



ReConnections

A monthly newsletter of the West Cascades Peace Corps Association

www.westcascadepca.org (click on the links to open email and websites!)

www.facebook.com/

For the Calendar...

Fri. June 5-Sat. June 6:
Peace Corps Connect in
Berkeley, CA.

**Sun. June 7: Day at the
Farm!** Berggren
Demonstration Farm
welcomes RPCVs. See p.3 for
details.

Sun. June 7: Kickball at
Tugman Park, 6 pm.

Wed. June 10: Pub Night at
7:00 pm at Hop Valley on
1st in Eugene.

Sun. June 14: Kickball at
Tugman Park, 7 pm.

**Thurs. June 18-Sun. June
21:** Local **campout**
organized by CRPCA. See
sidebar on p.2 for details.

Fri. June 26th: Pub Night at
6:00 pm at Elk Horn at 686 E
Broadway in Eugene.

Looking ahead to July...

**Sun. July 12: Potluck picnic
at Fox Hollow Farm & Fiber.**
See July's newsletter for
details!



Annual Send-Off Party held May 26th

The annual Send-Off Party (previously called the NOM Party) took place on Tuesday, May 26th at the Many Nations Longhouse on the UO campus. Unlike other years, applicants at various stages of the process were invited to attend, instead of just those who have been nominated like in past years.

RPCVs came out to welcome applicants to the Peace Corps experience, sharing in good food and playing a game to encourage story-swapping. Prizes were given to applicants who talked to the most RPCVs. At the end of the night, applicants asked any lingering questions they still had and RPCVs offered their advice.

Overall it was a great night hosted by WCPCA and the UO campus rep, Laurette Garner, who will pass the torch to a new rep next year.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's party!

Local Campout organized by CRPCA!

The Columbia River Peace Corps Association, out of Portland, has organized a campout for CRPCA members and other local associations. All WCPA members and their families are invited to join!

The campout is taking place Thursday, June 18 to Sunday, June 21st at Milo McIver State Park in Estacada, Oregon. The cost is \$12 flat fee for all four days, regardless of how many days you attend. Kids under 14 camp for free, and there is no charge for parking.

The reserved site is the Kingfisher Group site, and holds up to 100 people. Flush toilets are at the camp site and there are showers in the campground.

REGISTER [here](#). Use the "extra" button to indicate how many nights you will stay. This does not change the cost per person!

Hope to see you there!



RPCVs Jennifer Knowles, Dan Shtob, Caitlin Howe, Denise Silfee, Laurette Garner, Cary Fontana, Kathleen Conery and Julia Harvey at the Ballunteeers' first game of the season.

RPCVs Bring Their A-Game to the Kickball Diamond *(and leave their pride at home)*

by Cary Fontana, Mali 2010-2012

The Ballunteeers are off to a blistering start of the 2015 Spring Rec Kickball League. Neither our 0-2 record nor our cumulative runs (7 in two games) succeeds in accurately conveying our might. The fortitude we developed building septic systems and teaching English in the developing world has certainly translated to the field. In the most recent game we only came up one run short of halving our opponent's total. We seem to have found the key to success with our pre-game sojourns at Oakshire prior to kickoff where our team shirts equate to a two dollar discount on every pint on Sundays. The Bud Light Clamatos during the game surely provide an extra impetus as well.

Several games are left, and the Ballunteeers will rise like a fly from a latrine. Our thunderous kicks will ring out across Eugene. We've survived oozing rashes, giardia, third-world transport, and countless unknown foods. We're prepared to take this league. Rec kickball for the Ballunteeers is the toughest game we'll ever love.

Come cheer on the Ballunteeers on Sundays in Tugman Park on Hilyard in Eugene. The two remaining games take place at 6 pm on June 7, and 7 pm on June 14.

Volunteer Opportunity!

FOOD For Lane County Needs Summer Volunteers

Do you have spare time this summer to lend a hand for a good cause? If the answer is 'yes', then FOOD For Lane County has two opportunities for you:

* **Food Rescue Express** (with Dan) 6:00 - 9:00 pm Monday through Thursday. FFLC receives substantial produce from Lane County farms during the summer, which needs to be boxed/packaged in a timely manner.

* **Summer Lunch Program** prepares 3000 lunches each day (beginning June 22 8:00 am-noon) for 60 Lane County sites. This meal ensures that needy children get one balanced meal a day.

FFLC has a significant drop in volunteers during the summer, however, the need remains great. Can you help make a difference once a week? Twice a month? Call Volunteer Coordinator **Sheyla** at **(541) 343-2822** for your first visit, then you do your own scheduling.

Happy Hour/Pub Night Report!



WCPCA members met at the Pint Pot on Friday, May 29th for a Happy Hour/Pub Night social event. Around 20 members, RPCVs and friends and family of Peace Corps made their way down to the bar to swap stories and network. RPCVs new to the Eugene area came down to get a taste of what WCPCA is all about. Most individuals did not come down until closer to 6 pm, so June's Pub Nights will go back to that time range.



If you have a suggestion about a location please let us know! The [RPCV Eugene Facebook page](#) is a great place to make suggestions or find out information about upcoming meet-ups, and you don't have to be a member to view the page! No one person is in charge of Pub Nights, so this is also a good place to connect with members who plan to attend.

June's Pub Nights are scheduled for

Wednesday, June 10 at 7 pm at Hop Valley on 1st St. in Eugene, and **Friday, June 26th at 6 pm at Elk Horn Brewery** on 686 E Broadway in Eugene.



Day at the Farm: Sunday, June 7th

West Cascades members and their families are invited to a day at the farm at Berggren Demonstration Farm! Members are invited to show up between 11 am -2 pm for a short tour of the farm and then are welcome to relax on the farm for a picnic lunch. Members are asked to bring their own lunches and any blankets or chairs.

To get to the farm from Eugene, take the 42nd St./Marcola exit off of OR-126 in Springfield.

Turn left onto 42nd St., then right onto Marcola Rd. and right again on Camp Creek Rd. The farm address is 36986 Camp Creek Rd., Springfield 97478.

The Berggren Demonstration Farm is a 30-acre working farm on the lower McKenzie River near Waltherville, Oregon. The farm's mission is to promote the connections between healthy farms and clean water by employing ecologically appropriate farming practices, educating young and beginning farmers, and partnering with the community to support a strong local food system. The farm is managed by Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation & Development, a regional nonprofit organization that helps solve community problems by bringing partners together to accomplish conservation and community development projects.

To learn more about Berggren Demonstration Farm, visit their [website](#) or their [Facebook page](#). Contact farm visit coordinator [Nicolette Ulrich](#) with questions.

Fundraiser Planned for December 2015

by Julia Harvey, Tonga 1990-1993

Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 5th. WCPCA will be holding a Curry Dinner fundraiser at Central Presbyterian Church. The event is scheduled to coordinate with dead week (the week before finals) at the university in hopes of a big turnout. If you are interested in helping to organize, cook curry, serve meals or otherwise help out with the event, please contact me at juliaannamarieharvey@gmail.com. The money raised will help support Peace Corps projects that are part of the new Let Girls Learn initiative.





Top: Ralph Bolton with the mayor of Chijnaya.

Winner of the 2015 Sargent Shriver Award Has a Connection to WCPCA

By Rolly Thompson, Peru 1964-1966

My friend, Ralph Bolton, is the winner of the 2015 Sargent Shriver Award and will receive the award at the NPCA annual conference being held next week in Berkeley. Ralph was among the first Peace Corps volunteers in Peru in 1962 and served in the Altiplano of southern Peru for three years where he worked with Quechua speaking communities. After a devastating flood in 1963 on Lake Titicaca, where Ralph was working, families lost their homes, land and animals. With the help of the Peruvian government, Ralph assisted many families in relocating and creating a new community, named Chijnaya, on higher land. Today, Chijnaya is recognized as one of the most progressive indigenous communities in the Peruvian Altiplano.

I started working with Ralph in 2006 a year after he started the Chijnaya Foundation which currently partners with

15 Altiplano communities who work together to improve education, agriculture, health and artistry. My work with Ralph has been in four alpaca herding communities in improving the genetic stock, wool quality, herding practices and marketing of alpaca fleece.

Ralph, who recently retired after a 40-year teaching career as a professor at Pomona College, worked many years as an anthropologist focusing on Andean cultures. His research took him back to Peru often and ultimately inspired him to form the Chijnaya Foundation. Ten years ago Ralph recruited RPCV's to help with his projects, several of us volunteered. Last year, the Amigos de Bolivia y Peru nominated Ralph for the Shriver Award which he will receive on June 6. His compassion, understanding and accomplishments to some of the poorest communities in Peru are deserving of the Sargent Shriver Award.

Good for you, Ralph Bolton.

Funded Project: Maternity Ward in Zambia

By *Julia Harvey, Tonga 1990-1993*

WCPCA has decided to help fund a Peace Corps project in Zambia. Katie Van Marter Sanders is proposing the building of a maternity ward to allow women to have a safer delivery with a skilled nurse. Zambia has one of the highest rates of maternal death in the world with 591 women of 100,000 live births ending in death due to complications. The neonatal death rate is 34 per 1000 births. These figures are some of the highest in the region. Only 47% of women have a skilled nurse during childbirth.

This Oregon volunteer is hoping to have an impact on these statistics. She has already raised nearly \$1500 and the community has contributed \$11,864. The goal is \$19,018. WCPCA will contribute \$400.

WCPCA will be contacting the Volunteer to request updates of her project to share with members.

Know Your Board!

Board President: Julia Harvey, Tonga 1990-1993

Vice President: Juliet Bender, Mexico 2009-2012

Treasurer: Patty MacAfee, Cameroon 1989-1991

Secretary: Gary Cornelius, South Africa 2012-2013

Membership Chair: Nicolette Ulrich, Senegal 2011-2013

Members at large:

Wayne Thompson, Peru 1964-1966

James Cloutier, Kenya 1964-1966

Denise Silfee, Thailand 2011-2013

Laurette Garner (campus rep), Madagascar 2004-2006

*The next Board meeting will be **Thursday, July 2nd from 6 - 8 pm at New Day Bakery**. All WCPCA members are welcome to attend. You may submit agenda items to the Board president at juliaanmamariebarvey@gmail.com.*

Thank you...

to all RPCVs who submitted photographs for the Send-Off Party presentation. We received great pictures that hopefully served as an interesting and informative backdrop for party-goers. Presentation creator Denise Silfee will be contacting contributors for permission to post on the Facebook page as a "time capsule" of members' service. Stay tuned!

Contributions Welcome!

All newsletter contributions are welcome! Meet-ups, topics of interest to PCVs, travel essays, commentary... please send your words and photos to **Denise Silfee** at denise.silfee@gmail.com for newsletter inclusion!