary**: Peter J. Joyce (608) 249-8573  
  & Terry Stark (608) 233-9140
- **Treasurer**: Troy Rutter (608) 274-9332
- **Members at Large**: Don Sauer - in Pakistan  
  Email: sauer@liveal.net  
  Roehlce Goedken (608) 243-0298
- **Registered Agent**: Terry Stark (608) 233-9140
- **Community Projects (your name here?)**

**International Calendar Project**
- **Coordinator**: Rochelle Goedken (608) 243-0298
- **Calendar Order Hotline**: (608) 829-2677

**Events**
- **Freeze for Food**: Peter J. Joyce (608) 249-8573
- **Family Brunch**: Sheila Prazemicki (608) 244-6454
- **Cardinal Benefit**: Kathleen Quinnlan (608) 249-6437
- **Finance**: Rose Ann Scott (608) 241-0845
- **Global Education (your name here?)**

**Membership**
- **Coordinator**: Melanie Brooks (608) 244-4484  
  Email: mkbrooks30@yahoo.com
- **Membership Directory/Mailing Labels**: Peter J. Joyce (608) 249-8573  
  Email: pjrjoyce@aol.com
- **Pre-Connect/ Re-Connect**: Sharon Lewandowski 241-2392

**Visibility**
- **Newsletter Editor**: Theresa A. Jenkins (608) 966-1282  
  Email: theresaj@tda.net
- **WebSite**: (Currently off-line; will be back soon)
- **Campus Peace Corps Recruiter**: Peter D. Quella (608) 262-1121  
  Email: pdquella@students.wisc.edu

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**Reminder that January proposals are due, All must be submitted by EARLY December to be placed into the Newsletter review!**

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**Membership Information**

All RPCV of Wisconsin-Madison receive a monthly Newsletter, *World Roots*, on payment of annual dues shown below. To avoid record-keeping hassles, we prefer members pay through December of the year joining, then pay for a full year membership at that time. Reduced rates are available for those in extreme financial circumstances. You can also join the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) through us by paying an additional $25. We strongly encourage you to join the NPCA, which provides us a way to affect national issues.

Please check all that apply
- I want to Join RPCV of WI, Inc.
- Individual - $15 for one year
- Joint - $20 (Two people receiving one newsletter)
- Overseas Individual - $24
- Overseas Joint - $29
- I am also enclosing $25 for NPCA membership  
  ($32.50 for joint membership - two people with the same address)
- I do not 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: __________________________

Telephone #’s (W) (II)

E-mail Address: ____________________

Country of Service: ________________

Service Dates: _____________________

PC Job: ____________________________

Date of Birth: (Optional - M/D/Y)

__________________________

The RPCV’s of Wisconsin are an active bunch, and there’s always a need for new blood. If you are willing to be called to help, please let us know:

- I might be interested in doing something, but would like additional information first. Call me.

Send completed form & check to:  
RPCV’s of Wisconsin - Madison  
P.O.Box 1012  
Madison, WI 53701
Treasurer's Column

OCTOBER REPORT:

Calendar balance 14696.60
Sales 8340.50
Interest 139.14
UPS -695.39
Phone -140.39
Printing -2265.65
Envelopes -229.00
WI Teachers ad -200.00
Ad designs -608.50
Marketing supplies -61.62
Civic Center fee -40.00
Bank checks -12.95
Donation 19.00
Ending balance 18941.85

Group balance 1627.65
Dues 121.50
World Roots -74.40
Ending balance 1674.75

Global Education 2096.20
Gift Away 1850.00
Large Projects 14162.00

Annual Projects 7417.15
Oxfam (FFF) -3544.05
FFF expenses -13.60
Ending balance 3859.50

Account Totals 42584.30
Checking Acct 3610.44
Market Yield 38973.86
Bank Totals 42584.30

Editors Column

The hammers and crow bars are at work again trying to remodel a kitchen before the hordes of family bombard us with hungry mouths and (literally) no oven to feed them. The Holiday season is here and of of Monroe is crazy with "The Colony" playing food Santa.

Still working on the web page materials and hope to have something tangible to offer soon.

I do appreciate letters/articles from all members either near or far, let us know what you are up to.

When submitting items for our newsletter send, as much as possible, the articles, notices, announcements, etc. via E-mail. I do have Word and Word Perfect.

I also ask that information is sent ASAP to me by December 10. I do realize this is early, but with the Holiday season upon us, timeliness is important to enable timely delivery to our members.

Articles etc. should be sent to
theresaj@tds.net

Or mail a disk to:
W 8407 Davis Rd.
Browntown, WI 53522

Thank you very much for your cooperation on putting "Our" newsletter together!

And, THANK YOU ALL who contributed articles for this months World Roots!!

Other RPCV organizations have permission to use any articles of interest within this newsletter
Minutes from the 110698 General Meeting
RPCV-Madison Chapter

This potluck meeting at KATHLEEN QUINLAN’S house had a great turnout. I counted at least 23 adults and almost half that many children. A big, warm THANK YOU of appreciation to KATHLEEN for hosting. As an opener, each person told an interesting story that reminisced about a beautiful landscape in his/her country of service.

INTERNATIONAL FAIR - Helene Pesche, Buck, Prudence, and Peter Q. volunteered to help staff a table at the International Fair, at the Civic Center, 110598.

WEBSITE - Apparently someone is interested in maintaining our website; more information to come.

HURRICANE RELIEF - What is a good way for our group to help? November 22nd there is a fundraiser at the Barrymore theater. Donations can be made through the WI Coordinating Council on Nicaragua (WCCN). Peter Q. has an organization name through which aid can also be channeled. A sign-up list was passed around for volunteers to hand-pack donated goods to send (contact Buck with ?? and/or to volunteer).

Per our bylaws, $100.00 can be donated without first announcing it in the newsletter. We all agreed to immediately make $100.00 available for hurricane relief, and consider other donations later on, following the initial flurry of international aid.

CALENDAR COMMITTEE - 65% of the 1999 calendars have already been shipped. PEOPLE ARE NEEDED to check invoices, open mail, etc. It is not complicated work but can be tedious if someone has to do it all the time. Contact ROSE ANN SCOTT to help out.

BACK-UP PHOTO COORDINATOR - It may turn out that Jim GOOD might be out of the country at the precise time when the slide show is to take place (i.e. general meeting of February, with a 2nd showing two weeks later). If someone wants to work with Jim on this annual activity and be the “back-up photo coordinator,” contact Jim Good.

PLANNING COMMITTEE - Do you have an idea for a “new tradition?” Contact Buck.

NATIONAL PEACE CORPS CONFERENCE, AUGUST ’99 - The idea so far is that our group may host the first night (with beer and brats?). We need to prepare a detailed plan to propose to the MN host group. Anyone with good ideas for workshops on fundraising, fundspending, membership recruitment, organizing, newsletter printing, etc. please contact Buck.

CHRISTMAS PARTY! - Hurray! SOPHIA ZERMUEHIEN (317 Bordner Drive) has generously volunteered to host the Christmas Party again this year. The date: Saturday, Dec. 12. Potluck time: 6:00-6:30. Don’t forget a fun present. If it is a child’s present, please mark it for a child. Thank you, Sophia!

DONATION PROPOSALS - Remember to get them in the newsletter by Dec. 10. They will be discussed at the January meeting.

Also, Terry Stark has withdrawn his funding proposal to the Wisconsin Resources Protection Council (WRPC) see Sept. newsletter. It had been approved on the condition that WRPC be a non-profit, tax-exempt organization. WRPC is non-profit but not tax-exempt; therefore, the funding proposal has been withdrawn.

MEMBERSHIP LIST - Do you want any updates made to your name/address/phone/E-mail address for the annual membership list to be sent out to all members? If so, you must contact PETER JOYCE. Also, please include your 9-digit zip code because we may mail out the newsletters using the barcode bulk mailing option.

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES - Our esteemed new President Buck will put together an agenda of activities for the coming year.

FREEZE FOR FOOD, Jan. ’99 - will be co-sponsored with the Colombian Support Network. Same location. Mark your calendars to participate and/or to help.

Adjourned. Minutes written by co-secretary Terry Stark.
Members present: Rose Ann Scott (RAS), Prudence Barber (PB), Buck Trawicky(BT), Rochelle Goedken (RG), Walt Zeltner (WZ), Alan Weiner (AW), Troy Rutter(TR).

Marketing/Sales: The Fall issue of World View will be arriving on everyone’s doorsteps late again this year. We will be lucky to see it before Thanksgiving. Many of our individual orders are placed as a result of this ad. At best, the individual orders will need to be mailed out during the height of the December mail rush; something we have been trying for years to avoid with our encouragement to "order early". At worst, individuals who want their calendars by a certain time in December/January may be disappointed and the slides that we have requested from photographers may arrive too late for consideration for the year 2000 RPCV-Mad. Cal. At this point we have no control and simply need to wait it out.

We discussed ways to try to improve our advertising strategy with and without the NPCA and are optimistic that other advertising ventures will be more timely and productive.

PB has done an outstanding job marketing the calendar locally and has made great efforts toward finding a niche in the world of the large bookstore chains. To date, more than 60% of the calendars have already found new homes.

Peter Quella, PC Campus Recruiter extraordinary, and recruiters from our regional office, helped promote the calendar while tabling at a Wisconsin Teachers Conference in Madison in October. We would like to thank you all for your support.

Donations:
1) We shipped 3000 calendars directly to the World Wise Schools program, hot off the press, in July. There are many pros to this arrangement: The calendars are received by teachers in all 50 States, it saves us postage and significantly saves the volunteers actively working on this project a lot of time (many of the requests in the past have been individual requests requiring hours and hours to process). There may be some cons to this arrangement and RG will re-contact the folks in D.C. to get the facts and address the concerns we raised about how and when these calendars will be distributed.

2) Henry Nehls-Lowe usually requests 100 calendars to give to the elementary school in his neck o" the woods. This year he is requesting 200 calendars, so that he may also give some to the middle and high school teachers in his area. We decided to let Henry take his usual 100 now and wait until early January for the next 100 if available.

3) Buck Trawicky stated that he usually sends calendar donations to various recipients each year and requested a total of 85 calendars this year. 50 will go to Bisbee in Arizona so that he can give them to teachers and schools in Mexico while traveling during the December school break. 25 will go to the Junior Year Abroad program at Fordham University in New York (Buck’s Alma Mater). 10 will go to Gonzaga High School in Washington D.C. (also Buck’s Alma Mater).

4) BT also stated that for the last several years, three copies of the calendar have been sent to every PC country office, with the exception being that the 13 countries that are featured, receive 10 copies. This will be another donation of approx. 300-400 calendars. BT stated that these calendars are sent mostly to generate photograph submissions and a few sales but that it is also a good deed for our group to do this. He will type up a cover letter to accompany this delivery to Cathy Morona at the D.C. Nepal desk who will then distribute the calendars accordingly.

NEEDED: Excruciatingly happy elves to help Santa Roseanna Roseanna Dana open up and process the volumes of calendar mail received by OUR group at this time of year.
Her schedule may very a bit but the plan, I said the plan, is to have work group meetings twice a week on Monday evenings and Thursday evenings. Call her at 241-0845 to arrange your appointment. You do not need to attend them all. EVEN ONE HOUR WOULD HELP. Thanks in advance for your support.

THANKS to Ken Coffeen, Prudence Barber, Phyllis Noble, Rose Ann Scott and Troy Rutter for helping to get more than 3000 glossy brochures ready for a bulk mailing to former calendar purchasers and area members of the Chamber of Commerce. Thanks also to Linda Eiler for her involvement with the Chamber of Commerce and to Peter Quella for finding out all the details about how to get their mailing list. Many of the 3000+ brochures went to Dane County area businesses.

The next Calendar Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 1st, at the home of Prudence Barber, 1050 Jenifer St., Madison. (251-0852).

Camp Vista Weekend.

"January 16th-18th plan on coming to Wisconsin with us to enjoy a weekend of fun, skiing, midnight sledding and great food! The group, of RPCVs and friends, travels to Camp Vista, every year and all are invited. The place is near Dundee only 2.5 hours away! You don't need to be experienced and downhill skiing is also in the area. The cost of the entire weekend is $40 plus rental. Not a bad price for all the comforts of home. Call Ralph at (773) 248-4354 or Brian at (847) 806-1080 for details and directions. Bring a sleeping bag or bedding and carpooling is encouraged. See you on the trail!" If you need more info, call Brian or Ralph!

Stephanie

The Chicago RPCVs always do a great job hosting this winter blowout, now in its second decade. We always want to increase the midwest RPCV turnout (ie, Madison, Milwaukee, Green Bay, Twin Cities, etc..) We've held regional RPCV conferences, for example, during this event. Do you have any e-mail addresses for any of these other RPCV groups? If so, kindly forward this invite to them, too.

BTW, Stephanie Arnold is our main on-line link these days to the Chicago RPCVs. You can contact her for more details on this, calendar sales, or other RPCV issues of mutual concern.

Michael McQuestion
Center for Demography and Ecology
University of Wisconsin-Madison
1188 Observatory Drive
Madison, WI 53706, USA

phone: (608) 238 5468
tax: (608) 262 8400
Looking for a Challenging Job?

The National Peace Corps Association is looking for a chief executive of the 17,000 member organization. Requirements and responsibilities of the job are listed on the NPCA web page at www.rpcv.org. They want to gather resumes in Nov/early Dec, interview in Jan and get a new executive by Feb 5th. Send in resumes to

NPCA search
c/o Pete Johnson
1701 Lilac Drive
Walnut Creek, CA 94595

I have the complete position announcement for those with more questions. Pete

The Crisis Corps

The Crisis Corps is a new program within Peace Corps that allows PCVs and RPCVs to provide short-term assistance to countries that have experienced natural disasters or humanitarian crises. It does not matter how long you have been "returned" you will still be considered for service if you have the right skills (i.e., language and experience).

If interested, check out the Crisis Corps web site for more information on current projects and how to apply:

http://www.peacecorps.gov/crisiscorps/index.html

Here's the latest stats on Crisis Corps:

- Project lengths are up to six months.
- Peace Corps provides round trip tickets and cost of living support.
- Projects have served 13 countries and provided 90 volunteers.

If you can't get on-line, call Mary Jordan at 1-800-424-8580 ext 2250 for more information.

Thanks!
HOLIDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES of DECEMBER

In popular practice, the Christmas season begins, and presents are given, on various dates in different countries. See various entries, particularly these: Advent; Dec. 4, St. Barbara; Dec. 6, St. Nicholas; Dec. 13, St. Lucia; and Dec. 16, the novena of Christmas. The Christmas season likewise ends on varying dates: Jan. 1, New Year's Day; Jan. 5 and 6, Epiphany; Jan. 7, Christmas in the Julian calendar, also St. Distaff's Day; and Jan. 13, Knut's Day.

4 Feast of St. Barbara. 4th-century virgin martyr, probably legendary. Martyred by her pagan father, who was then killed by lightning. One of the 14 Holy Helpers; patron saint of architects, builders, firemen, and artillerymen; invoked against lightning and fire. Her day is considered the start of the Christmas season in parts of France, Germany, and Syria. She is invoked in the Latin American syncretic religions. (RC: Dec. 4, trad.mod.; Orth.: Dec. 4/17.)

4 Tree Dressing Day, in the UK and worldwide. 1st Fri.-Sun. Dec. A time to honor one's favorite trees, by decorating them festively, and holding celebrations under their branches. A new festival, derived from world-wide traditions, began in 1992 in Great Britain, and is taking root in other countries.

5 Lailat al-Bara'ah, the Night of Forgiveness, in Islam; Islamic calendar, L8 (Sha'b'ah) 15. Called Shab-i-Barat in India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh; called Nisfu Night in Malaysia; official public holiday in Côte d'Ivoire. A night for Muslims to ask Allah to forgive their deceased friends and relatives. An intense time, in preparation for Ramadan (L9 1). On this night, Allah fixes destinies for the coming year. On Nisfu Night, Malaysian souls of the dead are believed to visit their former homes.

6 Feast of St. Nicholas. Bishop of Myra; noted for his miracles and striking acts of charity, and the freeing of captives. In 1087, Italian merchants stole his body and took it from Myra to Bari, Italy, where it remains. His cult is especially strong in Greece and Russia. Patron saint of Greece, Apulia (Italy), Sicily (Italy), Lorraine (France), and Russia. (RC: Dec. 6 trad.mod.; Orth.: Dec. 6/19, and May 9/22 for translation of relics from Myra to Bari; d.c.350.)

6 Festivals and holidays in honor of St. Nicholas:
In general, he's the patron saint of children and of sailors; there are many festivals for both groups. In many places Dec. 6 is the beginning of the Christmas season.
In Argentina, in Ríoja in the northeast, he's the patron saint; his image is revered by people of the province.
In Aruba and Bonaire (Netherlands Antilles), this is Sinterklaas' Birthday. On the eve children are given gifts. Sinterklaas arrives in Bonaire c.1 week earlier, in the harbor of Kralendijk, with a great number of "Black Pete" (attendants), and on the evening of the 5th good children each get a present.
In Romania, children are handed gifts (whereas on Christmas, gifts are given by the invisible St. Nicholas). In Turkey is the St. Nicholas Symposium in Demre (ancient Myra), once-d. c. 6. Organized by the Greek Orthodox church to study St. Nicholas of Myra; attended by scholars and amateurs from all over. The premier St. Nicholas symposium.

7 Burning the Devil (Quema del Diablo) in Guatemala. Adults dressed as devils have chased children through the streets since the start of Advent; today, fires of house trash are lit outside to banish all spooks.

8 Chanukah (Hanukkah) in the Jewish calendar; Kislev 25–Tevet 3/4, 9 days total; official public holidays in Israel. The Jewish Feast of Lights, also called "the feast of dedication" commemorates the Maccabean victories for independence from the Syrians (2nd century BC), and the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem; focuses on the re-lighting of the Temple Eternal Light—each night, additional candles of the nine-branched menorah are re-lit.

8 Zamenhof Day, sponsored by the Esperanto League for North America. Commemorates the birthday of Ludwik Lejzer Zamenhof (Dec. 15, 1859 OS—Apr. 14, 1917 NS?), Russian physician and oculist who created the most important of the international artificial languages, Esperanto. His textbook on the language was published in 1887.

8 The Novena of Christmas begins, ending after 9 days on Christmas Eve. A time of preparation for the coming of the Christ Child. In some countries, marked by creches, special prayers and hymns, and celebration of the Christmas story. Colombia's observances are notable; so are those of Mexico and the Philippines.

8 The Misa de Gallo (cock-crow mass) or Simbang Gabi, the beginning of the Christmas season in Catholic parts of the Philippines, at the start of the Novena of Christmas; each day begins with church bells breaking the night silence to call people to dawn Mass; the Misa de Gallo period concludes with the midnight Mass on Christmas Eve.

8 Posadas (the "lodgings") in Mexico. Begins on Dec. 16 in cities and villages with a procession that recalls the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. Posadas lasts nine days and includes religious ceremonies, festivities, and the popular ceremony of the breaking of the piñata. Posadas is also celebrated on Olvera Street in Los Angeles (USA).

c.17 The Mevlana Commemoration Ceremony at Konya, Turkey; usu. Dec. 10-17. Commonly called "the whirling dervish festival"; commemorates the urs of Rumi, Jalal ad-Din ar-Rumi (c. Sept. 30, 1207–Dec. 17, 1273). Born in Balkh; Muslim saint, outstanding mystic poet and philosopher, founder of the Mevlevi Sufi order. Dervishes dances the Sema, a precise dance of ecstatic union with God.

20 The Perchtenlauf in Altenmarkt and other rural parts of Austria, 4th Sunday of Advent. A ritual held at the time on the longest night of the year. St. Nicholas and the Perchten (spirits of spring and fertility), go house to house caroling, and acting out their victorious combat with the ogres of winter.

20 Ziemassvetki in the Old Latvian Calendar; Dec. 20–23. Celebrates the Winter Solstice.
The start of the Ramadan fast in Islam; Islamic calendar, all of L.9 (Ramadan). L.91 is an official public holiday in Afghanistan, Brunei, and Maldives. The month of Ramadan commemorates the period during which Muhammad received divine revelations. Special observance of this month is one of the five tenets of Islam and is marked by a strict fast from sunrise to sundown.

Christmas. The most popular Christian festival, celebrated in all Christian countries; a family- and child-centered time. Each country’s celebrations contain unique features. Typically, a day for families to attend morning religious services, exchange presents, and eat a traditional meal. (Although Three Kings Day, Jan. 6, is also a popular gift-giving time, especially in Latin countries.)

In wintry countries, Christmas trees (conifers erected indoors and decorated with lights and baubles) are installed a week or more before Dec. 25, with wrapped presents laid beneath. Children are taught that Santa Claus (St. Nicholas) or else the Baby Jesus comes on Christmas Eve, bringing them additional presents. (Dec. 25: in Latin countries with no Christmas tree tradition, presents are stealthily laid next to the child’s pillow, or around her shoes, either on Christmas or on Three Kings Day, Jan. 6.)

Christmas is placed at the time of the winter solstice, and retains a deep Indo-European aspect, incorporating vestigial elements of both the raucous ancient Roman festival of Saturnalia and northern sun-invoking rituals; the Mithraic festival of Sol Invictus was also expropriated. (Dec. 25: The Roman feast of Saturnalia was held on Dec. 17—on the 14th of the kalends of January in the old Republican Calendar, in which December had 29 days. Saturnalia was a day of license, when owners and slaves exchanged places.)

Liturgically, preparation for the Christmas season begins with the 4th Sunday before Christmas (see Advent).

Orthodox churches which use the Julian calendar exclusively celebrate Christmas on Jan. 7 (Dec. 25 OS), but with less emphasis. (See Dec. 6, 13, 16, 17 & 24, and Jan. 6; also the essays on the Gregorian Calendar, and on the Christian Liturgical Year.)

In popular practice, the Christmas season begins, and presents are given, on various dates in different countries. See various entries, particularly these: Advent; Dec. 4, St. Barbara; Dec. 6, St. Nicholas; Dec. 13, St. Lucia; and Dec. 16, the novena of Christmas. The Christmas season likewise ends on varying dates: see Jan. 1, New Year’s Day; Jan. 5 and 6, Epiphany; Jan. 7, Christmas in the Julian calendar, also St. Distaff’s Day; and Jan. 13, Knut’s Day.

25 Gobind Singh’s Birthday, in the Sikh religion; Hindu calendar, L 10 br 7. Gobind Singh (1666-1708) was the tenth Guru (1675-1708); he remodeled the Sikh government; died by assassination.

26 Junkanoo in the Bahamas; also in Belize, Jamaica, Montserrat (British West Indies), and the British Virgin Islands (UK). Begins Dec. 26 (official public holiday in all 5 places); ends Jan. 1 (also an official public holiday in all 5 places). The Bahamian Carnival, spirited and lighthearted.

And a very important religious event. Troupes in elaborate crepe-paper costumes parade to Junkanoo music, in a dancing motion ("dashin"). Of African (Yoruba) origin, from the Egungun cult; "Junkanoo" is derived from Gbestinconnu, meaning a masked person.

The Fanal Processions in The Gambia; in the Christmas-New Year season. Especially in Banjul, Bakau, and Serekunda. Intricate fanal ships of split bamboo and paper with candles inside are paraded with processions of drummers and dancers to the patron’s house.


27 Anniversary of Jamaica’s largest slave revolt, called the Christmas Rebellion or the Baptist War. On Dec. 27, 1831, thousands of Jamaican slaves rose in resistance, demanding wages for their work; the strike swiftly became an armed rebellion. The leader was the slave Samuel Sharpe, a “Daddy” (deacon) of the Native Baptist church and a remarkable, resourceful, and charismatic man. The revolt formally ended on Feb. 5, 1832. Sharpe and many others were hanged in the Kingston square which bears his name, Sharpe on May 23, 1832. The slaves’ bearing caused missionaries who returned to England to argue persuasively for the abolition of slavery.

Anniversary of the Wounded Knee Massacre. On Dec. 29, 1890, at Wounded Knee Creek, South Dakota, US cavalrymen massacred over 200 Sioux Indians in an effort to suppress the Ghost Dance religion.

Feast of Our Lady of Seafarers (Nossa Senhora dos Navegantes; NS do Bom Jesus dos Navegantes; NS da Boa Viagem, “good voyage”) in Salvador (Bahia), Brazil. On the evening of Dec. 31, her statue is escorted in gaily decorated boats from the Basílica de Conceição (Conception) to the Boa Viagem church, where sailors and families convey it to the church there; next day, Jan. 1, is a festive return; a very happy celebration. The custom dates from 1750 in Portugal; elsewhere in Brazil, it is also celebrated at this time or on Feb. 2, Aug. 15, or 2nd Sun. Jan., often as a local official public holiday.

Hogmanay, the greatest Scots holiday, traditionally, Scots gather outdoors, and, as the bells chime midnight, sing “Auld Lang Syne,” pass the whisky, and then disperse to go “first-footing.”

Sounds like a wonderful way to send out the old year!

May everyone have a happy, healthy and graced Holiday Season! Hope to have the joy of sharing some of the season’s festivities with you the fellow Returned Peace Corps Volunteer who through your dedication and willingness to provide to others, makes this Earth a better place for ALL!
December 1st, Tuesday, at the home of Prudence Barber, 1050 Jenifer St., Madison. (251-0852).
December 7th, Monday - monthly meeting at the Union South 7PM.
December 10th, deadline get January proposals in! E-mail or ‘snail’
December 12th, Sat. Christmas Party. At Sophia Zermuehlen’s, 317 Bordner Dr. 233-7886.
January 16th-18th, Camp Vista!!! to enjoy a weekend of fun, skiing,
midnight sledding and great food!
January 21, Madison Chamber Networking Meeting at the Edgewater
Hotel downtown
January 23rd, Sat. Freeze For Food.
February 1st, Mon. deadline for submitting Slides for 2000 Calendar (to
Jim Good, at Interworks, 116 N. Few, Madison WI 53703. 251-9045(w.)
February 27-28th Winter Retreat

REMOVED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS
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WORLD ROOTS
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Exp. Date: 3-99