President's Message

The list of recommendations from the Calendar Proceeds Distribution Committee is ready. These recommendations, to be voted on at our next meeting, are made in an effort to develop a mechanism for disbursing our calendar proceeds. We tried to keep the spirit of past Giftaways/Giveaways yet set up a more formal structure to handle larger amounts of money. We also had to include actions that have already been taken (e.g., passage of Rose Ann Scott’s motion to distribute this year’s proceeds - $6,000 for general disbursement [small projects], $2,000 for use by the Chapter [contingency], and $3,500+ to decide on later [special projects]). Finally, we needed enough ambiguity in the structure to accommodate future needs. One result was a recommendation for a permanent committee to oversee these distributions. We also developed an application form that would be submitted to the committee by anyone interested in obtaining funding for a project. Our proposed form was distributed at the March business meeting and will be available at the April business meeting. If you can’t make the April meeting, contact Barbara Chatterjee (271-2405) for a copy.

I’m sure people will be unhappy with various recommendations. In cases where we felt an issue was important, we tried to state a recommendation to force discussion of the issue, even if many of us on the committee did not support that particular recommendation. On the other hand, some issues that could be deferred were deferred by letting the permanent committee deal with them. We did not attempt to develop a system to rank proposals by their merit because no one who attended our early meetings had any suggested mechanisms. Anyone with an interest in this issue and some free time is more than welcome to work on it.

The money in the special projects category is additional proceeds that could be handled in several ways. Possibilities include (but are not limited to):

1) Disbursing as before. Under this approach, more small projects would be supported and/or each project would receive more funding.

2) Placing in an "endowment" fund. As this fund built up, interest earned on it would fund further activities. One advantage is that money would always be available for disbursing. Right now, if we had a bad year, we would have no money to disburse. I have problems with this approach, though, primarily the feelings that (a) our money is more effective in the field than in the bank and (b) our record keeping will be easier if the money moves out quickly. I would prefer to have an advocate of the endowment fund approach (e.g., Bob Cowell) defend it.

3) Making larger grants to particular projects (e.g., Ashoka Society, Peace Corps Partnership, Habitat for Humanity, etc). These special projects would differ from small projects in the amount of money being donated. I could see a cutoff between them of $750. Criteria for determining eligible projects would need to be developed.

4) In future, making a very large grant for a project of special interest. This project would have to be quite compelling for me to support it rather than making the same large grant to any of the agencies listed in 3). Maybe providing seed money for a joint project with the National Council and other RPCV groups!

Start thinking and talking. Let me know your feelings!
Please note the following:

1. In the minutes to the February 2, 1993, meeting under "New Business", the reference to "Gordon's wife" should be stricken and "Therese" substituted therefor.

2. Want to help build a house? Habitats For Humanity is counting on us to send an able crew on May 22 or 23. See Dates To Note and keep those dates open.

3. Need a job? Gary Slaats is back in town and is looking to hire support staff for a Volunteers in Cooperative Assistance (VOCA) recruiting office in Madison. Write to Gary at 5 Maple Wood Ln., #205, Madison 53704. PCV experience in agriculture, environment or community development preferred.

4. Want to host a foreign exchange student next school year? Call Amy Lake of Cultural Homestays International at 258-8781.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, April 1, 7:00 p.m.
Union South, 127 N. Randall St.

FUTURE MEETING DATES:

Friday, May 7, 6:15 p.m., POTLUCK!!!
Mike McQuestion's, 2210 Hollister

Monday, June 7, 7:00 p.m., GIVEAWAY!!!
Union South, 127 N. Randall St.

Tuesday, July 6, 7:00 p.m.
Union South, 127 N. Randall St.
Dates to Note

Thursday, Apr. 1 - 7:00 PM - RPCVW General Meeting at Union South, 127 N. Randall St. No fooling! We will be planning for a Habitat for Humanity work day in May, as well as considering the recommendations of the Calendar Proceeds Distribution Committee.

Sunday, Apr. 4 - 10:00 AM - Calendar Committee Meeting at Barbara Chatterjee’s, 5102 Coney Weston Place, off of Odana Rd.

Thursday, Apr. 15 - Newsletter Deadline. Submit materials to Gordon Malaise, 1447 Spaight St., Madison, WI 53703.

Sunday, Apr. 18 - Parents Brunch at the Credit Union facilities on Mineral Point Rd. We’ll start eating about 11 AM. If you haven’t yet done so, please send in your order for tickets and your payment to Helene Pesche. Do it NOW so you don’t forget!

Friday, May 7 - 6:15 PM - RPCVW General Meeting and Potluck at Mike McQuestion’s, 2210 Hollister St., a few blocks west of Monroe. Bring a dish to pass! We’ll eat about 7, try to conduct a quick business meeting, and spend the rest of the evening socializing.

Sunday, May 9 - 10:00 AM - Calendar Committee Meeting at Barbara Chatterjee’s, 5102 Coney Weston Place, off of Odana Rd.

Tuesday, May 18 - Newsletter Deadline. Submit materials to Gordon Malaise, 1447 Spaight St., Madison, WI 53703.

Saturday, May 22 - 8 AM to 4 PM - Habitat for Humanity work day. Planning for this activity will start at the April meeting. Specific details will appear in next month’s newsletter. Sunday, May 23 could serve as an alternate date.

Friday, June 4 thru Sunday, June 6 - Group Camping at Campsite 8 at Devil’s Lake State Park. Look for a map and further details in the June newsletter coming out at the end of May or call Gordon Malaise at 255-3281.

Monday, June 7 - 7:00 PM - RPCVW General Meeting at Union South, 127 N. Randall St. This meeting will feature the discussion and vote on projects to be funded from the calendar proceeds.
Returned Peace Corps Volunteers
of Wisconsin/Madison
with the Ching on our side
general meeting of Wed 3 March 93

We met at Dudgeon School, because a UW basketball game would suck up all the parking at Union South. 25 were present, all well-behaved. We introduced ourselves. Free copies of "The George Bush Book of Days" were passed out to the eager. (The leftie authors perhaps gambled on George getting re-elected, and now had to pull their work—an obvious lesson against acting on cynicism.)

As we talked, we helped address Parents Brunch mailers, and write thank-you notes to the prize-givers for the Freeze For Food.

Money: we have $2598, as divided thus: Global Ed 1035, including 407 in sales; Freeze 773 collected (but 62 paid out for rentals, to be reimbursed from the Gen'l Acct/Cal profits); General acct 954.

Freeze for Food report: We approved $300 for start-up expenses. We needed all of that, and spent an additional $62 for shelter rental, which we took out of the day's receipts. We voted to reimburse this from our own funds, so we could send the total take to Oxfam/Africa.

Global Ed report: The Video is selling! (See above). And we'll do more—there's an upcoming conference of Social Studies teachers, and Ken volunteered to attend and hawk our wares from our own table.

Global Ed needs a new honcho. And, as an inducement, we were urged (and no one said nay) to regard Global Ed as a committee with a fresh life ahead of it. Marketing the Video can tick over without too much work. The Global Ed money (left over from the original $5000 grant via the National Council, and the income it's generating from video sales: a total of $1800 and rising) is there to fund a new Global Ed project. What an inducement to the energetic and far-seeing, wanting to try something new. This idea is only a balloon at present, but it was well-received. So the bold may trust that good ideas will be embraced.

Peter Joyce invited us all to come to his house for a presentation on Peace Brigades in Guatemala. (Sharon went.)

We were urged to attend the National Conference of REPs this summer in Berkeley (it's a boat, almost). Amtrak will cost about $278 RT. Chicago-SF. (There are cheaper ways to get there, many of them legal.) Both Dan and Buck are proposing to host workshops, and Mike McC wants us to do a skit. And the Calendar booth will be the place for couch potatoes.

Julie had followed up on Dave's suggestion that we consider working with Habitat for Humanity this summer. helpline builds for the deserving Home Equity poor. She gave the Habitat folks are very flexible. It we want to offer a Saturday of work, they can give us stuff to do, even for the tyros. (The experienced and semi-experienced are rare gold.) So we just have to pick a date, and give Habitat enough notice. I'll do it.

We also have to pick dates for Adventure Committee outings.

Thereese/Gordon are organizing the Summer Campout: Henry the Wisconsin Canoe Trip. (We put in at Muscoda this year. This is a very important place: Buck's Earth Mounds colleagues have discovered a whole nest of Eagle mounds across the river from Muscoda, including one that's twice as long as the best river bird mound on record, the 600ft wing-span eagles at the Mendota Mental Hospital.)

Parties: Sandy Moss was having one, and the next day was the Baron Bliss heat-wave at Dave's. You all missed both, you poops. Buck met a Burmese who knew a lot about the Burmese calendar, and who thought we were different than a lot of the Americans he'd met. Brent McNabb, by the way, has expressed an interest in becoming active again, and taking on his old job of Social Director! Joy now flutters in the hearts of many; you'll know them by their goofy expressions.

Pay Your Dues, or you'll be sorry. $15/year.

Calendar Committee (Barb): The 93 Cal is closed out, except for a few accounts receivable. The 94 Cal is on schedule; with marketing talk on-going with the Nat'l Council and EarthCare. The Donations Policies Sub-Group is meeting with diligence, and will pull it all together soon, for the Whole Group (us) to discuss. (It's important to do this well, but, once done, future money/donation discussions and decisions will be a non—there'll ever be out of what we already did.) A Donation Proposal form is being drafted—samples were handed out for comments. (There is no provision changes in the categories we support—both educational and development projects: here, national, abroad, international; persons, groups, local entities. Anything that falls under Peace Corps' Three Goals can be considered.)

Budget: For bankrolling the 94 Calendar, we'll set aside roughly $15,000. For the Whole Group to allocate as it sees fit. There is $11,174.

At this point we voted AYE on Rose Ann's MOTION, as per the last Newsletter, to set aside $11,174 for group uses, and to keep this in a separate group account, called Calendar Contributions. That of the total, $5000 be allocated for the Spring Giftaway. That $2000 be allocated for group uses (mostly donations, and expenses for charitable and educational events), during the year until the next cycle begins. That $3,174 be contemplated upon. That all money be spent in the spirit of Peace Corps' Three Goals.

Nice job of synthesis, Rose Ann; we're all grateful.

We voted AYE to accept the 93 and 94 Cal boudoirs as published in the last Newsletter. We agreed that we should set aside enough calendars to give as gifts. (These are themselves an in-kind donation.) And all agreed that distribution of the Proceeds is of course a (pleasant) task for the Whole Group.

Vice-President Al Gore was coming to town, to speak on Volunteer Service at the UW. Jim Smith, PC campus recruiter and resourceful fellow, had tickets for any that wanted to attend and about Hazzas (the Afghan voic, bushkazi players every one, do this best).

Everybody, come to the Parents Brunch. And bring Table Decorations (non-fragile—you know how parents are) from your country—cloth, baskets, etc.

We have a Hexagram for the year, obtained at the Winter Retreat (see what you missed?).

We asked I Ching, the Chinese oracle book, for counsel for the year.

Mary Grace brought her copy.

"O Ching, tell us about our purpose, and advice on how to act."

6 of us tossed the quarters, and our hexagram was this:

\[ \ldots \]

29. The Abysmal: Water. 46. The Well

Beware thickets of details. Self-development. Exterior extremes. Exhurt the world to help one another. Education. Don't break (or kick) the bucket. Danger lasts in the ravine, so plan to endure, and float. The Essential Nature of things. Sincerity permeates to the heart of the situation.

== A very good Hexagram, indeed! ==

And thus the end. Most petted home, though a few stalwarts held court at the nearest tavern, and set a good example for all the rest.

-Buck
PHILOSOPHY UNDERLYING THE CALENDAR AND/OR DISTRIBUTIONS OF PROCEEDS:
[Alternative statements have been proposed]

A. The purpose of the calendar is educational, consistent with the Third Goal of the Peace Corps. Care shall be taken to assure that 1) in pricing the calendar for sale, and 2) in distributing the resulting proceeds, this purpose is furthered.

We educate by our actions as individuals and as an organization. We fund activities whose purpose is explicitly educational with respect to the cultures and problems of people we have met while serving in the Peace Corps. Similarly, through our funding of activities that promote and sustain a favorable environment for the self-development of peoples, at home and abroad, we seek to educate by example.

or

B. Activities to be funded through the calendar shall be consistent with the self-development of people, involving either direct support for that purpose, or facilitating educational and related activities designed to create the conditions in which self-development can occur. All funded activities shall be consistent with the Three Goals of the Peace Corps.

DISTRIBUTION POLICY:

Availability of Funds
A. The International Calendar Steering Committee will determine the amount of funds available for distribution and announce this amount, if any, to the Chapter by March 1.
B. This money will be placed in a special account, called "Calendar Contributions", in the Chapter treasury and divided into three categories:
   1. Small Projects - The types of projects that we have funded in the past with proceeds from the calendar. Funding for these projects will be decided at either our May or June business meeting.
   2. Contingency Fund - Money set aside so the Chapter can fund eligible projects at other times of the year (e.g., Freeze for Food expenses). We recommend that this fund be brought up to $2,000 each year.
   3. Special Projects - Money set aside for projects that require larger amounts of funding and/or in an endowment fund. Procedures for handling these projects will be developed later.
C. The amount of funds in each category will be determined by a majority vote of the Chapter membership at the business meeting immediately following the announcement of the amount of funds available.

Eligible Projects
A. For projects to be eligible for funding, they must be consistent with the philosophy stated above, as determined by decision of the active membership after receiving advance notification of the request for funding.
B. Money designated as proceeds from the calendar will not be used to fund administrative or social activities of any RPCVs or RPCV organization, either directly or indirectly. (Indirect funding would be using calendar money to pay all the rent on a hall for an educational event on famine protection, then holding a dance in the hall immediately afterwards.)
C. Small projects will not be considered for funding if they are organized by local RPCV groups that could readily use the calendar as a fund raiser. Small projects organized by "Friends of ..." groups will be considered for funding.
Project Review Committee
A. A permanent Project Review Committee (PRC), composed only of dues-paid Chapter members, will be established to process the requests for funding, recommend projects for funding, recommend an amount of funding for each selected project, and keep records of all requests.
B. Non-members of RPCVW-Madison who represent particular projects can give brief presentations prior to PRC deliberations but cannot be present during PRC debate. These individuals should not attend general Chapter meetings in an effort to obtain funding for a project.
C. Members of RPCVW-Madison who would receive funding from a particular project should not participate in PRC deliberations and voting on that specific project.
D. All PRC decisions are subject to approval of the full membership.

Application Procedure
A. Each request for funding must be made by a currently active (dues paid) member of RPCVW-Madison. This member is the sponsor for that particular project.
B. For small project awards, the sponsor will provide information about a project by submitting a completed application form to the PRC. (Copies of our suggested application form were distributed at the March general business meeting and will be available at the April meeting for those interested.)
C. A deadline for receipt of applications for small projects will be set by the general membership, based on recommendation of the PRC, at least 30 days prior to the actual deadline. This year the deadline for receipt of applications will be May 10, 1993.
D. A member of RPCVW-Madison can submit individual applications for as many projects as desired at whatever funding level. We do not intend to limit the number of worthwhile projects that we consider.

Funding Decisions and Levels
A. The PRC will be responsible for printing brief descriptions of each project and recommended funding levels in the newsletter prior to the vote on small project awards.
B. After appropriate discussion, the full membership must approve all small project awards by a 3/4 vote of those present and voting at the meeting. This year the business meeting at which small project awards will be approved will be held on June 7, 1993.
C. Applicants for small projects can request a specific amount of funding, as in the past, or an "Equal Share" amount. Small projects requesting "Equal Share" funding will receive an amount of money that is about the average donation made to all small projects. The actual amount of "Equal Share" funding will be determined by the PRC annually.
D. Special project awards require the approval of 3/4 of those present at the meeting (including absentee votes and those present but abstaining from voting).
E. The PRC will decide whether to classify particular projects as small projects or special projects.

Reporting Requirements of Funded Activities
A. Approved funds will be disbursed by the Treasurer as per the requested mechanism on the application form. Project sponsors may be requested to provide a cover letter to send with the donation.
B. Project sponsors as well as responsible parties of funded activities will be requested to provide a brief accounting of the use of the funds shortly after completion of the activity.

Other RPCV organizations have our permission to use any material of interest in this newsletter.
COMMUNITY SERVICE CALENDAR

Volunteers of all types are needed by the UNITED REFUGEE SERVICE (URS). The United Refugee Service is a local non-profit agency dedicated to helping new immigrants adjust to American life in the City of Madison. Most of their referrals reside in the Allied Drive Neighborhood. Here is an abbreviated list of the volunteers they need. For more information, please call KATHLEEN SAJDAK at 256-6400.

1. **Tutors** in all subjects are needed for the "Second Generation Club." Provide academic assistance to elementary and Middle School Cambodian youth. **Thursdays at the Allied Drive Community Center.**

2. Volunteers are needed to help URS staff plan and supervise activities designed to help neighborhood youth get accustomed to American Culture. Volunteers will work closely with URS staff.

3. **Drivers and chaperones** are needed to take members of the Second Generation Club on area field trips.

4. **ESL tutors** are needed for mostly Hmong women with fairly low-level English skills. Experience and/or high-level language skills are necessary. URS is also developing an ESL Mentor program for adults which emphasizes the basics of American life (how to negotiate the bus system etc.) as well as teaching English.

5. A **GED tutor** is needed for a Cambodian man studying English and Social Studies at MATC. Meeting time and place are flexible.

6. A tutor with **sign language skills** is needed for a Cambodian family. One daughter (hearing) is a new mother and has dropped out of school only one credit short of graduation. One son is hearing impaired and signs but no one else in the family does. Another daughter (also hearing) is in the Second Generation club, and I am told shows great promise.

ACCESS TO INDEPENDENCE is looking for volunteers for its **Peer Support Program.** Must be able to communicate one on one with people who have physical and sensory disabilities. **Call 246-4300.**

AFRICAN STUDIES BBS

The University of Wisconsin, African Studies Program (NSA Title VI Center), supports an electronic bulletin board with a focus on African content only. In addition to bulletin concerning activities in the Madison, Wisconsin area, the African Studies BBS offers files for scholars and educators (K-12) on various topics: grants, address lists, newsletters, conference programs, travel, publications, and so forth.

This 24-hour service is available at telephone number:
(608) 262-9689

protocol = 3/12/2400 baud, 8 bits, 1 stop, n parity, n echo.

Toll free number for high speed modems and out-of-state users:
(800) 446-0196 9600 baud, NRI (15 min. maximum use)

Fidonet point = 1:121/25.1 (Madison, WI - The Off Line)
                     1:109/151.62 (Washington, DC - The Roadab)

SWAHILLI = L (Internet/btnet)
Persons interested in communicating in Swahili are welcome to subscribe (free) to the African Studies Outreach Program conversation board - SWAHILLI-I.

For additional information, contact:
Outreach Director
African Studies Program
1454 Van Hise Hall
1220 Linden Dr.
Madison, WI 53706-1557
Tel. voice - (608) 262-2171 or 262-2300
FAX - (608) 262-6598
Back has found millions of new holidays, and has been conferring with calendrists about computation science for lunar calendars. In the process, he's found out some dandy things.

There is another calendar like ours, though only a distant cousin. It's produced for international businesses. Ours is better, but it's a joy to find anyone at all in the same line of endeavor. Back will share data with the editor.

One nice feature of this "World Calendar" is a time zone map, and an extra sheet in the back, full of information. Back and Don got all starry-eyed, thinking of all the nifty stuff they could compress into an extra page (2 pages) or two--maps of the Photo countries, reports on how our donations have been used in the past year, traveler's encyclopedia material--lots of dandy things. But this is not for 94 (except for what can be unobtrusively shoehorned in--which is a lot, as you'll see in a few months).

There's even a Calendar Marketing Association. They have an annual Calendar Contest. We should enter, next year. Maybe we'll win a big prize--to be hung in the White House, perhaps, or be chosen as the official calendar of the 86 Atlanta Olympics.

--- Buck

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RFCV ECHOS
A sampling of postings to the RFCV computer echo

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Date: Wed, 10 Mar 93 15:44:25 -0800
From: J. Mayer <jmayer@prennert.edu>
To: COCHRANE@chromatics.west.edu
Subject: Re: PCORPS-L

Jeffrey,

Thanks for the info. I had already found it in the RFCV echo and ordered a copy. I included a little article on PC-L and the echo in our local RFCV newsletter, to encourage others, but I imagine this will grow slowly.

Do you know Jim Holaday or Earl Britten? I was with both of them in 1970. Jim was in the Geography Dept. and Earl also worked for the side there, I believe.

Thanks again for the info.

-- Joel Mayer

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Message #545 - Returned Peace Corp Volunteers Echo
Date: 08 Mar 93 0:18
Subject: Re: a question
From: Antilles <DR37416@MRSVIMA4.bitnet>

Susan:

Such was my wish:- an on-going aim was my wish that I had brought more money with, me when I entered Guinea in '88. But to this day it continues. Training was completed. After that, we received...sufficient money. Don't leave home without it.

Antilles

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Message #544 - Returned Peace Corp Volunteers Echo
Date: 10 Mar 93 0:55:25 -0800
From: Sara Shleifer shleifer@MATH.BERKELEY.EDU

I have a friend who will be joining the Peace Corps this summer to teach Physics in Ghana. He has been grilling me for info about my math teaching position in Sierra Leone from 87-90. I've told him what I can, but I remember somewhere that nothing anyone told me prepared me for the reality of my experience.

Anyway, the reason I'm posting is that he asked me one question which stuck in my head: Is there anything you didn't bring from the U.S. but wish you did?

Sara

shleifer@math.berkeley.edu

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Message #543 - Returned Peace Corp Volunteers Echo
Date: 06 Mar 93 15:46
Subject: Re: a question
From: Antilles <DR37416@MRSVIMA4.bitnet>

Susan:

Such was my wish:- an on-going aim was my wish that I had brought more money with, me when I entered Guinea in '88. But to this day it continues. Training was completed. After that, we received...sufficient money. Don't leave home without it.

Antilles

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Message #542 - Returned Peace Corp Volunteers Echo
Date: 05 Mar 93 15:44:25 -0800
From: Sara Shleifer shleifer@MATH.BERKELEY.EDU

I have a friend who will be joining the Peace Corps this summer to teach Physics in Ghana. He has been grilling me for info about my math teaching position in Sierra Leone from 87-90. I've told him what I can, but I remember somewhere that nothing anyone told me prepared me for the reality of my experience.

Anyway, the reason I'm posting is that he asked me one question which stuck in my head: Is there anything you didn't bring from the U.S. but wish you did?

Sara

shleifer@math.berkeley.edu

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Message #541 - Returned Peace Corp Volunteers Echo
Date: 05 Mar 93 15:41:08 -0800
From: Sara Shleifer shleifer@MATH.BERKELEY.EDU

I have a friend who will be joining the Peace Corps this summer to teach Physics in Ghana. He has been grilling me for info about my math teaching position in Sierra Leone from 87-90. I've told him what I can, but I remember somewhere that nothing anyone told me prepared me for the reality of my experience.

Anyway, the reason I'm posting is that he asked me one question which stuck in my head: Is there anything you didn't bring from the U.S. but wish you did?

Sara

shleifer@math.berkeley.edu

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Calendar Futures Committee
14 March 1993
Barb Chatterjee's house

We met, as always, on the 2nd Sunday of the month, at 10:00 am, right after Mass. There was a full table of coffee drinkers. We moved with deliberate briskness through our agenda, and were done by noon. (By denying Buck the chance to wander on to many attractive futures--but see below, for the scribe's recollection.)

Money from 93 Cal (Don): We'll fall short of the projected total take, because some calendars have been returned unexpectedly, etc. This won't affect the amount we've dedicated to group donations, but it will reduce the amount set aside for 94 Cal expenses. This is no big deal; we always make up the diff. (between Set-Aside and Total Expenses) by payments from initial proceeds, anyway.

94 Cal Production: Lots of little details were settled on--sequence of photos, the unfair frequency of Nepali and Brazilian holidays, whether to flag Christian holidays as such (none), quoting from others' demographic data, the timeline for production, etc. Bids will be requested from 3 printers, though we'll most probably end up with the same old guys--we have a very good relationship. We're also getting bids on a lot of different quantities, to see what it'll cost to have some extra extra cal's on hand. Print run will be somewhere between 15-17,000. (Last year's was 10,000, and we could have sold more with no trouble.)

Some are arguing for a larger Calendar, though not for 94. Buck is horror-struck (he thinks 8.5x11 inches is perfect), but few others actually carry the thing around with them. (He wants to allow Casually, eventually, at the international hot-shot market--AID guys, UN generals, and the like--and produce something so dandy each of these guys will naturally have in her briefcase at all times.)

Post Cards: We could easily make postcards from our present and past calendar photos, and do it in the off-months when we're not engaged in Calendar production. There's a ready-made market with the National Council. They produced one last year, in huge quantity, but we can do a better job, and they'd probably be delighted to buy them from us, at a good rate. More affluent! It's important that we all are working out how to handle quantities of money--there are people sitting in living rooms thinking up ways to make even more, with no big hassle.

Anyway, we'll explore costs and time required to produce a packet of perhaps 12 postcards. Later in the year, if we want, we can order a batch.

Another nifty notion: "Order Fulfillment" by others. EarthCare, who carries our Cal in their calendar catalog, also handles the orders for other people's products. Don is going to learn what they charge for this service. If it's reasonable, we might want to let them handle all the straightforward orders; Don and others would then only deal with orders that come directly to us, usually with letters enclosed. How nice a prospect--addressing and stuffing envelopes has been the most irksome part of the whole enterprise.

We want to set aside, up front, a certain quantity of calendars for the Group to give as Gifts. Back has a proposed total (about 1000-1500). After the committee has threshed out the implications, our Group can approve some guidelines. In effect, we'll have a cache of calendars to give away, just as we have a bundle of money for donations. How delectable--just like giving Christmas presents.

Price structure for quantity purchases, etc: this is still being worked out. The base price for us will probably remain unchanged ($4 early, $5 after Sept.)
Unbelievably, Christmas is almost upon us and the start of a whole new year. It's been an exciting and rewarding one for me, and I hope it's been a satisfying one for all of you as well.

A lot of Guatemalan history has been made in the three months since I wrote my last newsletter. After five long years of planning and two difficult years of negotiations, the refugees are ready to mobilize their first 'organized, general and voluntary' return to Guatemala. This was made possible by accords signed on October 8 by the Guatemalan government and the Permanent Commissions of the Guatemalan Refugees in Mexico. They guarantee security, liberty of movement, freedom to organize, exemption for three years of obligatory military service, freedom from service in the 'voluntary' civilian patrols of the army, international accompaniment of the return and last but not least, land. Although there are doubts as to the government's sincerity, the refugees are hopeful.

As I write this, groups of people are waiting for transportation to go to the areas of land chosen by the government for their new settlements and start construction of temporary shelters and latrines. The actual border crossing with all members of the 829 families (5,000 people in total) is scheduled to take place on January 1. The majority of the families will be from the camps in Chiapas. As a matter of fact, there are only seven families from my camp, Quetzal Edna signed up for the first wave of the return.

My neighbors, Monico and Emilia are among them. They are taking a small core of their family with them, and hope that the families of their sons will join them in the second wave. The people are brave indeed who will be in the forefront. Not only do they face the hardships of forming new settlements, but they also face a Guatemalan military who still consider them guerrillas. They are going back into the storm after their long exile.

The awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to Rigoberta Menchu, the Guatemalan 'quiche woman who is struggling for indigenous and peasant rights, is also a source of hope for the refugees. They are looking forward to a visit from her at the end of December, and are hoping that she will be accompanied by the Nobel Peace Prize committee. However, the refugees will prove a source of strength for them, but the military's reaction to the award disturbs me greatly and makes me worry. They insist that she is linked to the guerrillas and is undeserving of the prize.

My work with the health promoters is going well. My advanced course has been a big success. I've chosen 2 or 3 promoters from each of the four camps to participate. They are truly the 'cream of the crop', and I feel we're making some real progress. My first class with them was on suturing techniques. I had gotten a dozen pig's feet at the market, which unfortunately had started to rot a bit. But with the help of some surgical masks and rubber gloves, I soon had everyone performing 'surgery'. We're also working on diagnosis and management of common medical problems. It's a real challenge, and I find myself teaching ways of thinking that are totally new to them in addition to the basic medical knowledge. My hope is that these 8 or 10 people will be able to continue on with the basic course and have frequent review sessions with the less advanced promoters when I leave next April.

On a more personal note, I am doing well. I find the work here incredibly rewarding at times and incredibly frustrating at other times. Feelings of inadequacy and loneliness are mixed with feelings of accomplishment and solidarity. I'm certainly learning lots more than I'll ever be able to teach, and I sure hope the lessons stick! I was called to a neighbor's house a couple of nights ago because a 12 year old boy had had some type of 'attack'. The father sat on a hard pallet bed in the corner, rocking his son in his lap under the smoking light of a Wick stuck in a jar of petroleum. There were several small children sleeping on grain sacks on the floor in the corners as well as several adults gathered around in concern. As we discussed the boy's medical history and the work of the local 'curandero', I realized what a rare gift I was being given. To be able to be part of their lives and culture is something I will treasure for the rest of my life.

I had a wonderfully happy and sad visit home this past month. Sad because of the loss of a special friend who had a big influence on my life, but happy because of being with family and good friends. It was hard to leave then, but knowing I have their love and support makes my work here just that much better.

I'm continuing to give my basic health promoter course in all 4 camps, but a little less frequently. Now I will have time to also give an advanced course here in Quetzal Edna. The teaching is getting easier as my Spanish improves, and I find that I don't need quite so much preparation time. I also have a few other pots in the fire. I'm doing an eye-screening for cataracts as there is a doctor coming to Campeche in November to do cataract surgeries. I've found several good candidates ranging from a young girl with a post-traumatic cataract to an old widower. They are really excited about the possibility of improved vision.

I'm also taking over the yogurt program for malnourished kids. The health promoters are using our newly acquired scale (thanks, Pat & Ralph) to screen kids and then can give 'prescriptions' for yogurt. There is a women's cooperative that runs a little tienda and makes yogurt. A group in New Jersey has donated money to reimburse the women for the prescriptions.

Work on the laboratory is coming along slowly. I'm looking forward to some help with this in January. I've acquired a lot of supplies, but we're not quite organized enough to start the training. We're also struggling with organizing better equipment for the use of the dental health promoters. Organizing and tracking down supplies is really difficult without a telephone or a car.Perd, poco a poco!

I'm running out of room, so I'll say good-bye. Thank you all for your generous support, both financially and mentally. I couldn't be doing this without you.

Love to all,

Salud y Paz,

Denise "Juana" Bowen

My address: Apartado 237
24000 Campeche
Campeche, Mexico

We gave Denise $200 from the calendar profits last year.
She is a physician assistant who struck out on her own.
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 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.

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