President's Message

Something interesting occurred a few weeks ago... At 'ohn and Carrie's potluck Saturday, February 8, Don Sauer announced that he needed people to drop by his house at noon the following day to help address calendar-related postcards. Someone suggested he bring the postcards to Memorial Union's Lakefront Cafeteria, and that he move the time up to 9am, and Don agreed. The next morning, with less than 12 hours notice, about 10 people showed up to help! The calendar mailing list was soon exhausted, and everyone searched out second cups of coffee before settling down to chat.

This gives me reason to believe that the Sunday brunch tradition should be revived. However, rather than meeting weekly, I would like to introduce a suggestion made by Rose Ann and meet on the third Sunday of every month (except when the third Sunday falls on a holiday, in which case we will meet on the fourth Sunday).

The brunches will be mainly social, but if anyone has a small RPCV-related project (like Don’s postcards), they can bring it along with the expectation that those present will pitch in and help. I will also use the brunches as an occasion to solicit input on various issues, such as: Should we do a Cardinal Bar Benefit? If so, we need a date, a cause, and two volunteers to organize the event.

And speaking of things we should do...When is the Asian regional potluck?? It's been 15 months since the last regional potluck. If no Asian volunteer speaks up by the March meeting, we'll skip Asia and have another Latin American potluck and then we can have another African potluck, which is the one I'm really waiting for! This is your last chance, Asia RPCVs. Do your dharma or you may get bad karma!

It's time for our annual calendar money giveaway. This is the event where we give away the money we've earned from the 1992 calendar. Donation requests must be sent to Gordon Malaise by April 16. All requests will then be published in the May newsletter. At our May general meeting, Wednesday the 6th, Deb Stapleton will conduct the giveaway. Each person who submitted a request will be invited to speak for five minutes of less. We will then have a few minutes of discussion. After everyone has had a chance to present their request, Deb will call for the vote.

Absolute Calendar Giveaway Guidelines

1) All requests must be published in the newsletter prior to the May meeting. Requests that have not been published in the newsletter will not be considered. No exceptions!
2) All votes are final and will not be rescinded.
3) Each request must be sponsored by a member—including a standing of RPCVs of WI/Madison. (In other words, if you are affiliated with an organization — such as United Refugee Services of WI — you may make a request on their behalf, and you may invite a guest to speak about the request, but you must sponsor the request.)
4) The sponsor of each request that is approved will be responsible for providing a follow-up account of how the money was spent, whether the project was a success, etc. This must be done within one calendar year.

Flexible Calendar Giveaway Guidelines

A) While there is no monetary limit, normally requests do not exceed $500.
B) The group prefers to distribute money to a combination of local, national and international causes.
C) For local requests, projects that are participatory (i.e. purchasing paint for a community center and then volunteering to paint alongside the people who use the community center) are encouraged.
D) Requests that foster "self-help," "self-determination," etc. (plug in the term of your choice) are favored.
E) When evaluating a request, the group looks at which requests will have the farthest-reaching impact. Therefore, requests that touch several people or an entire community are preferred over requests that impact an individual.

F) Sponsors of requests should provide the following information: background of the organization/individual, how the money will be used, and, if the money is going overseas, how it will be sent. The more specific a sponsor can be, the more chance the request has of succeeding.

These guidelines may seem burdensome, but before I scare anyone off, let me state that in the last two years, I only recall two requests being turned down. So let’s get to work! I would like to see everyone submit one request! The more requests we have to choose from, the easier it will be to assure that the money goes where it's most needed.

On behalf of the group, I would like to extend best wishes to Laura, Jim, William, and Walker Good. Laura had surgery at Meriter Hospital on February 12, and is doing well. Anyone who would like to assist the Goods during Laura's recovery may contact Rose Ann Scott at 241-0845. We'll miss your presence at the retreat, Laura, and hope you'll be with us again soon!
A few announcements:
1. Pat Michaelson, who runs a Saturday morning program in Beloit for minority students, needs people to speak on Africa. Call her collect at (815) 229-8959 for details.
2. The first wave of Tibetans will be arriving in March. To volunteer, call Pam Montgomery at 255-4950.
3. Richard Geist, an RPCV from Michigan, needs a place to stay in town for one night early in March. Call him at (313) 676-7044 if interested.
4. The deadline for the April newsletter is Thursday, March 12. For state workers, my Inter-D address is Legislative Reference Bureau, 100 N. Hamilton, Madison 53701.

FREE SUBSCRIPTIONS TO REGIONAL NEWS!
(346 Cochrane)
I have access to news articles of the Inter Press Service, usually about a week old at the most, from various under-reported regions of the world via PeaceNet, courtesy of a grant from the UW. I format them, and then send them out to friends free via electronic mail. You, too, can read more or less daily articles about Africa, Asia, Latin America, etc. etc. Just send me an e-mail message to cochrane@agecon.wisc.edu, tell me what part of the world you want to read about, and I’ll put you on the appropriate distribution list. Of course, if you have no way to send me e-mail, then I have no way to send you the news. Call for more info 263-7468.

Meeting Notice: Monday, March 2, 7:00 p.m., Union South, 127 N. Randall Ave.

Future meeting dates:

Tuesday, April 7, at Union South, 127 N. Randall

Wednesday, May 6, at Union South, 127 N. Randall
Calendary Money Giveaway

Thursday, June 4, at Union South, 127 N. Randall

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 send us theirs.
Dates to Note

February 29 – Baby Shower for Carrie Loranger and John Gaska – 6pm – Nancy Westbrook and Tim Egan's, 225 Jackson St. (about 3 blocks east of the Barrymore), 241-5332 – Bring a potluck dish and a donation toward a car seat.

February 29 – RPCVs of Wisconsin/Milwaukee's Carneval – 8pm to 12:30 am – Call Mike McQuestion, 238-5458 for details.

March 2 – General Meeting – 7pm – Union South, 227 N. Randall (check "Today in the Union" on bulletin board for room number).

March 7 – Baron Bliss Day Tropical Heat Wave Party – 7 pm – Dave Wakeley's, 1326 E. Dayton St. (near Tenney Park), 255-1339.

March 12 – Newsletter Deadline – Submit material to Gordon Malaise, 1447 Spaight St., Madison, WI 53703, 255-3261 – Must be camera ready.

March 15 – Sunday Brunch – 9am to 12pm – Lakefront Cafeteria, Memorial Union, 800 Langdon

April 5 – Parents' Brunch – 9am to 12pm – World Council of Credit Union Cafeteria, 5810 Mineral Point Rd. – Call Helene Pesche, 238-2792 for more information.

April 7 – General Meeting – 7pm – Union South, 227 N. Randall (check "Today in the Union" on bulletin board for room number).

What: Party / Bacchanal / Tattoo Unveiling (maybe)
Why: Earl Bricker's 40th birthday (as if you need an excuse)
Where: The Cardinal Bar
When: Saturday, March 28
6-8 p.m. (or whenever)
And?: Beer, etc. provided (to a point, so to speak); Snacky-type stuff probably (especially if friends volunteer to bring something); No Presents (although donations to certain charities would be nice); Dancing during and after; Young people encouraged
Returned Peace Corps Volunteers
of WI (Columbus and Madison)
meeting of Sat. 8 Feb 91

This was an out-of-town out-of-sequence meeting. John Gasko and Carrie Loranger were our hosts, and we met on Saturday to encourage people to come and play in the snow (what little there was of it; global warming has many unforeseen disadvantages.) 30 were present for the evening’s food and hastily meeting. We introduced ourselves, and meant to each answer the night’s question, but ended up saving it for next time, so you all prepare your response to “What is a memorable (weird) religious practice from your country?” (“Can we include Wisconsin?” some wanted to know.)

Global Ed: the video is almost done: only the credits and running off copies are left to do. There’s also going to be a Spanish version. There’ll be a viewing party soon. A Distributor is needed: talk with Carolyn (83-9453) or Nancy (241-5332). Jim Smith (255-5702) has everyone’s original tapes. Call him to get them back.

The next step is to think of how to continue this project in future years, without burning anyone out. Nancy and Carolyn are moving on to other projects, so a new maximum leader will be needed. And funding for continuation. Perhaps sales of this year’s video will recoup all expenses; if not, we’ll have to write up a grant request. If you have ideas, contact Carollyn or Nancy. (All numbers are on inside front page of Newsletter.)

Freeze For Food: It was fine enough, though the weather was kinda disappointing, and some runners stayed away. The take is unknown (we’ll know by the next meeting), but Oxfam will be happy, we’re sure.

Don Sauer proposed to us a proposal, regarding a computer. He has reached the point where he needs a computer to do the Calendar marketing work efficiently. He doesn’t have one, and has decided to acquire one. It’s all going to cost about $1700. And for months to come, the only use he’ll have for it will be work in our service. Therefore, he proposes that we authorize an interest-free one year loan of $1702 for the purchase of the computer (etc.). Until he pays us back, the computer is to be legally ours. (Software needed for the Calendar will be treated as a project expense, and will be paid for out of Calendar operating funds.) The loan will come out of the set-aside money for the 94 calendar, and will be back in the bank long before we need it. We discussed this, thought it a nifty idea, and all said ATE.

92 Calendar monies: on hand we have $14,500, and $3000 in accounts receivable = $17,500, from a total run of 8000 calendars. (There are about 1300 left over; some will yet be needed to accompany copies of the Global Ed video, and the real leftovers can be donated to the schools, who’ll be delighted with them.)

Here’s a horseback analysis of profits: 1) We’ve already donated $1000 of the 92 Cal’s profits, so the actual take is not $17,500 but $18,500.

2) This $18,500 was for a total printing of 8000 calendars: a first printing of 5000 at a total (everything) cost of about $12,500 (roughly $2.50 apiece). The second run of 3000 cal.s (also at about $2.50 apiece) was done to fulfill our buyers’ expectations, not to make a profit; indeed we just broke even, which was all we wanted. 3) But next year, if we do a big (8000+) run in one go, we’ll be able to get the cal.s at about $2.00 apiece, and both up our sales and up our profits per cal. Neat. 4) Since the 2nd run just broke even, the actual profit this year is effectively $18,500 income less $12,500 cost for 5000 cal.s = $6000. Very good.

5) Our printer loves us, and knows our cash flow pattern, and would give us understanding in negotiating a payment schedule, so we could, if we wanted, actually give away close to $6000 if we wanted to. (That’s including the $1000 we’ve already donated.)

But, 6) we should be prudent, and set aside more for the next calendar, and 7) we should leave ourselves some money to donate in pieces throughout the year, instead of splurging in one big gift orgy this spring.

So, how much should we give away in the Orgy? Doubtless Don and John and the other money mavens are even now toiling with their calculators. And you can be they’ll tell us next month.

But it will certainly be a nice bundle, and you should be thinking of your recommended donations. To whom do you suggest we donate money? We’ll decide on this at the May meeting. Write up your suggestions (with amounts) for publication in the newsletter, well before then. And give them, as well, to our VP, Gerry Butz (222-4166), who’s in charge of the committee that’ll make a grand recommendation.

The Parents’ Brunch will be on 4 April (Sat), probably. Helene is leader. The Winter Retreat is the occasion for the first slide pick, for the 93 Calendar. You’ve missed it; it’s tonight. (I trust I’ll be there, though, with Gordon.) Gordon is the new Newsletter Editor, that vigorous deadwoodie.

The Phone Tree is going to be redesigned to incorporate redundancy: it’ll be more of a Phone Net. (Somebody’s been taking a class on revolutionary cadre structure, it appears; or else reading Heinlein.)
Mike McQ reported on the recent Regional Region Meeting. Out of 14, lots of groups were there (at Kettle Moraine), and others sent regrets. For now, Madison will be the engine, but that will change. Everyone likes the idea of having a Midwest Regional Group, with a newsletter of sorts, a data base, a computer linkup for reports on hot news and burning essays, etc. There will be 2 more meeting before the National Conference in Fayetteville this summer: one in April or May, in Chicago (or even St. Louis); an earlier one in Milwaukee during Carneval (and you just know everyone will get lots of work done, but later they won’t remember what it was.) This will perhaps serve as a model for a regional grassroots organization, and a good example for the National Council. One intent is to change the NC’s bylaws to give the regional groups actual power.

Jim Smith (255-5702(h), the PC campus recruiter, had several announcements. One is that recommendations for outstanding student groups are being received by Student Gov’t now; and we should nominate ourselves. (Well, you know what he means.) Winners get money, which we can give away. He’s also in a local “Development discussion group,” of which about 20 are RPCVs, but almost none belong to us. He’s going to proselytize. And he needs help handing out the PC word at 5 Career Fairs. He can’t himself attend them, because of conflicts, but they’re worth attending, and he hopes we can take up the slack. The fairs are 1) Journalism, 27 Feb; 2) Mem. Union Travel Fair, 18 Feb (oops); 3) Pharmacy 1 April (a bad day to try their punch); Non-profit 30 April. As a bonus, you get an (undated) UW parking permit.

Also, Jim needs speakers for the Speakers Bureau, specifically for Wild Rose HS, 26 March, 10-1; some place “about an hour’s drive from Madison.” (sic.) And Beloit. (Beloit was snatched up right away.)

And that was it: everyone started getting very restive (trying on Carrie’s hideous Sasquatch slippers, etc.) and Nancy quickly brought things to a close before there was a major fire. Everyone got home safely.

Buck.

Attention Health RPCV’s:

The Milwaukee International Health Training Center is updating its trainer/consultant file for health training programs here in Milwaukee and overseas. We would like to hear from any of you who would be interested in working on a training program in primary health care, AIDS prevention education, or rural health promotion and program management. Programs range from 1 - 12 weeks. Academic training and experience as a health professional outside of Peace Corps helpful, but not always necessary. TOT (Training of trainers) and project coordination/management experience also helpful. Please send letter and CV to:

Jill Johnson
Training Coordinator
Milwaukee International Health Training Center
MCMC Box 185
Milwaukee, WI 53226

Call 414-257-5305 for more information. Jill Johnson
RPCV/Philippines
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RPCV's of Wisconsin; c/o Alan Weiner; 4581 W. Beltline, Rm. 110; Madison, WI 53711.
Kits will be ready for shipment approximately March 31, 1992. For questions about your order,
call Alan Weiner at: (608) 273-9789.

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1992 International Calendar – Includes color photographs and descriptions of the countries listed at right, international holidays, anecdotes, artwork, etc.

Countries Featured:

Tunisia (North Africa)
Kenya (East Africa)
Somalia (East Africa)
Brazil (South America)
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Guatemala (Central America)
Liberia (West Africa)
Honduras (Central America)
Peru (South America)
Colombia (South America)
Nepal (Southeast Asia)

Because UNHEARD VOICES was produced by volunteers, and we did not have to compensate anyone for labor, we are able to offer the entire package for the cost of materials: $25.00. This small fee will fund future global education projects.

For more information, contact:
Carolyn Peacock
608/833–9453 (eve.)
—or—
Nancy Westbrook
608/273–6923 (day)
608/ 241–5332 (eve.)
SLICES OF LIFE
Memorable moments from our Peace Corps Service

ON GOING BACK
by Mike McQuestion

I went back recently to my Peace Corps site in the Phillipines. The town I had lived in looked the same as when I last visited. The same, in fact, as when I first arrived there in 1974. There were the familiar faces, now a little more wrinkled, missing a few more teeth. Some of the people took longer than others to recognize me. But eventually they did. They flashed me their easy smiles. I strolled through “poblacion,” arm in arm with two of my closest “barangay” mates, recalling the stories hidden behind each house, each storefront. I shook hands with everyone. As we shared jokes, the forgotten words and expressions came back, the language enveloping me again in that secure Peace Corps life I’d so lovingly stored away.

At mid-day the sun was blinding. The people moved through the dusty streets as if in slow motion. Though I was seeing a near perfect visual replay of that past life, I began hearing from the people how things had changed. There was a new mayor, new town councilmen. There had been elections and the changing of the guard had been swift. The cronies, after twenty years of comfortable dictatorship, were unceremoniously dumped, repudiated by the people.

But the new leaders, it was turning out were as unsavory as the old ones. What had changed is that the people now expect more from them. It is as if the scales had been removed from their eyes. There’s democracy now. So where are the reforms? In my town, it seemed, those expectations are still being conveyed in hushed tones.

I was moved to learn some of my closest co-workers are still fighting the good fight. At the town clinic I found Joe, the polio-handicapped young genius I first spotted plowing a rice paddy. Joe was the most brilliant of our original volunteer village health workers. With the governor’s help he later made it to medical school. He withstood three years of it before his dream of becoming a doctor gave way to homesickness and to the subtle denigrations directed to those of humble origins. Though he was given a degree in midwifery, for five years he couldn’t get a job. The authorities, it seemed, questioned his credentials.

Then Boying found me, now a village councilman, he was branded a maverick for leading a good government campaign since the elections. Though from a landed “poblacion” family, he chose to live in one of the poorest villages, seeking out an existence ten kilometers up in the hills. He has seven mouths to feed. And I learned of the unforgettable Father Boy, the fearless young priest who wanted only to serve the poorest of the poor. I was saddened to find he left, driven out by the authorities, it was whispered, for being “subversive”. He’s since moved up in the hierarchy, the monsignor told me, and leads a prosperous parish outside the capitol city.

Boyings, Fr. Boy and I had visited all 32 villages of the municipio during our two years together. The “three Mikes”, people used to call us. After Fr. Boy said Mass for the faithful, Boying would collar farmers to talk irrigation systems and I would immunize the children. Always, the authorities were suspicious. Why did we spend so much time up in the hills? What was our real mission.

I was sorry to hear that, “up there” in those hardscrabble hills, conditions today are as desperate as ever. Land reform never happened nor were the promised new roads ever built. The communists now control far more than the few loneliest villages, as I remembered. Despite the proximity of two army bases, they are organizing now, just outside “poblacion”, while the landowners and leaders wile away their days playing mahjong.

In the neighboring town, where I’d also worked, I found startling contrasts. It was planting season and “poblacion” was almost deserted. All but the children and old ones were out working in the fields. The school principal proudly told me the farmers’ coop had tripled its capital, to over $10,000. Scores of families were on a list waiting to join. The farmers are now buying their own seed and fertilizer and marketing their own harvest. They are breaking the stranglehold which wily Chinese traders have over most of the towns in the province. In the manicured plaza, a new church presided imposingly. I was startled to see trucks and jeeps circulating. Where we used to cross the river on bamboo rafts, there now stands a spanking new concrete bridge.

One evening four years ago, some communist guerrillas staged a daring raid. About a dozen heavily armed men appeared at dusk, fanning out, looking for the mayor and the school payroll checks they knew had just arrived. The checks, they got, but the mayor eluded them, saving his life by hiding in the swamp. His brother was killed however. Shocked, the people formed their own civil defense squads, spurning the army’s offer to garrison a platoon of soldiers in the town. The communists have never returned.

As darkness fell, it was time to go. The lingering farewells behind me, I tried to remember every face, every word that had been said, as the jeep careened down from the foothills returning to the capitol city. The towns had always been like night and day. This time, though, I sensed the gap between them had widened. It evoked a larger vision, of the flawed, bankrupt past against a hopeful future. Which would win out?

I knew I would return to learn more of the continuing saga.

Send your stories for "Slices of Life" to Ken Coffeen, 1619 Reetz Road, Madison, WI 53711.
MEMBERSHIP

Please check your mailing label. If it has an ugly yellow mark across the expiration date that has been circled, it means that this will be the last newsletter you receive from us until you pay your membership dues. If you haven't paid yet, do so now. Usually I only see the membership renewals at the monthly meetings. If your renewal does not reach us by the March meeting, you will probably not get an April newsletter. If you have paid, then I have no record of that fact. Please call me (Walt at 608/835-3083 or 608/262-1321 [Work]) about the problem so that I can check on it. I can't solve the problem unless I know that it exists.

Those of you who join us through the National Council may also miss a newsletter or two. After you send the NC your membership check, it takes anywhere from 1 to 3 months for that information to reach me. Please be patient!

Sometime in March I will prepare an updated membership list for mailing to all currently paid-up members. You should receive this list sometime toward the end of March or the beginning of April. By the way, this list is not made available to anyone outside of our organization without the approval of several officers and/or the membership at a monthly business meeting.

Walt
Walt Zeltner
Membership Chair

RPCVs of WISCONSIN MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:

ADDRESS CHANGES

1/92 BRICKER, Earl 434 N. Baldwin St., Madison, WI 53703.

The following have renewed their memberships (Expiration Date: 1/93)
Bruce Best; Duncan Chaplin; John Click; Jeff Cochrane; Robert &
Penelope Coffin; Wade Dallagrana; Jerry Doll; Margaret Fiedler; Eric G.
Hurley; Dean Jefferson; Sharon Lewandowski; Gordon Malaise & Therese
Ahlers; James M. Oakley; Laurie O'Reilly; Helene Pesche; Dan Roahen; Katy
Romenesko; Ross Royster; John Sime; Joan E. Spink; Tim Turner; Ruth Urban;
Maureen Wolfe; Marisue Zillig.

A check was sent to the National Council on Jan. 17 to pay for memberships
for 12 people.

Other RPCV organizations have our permission
to use any material of interest in this newsletter.
Newsletter Subscription Information

All RPCVW, Inc. members receive the newsletter on payment of annual dues shown below. To avoid record-keeping hassle; we would prefer that our members pay through December of the year of joining ($1 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 Council of RPCV's through us by paying a further $20. We strongly encourage all members to join the National Council, which provides us a way to affect national issues.

☐ I want to join RPCVW, Inc. and am enclosing $_____.
   ____ Individual - $12 for one year (or $1 per month to next January)
   ____ Joint - $17 (Two people receiving one newsletter)
   ____ Overseas Individual - $20
   ____ Overseas Joint - $25

☐ I am also enclosing $20 for National Council membership ($27.50 for joint membership [two people with the same address] in the NC).

☐ I do not want to join, but would like to receive the newsletter and am enclosing $7 ($15 for overseas) to cover the costs.

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

Name: ____________________________ Country of Service: __________________________
Address: ____________________________ Service Dates: __________________________
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Present Job: ____________________________ PC Job: __________________________

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 Walt Zeltner at 608/835-3083 most evenings and weekends.
Or try 608/262-2470 weekdays and ask for Walt.

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Wisconsin
Madison Chapter
Gordon Malaise, Editor
P.O. Box 1012
Madison, WI 53701

Rose Ann Scott
2714 Oakridge
Madison, WI 53704

Exp. Date
1/93