President's Message

A thunderous round of applause is due to all of you who turned out in droves to make the Freeze For Food and the Cardinal Bar Benefit both raging successes. We are setting some all time highs in the areas of volunteer working spirit, financial generosity, good humor and group unity.

Thank you to Dave Atkinson, whose exceptional planning and organizing of the Freeze For Food helped to send the proceeds through the roof. Unofficially speaking, I've heard the figure that we will be sending to Oxfam hovers around $2600. This from one wonderful winter day's work in the sun. It would not have been possible without the dozens of RPCVs who pitched in, many of us even coming early and on time to help out. The runners also brought with them their good moods. They did a splendid job of not only making good time in dashing around the arboretum, but in sending in generous pledges and contributions. Mike McQuestion served up some spicy chili and ruthless poker. The success of this event would not have been possible without all these people who gave of themselves to make it so. And I don't know who mixed up that mountain of shoes and tied all the laces together.

The foods we served at the Cardinal Bar Benefit proved to be even spicier, tastier, and more soulfully nourishing than ever before. The line of diners, at on point, reached the street! Yet there was just enough food for everyone, and every plate was licked clean by the end of the evening. I saw Erik Jensen lick the pattern right off of his plate. Through the unstinting generosity and culinary expertise of the cooks, and the diners, we again outdid ourselves. We collected over $600 to give to hunger relief projects, locally and in Africa. Thank you, Susan Mendrysa, for making this possible.

Over my bowl of very delicious beans, I looked out at yours people. What an amazing group of people we are! The Family Brunch is coming up quickly. I am eager to see what this surge of energy and givingness brings to this springtime tradition. See you there.
**Editor's Corner**

**LARGE PROJECTS**

As Walt notes elsewhere in this issue, when all of the proceeds from 1995 calendar sales are in, we may have around $11,000 in our Large Project Fund. Until now we have had little occasion to consider the procedures and criteria that we should follow in disposing of those moneys in that the only large request we have approved to date is the CAC garden project.

That situation is about to change. Specifically, rumor has it that one member is going to propose a school-related project on behalf of the Chicago group. Moreover, 2 friends of mine from the Solomons have come forward with excellent proposals, exactly the types of things that we should be funding. One proposal is for a water supply project, that is, dam up a stream up in the hills and run pipes of clean, safe water down to the village. The other is to construct and equip a furniture-making workshop to train and employ the unemployed youth of the village.

All excellent proposals, but all will cost bucks. Many questions arise. Broadly speaking: 1) what is our vision for the Large Project Fund? 2) how do we evaluate proposals? and 3) how do we monitor the outcome of our donations? Accordingly, I propose that we form a subcommittee of the Calendar Steering Committee to study the issue and come back to the group with recommendations. I will speak more on this at our next meeting.

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**Newsletter Policy**

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, you have to pay to stay on our mailing list. Details can be found on the back page. **ONE EXCEPTION:** Contacts in other RPCV organizations can continue to receive our newsletter if they will send us theirs.
DATES TO NOTE

Monday, March 6, 7:00 P.M. General Meeting, Union South, 127 N. Randall St. Agenda items to Lori by the weekend, please!

Saturday, March 11, 8:00 P.M. Baron Bliss Day Party. This is it! Pull out your flowered Bermuda shorts and head over to Gordon's, at 1447 Spaight Street. This is a fun-filled social event, everyone is welcome. Call Gordo for details at 255-3261.

Sunday, March 12, 10:00 A.M. Calendar Committee Meeting at Barbara Chatterjee's, 5102 Coney Weston Place. We're getting production of the '96 calendar underway. This is an excellent time to join in on this very worthwhile project. All invited. Call 271-2405.

Wednesday, March 15, 7:00 P.M. Reconnect Meeting at Sharon Lewandowski's, 8 Sherman Terrace, #4. Call 241-2392.

Sunday, April 2. Family Brunch Get involved now! Call Shelly at 259-9687. Details elsewhere in the newsletter.

Tuesday, April 4, 7:00 P.M. General Meeting, Union South, 127 N. Randall St. Agenda items to Lori by the weekend, please!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

One last reminder about updating your membership. I am planning to print out the new membership directory in March. To make sure your name is included please renew your membership ASAP (if it expired 1/95). There are quite a few active members who still haven't paid. If you are unsure when your membership expires you can 1) check your newsletter address label 2) check your old membership directory 3) call me and I can check on the computer.

Thank you. Susan Mendrysa 259-1125
Returned Peace Corp Volunteers of Wisconsin/Madison

Potluck and General Meeting
Friday, 3 February 1995

We met with high jollity at the home of our dear and too seldom seen friend, Karen Silbernagel Moch. and we were warned to see how fine (and ample) a person in her son Nicholas. (And she lives way out in the boonies; almost every one found her house, but each thought many wouldn’t, yet lo! almost all did (and the others were subsequently buried with due form, in the drifts, with their toes facing south.) More were present than for a regular meeting, which is normal for potlucks; roughly 15 adults were present, and about a dozen children. (But those Donna Shalala potlucks probably hold our record, with c.80 adults, all gawking in suits.)

We introduced ourselves, and each described an aspect of her country’s food (nice or nasty). Tidbits: Costa Rica is the culinary dungeon of Peace Corps. (Hoot! said others, later in the round robin—CR has scruptious food!) Caterpillar tartare as an entree. Cow udder snacks in Sierra Leone. Bet horse jerky, and months of tears. Acese poison egg as potluck food. Papier mache is not an acceptable dietary ingredient, even in the Philippines. Ah! Remember when Spam actually tasted good? And the one of us who fell ill, and had to be evacuated....

The Minutes of last meeting are OK.

The Freeze Fee Food Run was outstandingly successful. Better than ever. High thanks to Mike and Lillian for hosting the superb party afterwards. (And c.10 of us think we should play more often, more frequently, perhaps during meetings: cigars optional.) We took in c.$2500, which is a record; and got a nifty writeup in the Monday’s “Cap Times.” Much credit for the Run’s success due to the power of Dave A.’s grovelling weepy letters to runners in past races. They all turned out in support (and ran their brains out), lest we stop doing the Freeze. So we won’t. (However, says Dave, in about 3 years ‘we’ll do the poor-boy letter again, to goose up attendance once more.) Dave, energetic fellow, also got lots more flyers out this time, and did other good pre-run PR. Very adequate prep. We spent $548 instead of the allocated $400, and we voted AYE to pay the difference, up to $170 over the original $400. And we voted AYE to mail each gift contributor a St Calendar. Oh, what a Good Job you did, Dave! Now you can relax, and let others buy you beers for a year.

The Calendar: (Lori, for Henry): “It’s Photo Time! Get them in by the 15th of Feb. We’ll have the first cut of photos at Henry’s shortly after that, with everyone invited who’s expressed interest in helping pick. We have lots of beautiful photos this year. Photographers all over the map have sent us dandy slides. The Calendar has become a sought-after venue of display, by very good group. We’re honored. We’ll show the pool-of-the-best at an upcoming meeting (perhaps at March’s—depends on logistics).”

Living with Diversity conference (Barbara Ch.): This will be over 2 half-days, 8-7 May. Info will be in Newsletter. Back in June, at the Gifftaway, we allocated $250 for this, when the time became ripe, and it now is; she’ll get a check from Peter.

The Reconnect Project (Sharon): We had our first of 3 tryout meetings, with sample Neighbors to bounce ideas with. This was a treat; c.6 persons, fresh from other countries, came and shared ideas on what our group could helpfully offer; fresh. Their most insistant desire was not job help or career tips, or other standard goodies — what they all desired was a better community life, company life with those who had the same love of a distant place: a high-class social life, full of purpose and joy. We sucked them right in, and setting principle to deed, got them to come help with the Freeze, and then party afterwards. We liked them a lot, and hoped we were perceived as examples of acceptable mature USA-bogged life-forms. (nb: the 2nd tryout meeting had no attenders except ourselves. We’ve yet to see how the 3rd meeting goes. There may be a limited market for our wares. Or we may have to intensify our advertising.)

Cardinal Bar Benefit: (Susan M, for many others): to be on Saturday, 18 Feb, 8-5 (of course it’ll last much longer, but the food won’t). We all signed up for particular classes of dishes. Theme is African Food. We discussed where the proceeds are to go. We agreed, AYE, that 1/2 would go to hunger relief in Africa, specifically in Rwanda perhaps; and 1/2 to ditto in Madison, probably to a worthy food panary. Entrance fee of $5, less for kids (those beneath adult weight). (nb: later: I was there tonight, and it was a big success: the line took an hour to wind its way along the food table: guessing, I’d say c.125 people ate, at $5 per. But come to the meeting for a report.) (And afterwards, a bunch of us drove over to Waukesee to Kevin Neis’s wedding reception. He and Deb were married in Las Vegas, (almost) by Elvis, and we all helped celebrate. We had a much better time than the Paul Wedding Party, above. As you can perhaps tell, from the Channeled President’s Message which we all assisted in composing.)

Pay Your Bills. If you don’t, terrible things will happen to you, month after month. And you won’t know about them, because they’ll be in the Newsletter, which you won’t get.

Winter Retreat: (Rose Ann): by this time, you missed it. You poop... Everyone else was there, and had a wonderful time. See next month’s minutes for a report.

Parents’ Brunch: (Shelly): on Sunday, 2 April, 11-1:30 or so. Place and logistics as for last year. Speakers are still being arranged: one will be from a family who’ve visited their FOV, and returned: another will be from Eastern Europe, if we can swing it. Bring decorations from your country (washable). Come at 10:30, to help set up.

Boat sought: Hank Brand is coordinating for the Educational Foundation, and is seeking boats for HS seniors, who want to graduate from a US High School during the 95-96 yr. Call him, if you have an interest. 255-1339.

Year of the Pig Party: you missed it. It was at Eagle Heights Community Center; anyone wearing a pig motif was eligible for a prize. Mike MeQ went, with roisterous boys; it was a zoo of happy children.

News too late to be used: Buck’s Colombian sources reveal that Colombian women know the New Year will go well for oneself, if welcomed in wearing yellow panties. Stores in Colombia are awash in them in the week after Xmas, and are sold out by New Year’s Eve. Instead of being thanked for bringing this vital data to the women of North America, he was assailed by a disappointed chorus moaning “May you tell us.” He will try to remember to get this vital info into the December 95 NL, and be a hero in his own country.

—I do so declare.

Buck Travicky
PRESENT: W. Zeltner, P. Joyce, B. Trawicky, J. Olsen, and B. Chatterjee

Meeting Began: 10:00 am

1. Calendar finances: The 1995 calendar earnings will cover expenses incurred, provide $25,000 set aside for the 1996 publication, and allow for some growth in the amount available for the giftaway and other distribution. The amount for donation will be set after further review at the March ICSC meeting. Management of monies in our accounts was discussed; Peter will develop a proposal for the March ICSC meeting and then consideration by the entire group thereafter.

2. RPCV-WI/Mad telephone. The ICSC reviewed the need to replace Don Sauer’s number. Rob Riselbach, who is now handling calendar invoices, has agreed to have it located at his home; he and Don have been gathering information on long distance carriers. Rob will be asked to have the line installed as soon as possible so we can start to publicize it; related matters will be on the March agenda.

3. Photograph Selection: The production schedule was reviewed. Because of the delay this year in requesting photographs, the deadline for receiving slides is February 15. These will be sorted and labeled at a meeting on February 19 at Henry Nehls-Lowe’s and given an initial screening at that time. The top candidates will be shown at the March general body meeting.

4. Barbara will review the following issues with Strauss Printers for the 1996 calendar or a later one: (a) adding 4 pages to the calendar, (b) adding color maps, (3) producing a poster series from some of the best calendar pictures. On the last point there was discussion of including this use in the photographers’ release form.

5. The next World View (NPCA) ad is due shortly; we hope to announce our new telephone number in it. Lori Merriam will handle with Sue Kummer.

6. Calendar staffing: We noted that the calendar is experiencing quite a bit of staffing change at present. Two-four persons are taking over Don’s job. We are also restructing in preparation for Henry Nehls-Lowe’s departure from the roles of Maximum Leader and Photography Editor after the 1996 edition. ICSC members would like more detailed information from him about the work.

7. Buck advised that he will have a draft of the holidays ready within the next week for review and editing. Several members will be asked to read it.

8. School Distribution: This task needs 1 or more persons to lead and devote effort to developing and implementing an outreach to schools.


Adjourned: 11:30 am

Prepared by: Barbara Chatterjee

DISTRIBUTION OF CALENDAR PROCEEDS

It’s time to start the process for distributing the proceeds of the 1995 Calendar. First, I’ll provide some background to this process for our new members. What will happen is that those of us involved in the operations of the calendar will decide how much of the proceeds from this year’s calendar operations should be set aside to pay for expenses associated with producing the 1996 calendar. The remaining amount will be passed back to the group for distribution to worthy causes. (At our last committee meeting, we were considering $20,000 as the amount for donations, but this figure won’t be final until the March meeting of the committee.) This money will get split into three pots. 1) One pot will be used to provide relatively small donations (a typical donation would be about $400) to projects that are recommended by our members and that could make good use of a few hundred dollars. We usually call this the Giftaway and try to handle these donations in one block at our May or June group meeting. Specific details about submitting a proposal for funding in the Giftaway are given in the next paragraph. 2) The second pot covers requests for donations at other times of the year after the Giftaway has occurred. This pot is also used to pay the set-up costs for the Freeze for Food, which runs about $500 this year. 3) The third pot is set aside for long-term uses. If we invest the money and let it build up, we can use the interest to fund other projects. Or we can use this money to fund projects that require larger amounts of money. We are providing the Community Garden Program in Madison with $3,100 from this pot. How much money would go in each pot from the 1995 Calendar proceeds? If $20,000 is available, I would recommend $11,000 for the Giftaway (we spent $9,000 last year), $2,000 for donations for the rest of the year (about $1,500 last year), and $7,000 for long-term and/or large project uses (about $5,000 last year). Other breakdowns may be more sensible. In any event, the group has to approve the particular amounts to be spent before we spend them.

All requests for donations must come from currently paid up members (so pay your dues if you haven’t yet) for any of our pots. A process is in place for handling the Giftaway and is generally used for requests for donations at other times of the year. In order to get us to contribute to a project that you think is worthy, you must describe the project (and provide some other information) on one of our donation request forms (the same form we used last year). Anyone who would like a form or forms should contact me (Walt Zeltner, 393 Lake Kegonsa Road, Oregon, WI 53575; Home: 608/873-5257; Work: 608/262-1321; FAX: 608/262-0454; Email: zeltner@engr.wisc.edu). Forms will also be available at the March meeting of the group. All forms should be received by me by the end of the April meeting of the group. At the April meeting we will form a committee to consider the requests and recommend projects to be funded and the amount of funding for each project. This information will be published in the newsletter you receive at the end of April, and the funding requests will be voted on at the May meeting of the group.

One more point. If you are requesting a donation, you can minimize the chances of a problem occurring by enclosing, if appropriate, a donation form for the organization or a cover letter to the organization that you want to receive funding. For overseas donations, you MUST provide us with a reasonable means of getting the money to the recipient. We won’t fund a project if we can’t get the money where it is needed. If you request a donation, you should also consider how we can get information about the manner in which our donation was used.

By the way, if any other member would like to chair the distribution of proceeds, I’d be perfectly happy to pass on this job.
1995 FAMILY BRUNCH will be held on Sunday April 2 from 11:00 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. This is an annual event held for families and friends of current volunteers, applicants, & RPCV's. This year's venue will be the same as last year: Heritage House Smorgasbord, located at 3855 East Washington Ave. So dust off your photo albums, polish up your stories, dig up some of your best letters and prepare to don your favorite host country apparel. 

NOTE: Daylight savings time springs ahead on Saturday, April 1, so be sure to set your clocks appropriately to get you to the brunch on time.

GUEST SPEAKER WANTED:
1) I would still like to find an RPCV from any of the Eastern European countries to speak at this year's brunch. Otherwise, if anyone knows of any family members or friends who visited a Volunteer in any of those countries, please let me know if they would like to speak to the group about their experiences. Call 259-1125 and leave a message for Shelly after the beeps.

So far the speakers include 'la Presidenta', Lori Merriam, PC Campus Recruiter extraordinaire, Erik Jensen, and parents of a currently serving PCV who recently returned from an 11 day visit to their son's home in Panama, Sally and Cliff Borden.

NEEDED: I need people to arrive at 10:30 A.M. the day of the event to help decorate tables. If you have material from overseas that you don't mind people spilling things on and that can be used as a tablecloth, or artifacts that we could use as centerpieces, please bring those to the brunch at 10:30 A.M.. Thanks.

Look for invitations to arrive by mail in either late February or early March and return them promptly. I hope to see many of you at this event. Shelly

Deborah and Kevin Nies

Coffee-carrying leads to lifelong love

A year or so after Kevin Nies asked co-worker Deborah Johnson to help him carry an extra mug full of coffee up a flight of stairs, "romance began to blossom."

Kevin proposed on the couple's second dating anniversary at Alt-n-Bach's, their favorite hangout. Many of their friends were there to share in the event.

Deb and Kevin were married Jan. 13, 1995, in The Chapel of Love, Las Vegas.

A reception will be held in February at the Hofbrau Haus, Waunakee. "While we didn't follow tradition with our wedding ceremony, we did want to get together with friends and family to celebrate," Deb says.

The couple plan to honeymoon somewhere warm where Kevin can dive and Deb can shop.

Deb, 27, is a customer service representative at John Deere Credit. Kevin, 37, is a credit analyst at John Deere Credit. They live in Waunakee.

She is the daughter of Linda Stroede, Wisconsin Dells, and Gary Johnson, Middleton. He is the son of Larry and Madonna Nies, Prairie du Chien
Activism of Peace Corps returns with volunteers

By Katherine Williams
Correspondent for The Capital Times

Rose Ann Scott spent her Saturday morning signing up runners for the 14th Freeze for Food 10-kilometer run at Vilas Park.

In that same spirit 25 years ago, Scott was keeping babies alive as a Peace Corps worker in the West African country of Sierra Leone.

Like the four dozen other former volunteers helping at the weekend benefit race, Scott found her experience of working in a developing country deeply affected her.

Saturday’s event raised more than $2,000 for Oxfam America, a Boston-based nonprofit agency that distributes food in developing countries. This was the 14th year that the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Madison have organized the race, and the 14th year the proceeds have gone to Oxfam.

“We will never, ever cancel this race because of the cold,” said 48-year-old Buck Trawicky, who served in Nepal from 1968 to 1971 and now does carpentry in Madison. “We care too much.”

But the effort the former volunteers make to help developing countries doesn’t stop with the race, and it demonstrates the unity and camaraderie the Madison group has established.

There are 174 members on the Madison roster of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers. Of those, 60 to 80 are particularly active. But the group estimates that more than 1,000 former Peace Corps volunteers live in Madison and southern Wisconsin, though they haven’t sought out and identified with the group.

“We like each other’s company a lot, and we’re avid partyers,” Trawicky said. “Most former Peace Corps people are not ditto-head types. They can stand their own company. They aren’t necessarily joiners.”

Returned Peace Corps volunteers are so numerous in the Madison area partly because so many recruits leave from here. The University of Wisconsin-Madison annually leads all campuses nationwide in numbers of new Peace Corps volunteers, with 60 to 80 starting each year.

Another 200 or so make serious inquiries of the program, says campus recruitment coordinator Erik Jensen.

“None of this surprises me,” Jensen says. “Madison is one of the top five biggest schools in the country, and it’s strong in agriculture, health and nutrition, education and business. Those are the areas we tend to recruit from.”

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORKDAY
May 13, 1995 7:45 am

For the past few years, folks have really enjoyed spending a day pounding nails, digging ditches, etc... with the local Dane County Habitat chapter. In addition to the calendar donations we’ve made, this is an excellent way for us to show our support for the very good work that this organization does. Please consider helping out if you have skills or a strong back or just good intentions. To sign up or to get more information, call David Wakeley at 255-7809.
In Peace Corps Today, an M.B.A. Helps
Recent Changes Have Created a Two-Tier Agency

By Dana Milbank
Staff Reporter of The Wall Street Journal


Oh, and one other thing. Mr. Wilson is a Peace Corps volunteer.

“Every morning I put on my Brooks Brothers suit and iron my shirt and polish my shoes,” he says. “Nothing has changed since I left Atlanta, except I’m broke.”

This, as the advertisement says, isn’t your father’s Peace Corps. Reputed under Republican administrations, the 34-year-old organization is building fewer grass huts and latrines in the jungle while it sets up more business-development centers in major cities.

The business program is a major thrust of the corps’ ballyhooed move into Eastern Europe and a key part of the agency’s effort to modernize its image. But the business push also raises questions about the corps’ future. The agency is wondering if it can change its image without losing its reason for being. Is a Peace Corps without suffering and grass-roots assistance still the Peace Corps?

Jack Dolan doesn’t think so. “I strongly suspect the business-development aspect will phase out fairly quickly,” says the 61-year-old former marketing professor from Chicago, now a volunteer in Hungary.

“The mentality of the Peace Corps is dealing with young college grads looking for adventure. They aren’t psychologically prepared to have on board a group of professional folks who have been in business many years.”

Mr. Dolan, assigned to northwest Hungary, says he tried to get marketing textbooks for his students but it took the Peace Corps nine months to find some.

“They aren’t too clear on what business skills look like, who has them or who needs them,” Mr. Dolan says.

Peace Corps Director Carol Bellamy, a Clinton appointee, insists the business program will remain. “We may do some soul searching, but there’s no question the business programs will be a big part of Peace Corps programming,” she says. The number of business volunteers has more than tripled since 1990 and, this year, 16% of the total. Business volunteers are 37% of the total in the region that includes Eastern Europe.

Raymond Becker is the type of new volunteer the Peace Corps has in mind. When he joined the corps, Mr. Becker, 54, sold his electronics business, his house with swimming pool in suburban Chicago, and his Jaguar. “If you’ve had a pretty darn good life, you really ought to give a little bit back,” he explains.

Now he works on Hungary’s border with Ukraine and Slovakia, raising funds for a business project that will foster cross-border participation. He has raised $200,000 for a project that flourished for 10 years before he joined. “I’ve started going to solve the problem here,” he says. “If we’ve got people making money, they aren’t worried about differences in culture.”

The business push is reviving interest in the Peace Corps of three decades ago. In President John F. Kennedy’s appeal to young idealists. The organization claims more interest in volunteering, particularly from experienced businesspeople interested in Eastern Europe. But the move to business puts the Peace Corps into a difficult spot.

One problem is the crowded field. Rivaling the Peace Corps in the region is the International Executive Service Corps, nicknamed the “Paunch Corps,” which sends retired business people on short-term assignments. The MBA Enterprise Corps, run by business schools with government and private money, sends recent graduates with master of business administration degrees to private-sector companies, mostly in Eastern Europe.

Though the Peace Corps business program is different in that it involves long-term help for public-sector or new businesses, the niche isn’t as secure as the old agriculture and language programs. “The Peace Corps has never done a support system for business,” says Jack Behrman, chairman of MBA Enterprise Corps.

“There is a need there, but they’ve got a tough job.”

After the Peace Corps plunged into Russia with a business-only program in 1992, some 35% to 40% of volunteers quit. For its second group of volunteers, the corps has tried a more traditional approach.

The foray into the world of wingtips and briefcases raises another question: Has the Peace Corps gone soft? Volunteers in Prague and Budapest don’t face the physical trials of their mud-butch counterparts. It also isn’t clear how much help these places need. Though participating countries welcome Peace Corps help, the results of business projects are by nature more difficult to gauge than those of hygiene or crop-planting programs.

This is particularly true in places like Hungary, which already had strong technical skills. Because of the region’s rapid progress, the Peace Corps will pull out of the Czech Republic by 1998, though Ms. Bellamy believes the organization had a “good bang for the buck” there, and may also leave Hungary, Poland and the Baltic republics.

Jade Kim knows why. When she joined the Peace Corps, the Columbia University graduate and bond specialist with Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette Securities Corp. says she was “looking forward to touching it out. I thought it would build character.” Instead, Ms. Kim, 27, wears a pin-stripe suit and performs credit-risk analysis in the opulent headquarters of OTP Bank.

This isn’t grass-roots assistance by any means,” she says. Ms. Kim had been assigned to an enterprise agency but had problems with the director. Peace Corps agreed to a switch to OTP, even though the bank, with $8 billion in assets, isn’t exactly small business.

Though she sees useful as a role model for Hungarian women. Ms. Kim doesn’t feel she has enough real-life impact, “Hungary doesn’t provide me with that chance. It’s not a developing country.”

That doesn’t bother Maria Flynn, who quit as a Wall Street lawyer with Sherman & Sterling to become a Peace Corps volunteer in Budapest.

She has a ninth-floor office downtown, from which she plans seminars and dispenses advice to local businesses that want to export to the U.S. “My life isn’t the same as someone digging a ditch back in the bush, but it’s not any different, I have to suffer,” she says.

“People who do suffering for a living are pretty boring.”

In Budapest she relies on her savings to supplement the Peace Corps’ $200-a-month stipend. That’s sacrifice enough, considering Ms. Flynn abandoned a six-figure salary and an apartment on Manhattan’s Upper West Side when a “midlife crisis” sent her to the Peace Corps.

Mr. Wilson, Atlanta banker turned Peace Corps volunteer, offers no apologies for the organization’s new look. He carries two business cards, one for his business-development center and one for the corporate bank where he works on loan policy.

“I think the Peace Corps should change its attitude and take on a corporate mentality,” he says. “The idealism and grass-roots is fine and wonderful, but the man on the street needs capital. This is the 90s, not the 60s, and it’s Hungary, not Honduras.”
BARON BLISS

Henry Edward Ernest Victor Bliss, also known as the "Fourth Baron Bliss of the former Kingdom of Portugal," was born in the County of Buckingham, England. He first sailed into the harbor of Belize in 1925, though he was too ill to go ashore because of food poisoning that he had contracted while visiting Trinidad. Bliss spent several months aboard his yacht, the Sea King, in the harbor, fishing in Belizean waters. Although he never became well enough to go ashore, Bliss learned to love the country from the sea and its inhabitants—the fishermen and officials in the harbor all treated him with great respect and friendliness. On the days that he was only able to languish on deck, he made every effort to learn about the small country. He was apparently so impressed with what he learned and the people he met that before his death he drew up a will that established a trust of nearly two million dollars to be used for projects that would benefit the people of Belize.

So far, over a million dollars in interest from the trust has been used for: the erection of the Bliss Institute, Bliss School of Nursing, Bliss Promenade, In-transit Lounge at the Belize International Airport, plus contributions to the Belize City water supply, the Corozal Town Board and Health Clinic, and land purchased for the building of Belmopan.

An avid yachtsman, Bliss stipulated that money be set aside for a regatta to be held in Belize waters, a focal point of the gala Baron Bliss Day celebrations each year. The Baron's white granite tomb is located at the point of Fort George in Belize City guarded by the Bliss Lighthouse.

NEW PEACE CORPS NOVEL IS FREE TO ALL RETURNED VOLUNTEERS.

Copies of an 849-page philosophical/political romance about a Peace Corps director who makes a tour of Peace Corps countries with two young Returned Volunteers are being offered as a gift from the author, a former sociology professor who worked at Peace Corps headquarters while completing research for this book.

The first third of this novel features an exposé of the effects of using top management positions at Peace Corps as rewards for work in winning presidential campaigns. The central theme of the work is the problem of hanging onto values which give life self-transcendent purpose even in a secular culture. The Peace Corps director is suffering from a mid-life crisis, and his burnout becomes a metaphor for his country's fading altruism regarding its role in the world.

To get your copy (or multiple copies for other Returned Volunteers and/or Volunteers currently serving), please send your name and address (clearly printed) to

Dr. Betty Halliwell
2950 Van Ness Street, N.W. #820
Washington, D.C. 20008-1118
Fax: 202-364-3966
Phone: 202-362-6253

Requests for a whole carton (8 books to a 24-lb. carton) are welcomed from anyone in a position to distribute copies to an RPCV group and/or to anyone wishing to send one or more copies to a Volunteer currently in service. (Due to Peace Corps policy the author lacks any means of making this gift directly to Current Volunteers.)

You will receive a special gift copy of The Bjorklund Legacy: Philanth at 25. The novel is being sold in hardcover for $24.95 and regular paperback for $14.95 through the publisher's order fulfillment service (800-829-2821).

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Newsletter Subscription Information

All RPCVW, Inc. members receive the newsletter on payment of annual dues shown below. To avoid record-keeping hassles, we would prefer that our members pay through December of the year of joining ($1.25 per month for each month through December), 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 through us by paying a further $20.00. We strongly encourage all members to join the National Association, which provides us a way to affect national issues.

☐ I want to join RPCVW, Inc. and am enclosing $___________.
   (Individual - $15.00 for one year (or $1.25 per month to next January)
   (Joint - $20.00 (Two people receiving one newsletter)
   (Overseas Individual - $24.00
   (Overseas Joint - $29.00

☐ I am also enclosing $20.00 for membership in the National Peace Corps Association.
   ($27.50 for joint membership - two people with the same address)

☐ I do not want to join, but would like to receive the newsletter and am enclosing $7.00
   ($15.00 for overseas) to cover the costs.

☐ I'm Moving! Please change my mailing address on your records.

Name: ___________________________           Country of Service: ___________________________
Address: ___________________________________________                     Service Dates: ___________________________
PC Job: ___________________________________________                          Home Telephone: ___________________________
Please make checks payable to RPCV’s of Wisconsin, Inc. and send to:

RPCV’s of Wisconsin, Inc. - Madison Chapter
P.O. Box 1012
Madison, WI 53701

marked Attention Membership!

QUESTIONS? PROBLEMS? Call Susan Mendrysa at 608/259-1125 most evenings and weekends.
Or try 608/263-9596 weekdays and ask for Susan.

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