



# ReConnections

A monthly newsletter of the West Cascades Peace Corps Association

[www.westcascadepca.org](http://www.westcascadepca.org)

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## For the Calendar...

**Sun. Aug. 9: Potluck picnic**  
at Bob & Rosa Watada's  
home in Pleasant Hill. See p.  
2 for details.

**Thurs. Aug. 13 - Sun. Aug.  
16: Regional campout.** See  
p.6 for details.

Exciting WCPCA activities  
will be picking up again  
some September! We hope  
everyone had a safe,  
adventurous and thrilling  
summer and look forward to  
seeing you at future  
volunteer opportunities,  
book clubs, picnics and  
potlucks, pub nights and  
fundraisers!

And remember, if you have  
an idea for an article for  
upcoming newsletters, or an  
announcement or piece of  
interesting info that you  
think RPCVs might enjoy,  
please contact the  
newsletter editor or email  
[info@westcascadepca.org](mailto:info@westcascadepca.org)!



## World Map at the Lane County Fair

The Lane County Fair took place July 22 - 26. WCPCA had a booth in the Discovery Park section of the park, a new section focused on providing hands-on activities for kids. WCPCA members Denise Silfee (Thailand 2011-2013), Maggie Mitteis (Ukraine 2012-2014), and Nicolette Ulrich (Senegal 2011-2013) put together the plans for the booth, including two projects: a World Map mural and a postcard project.

One week before the fair was set to begin, a small hiccup involving the WCPCA's lack of liability insurance almost derailed plans to participate. Thankfully, a generous donor stepped up to purchase five

## Pool Party on Sunday, August 9th!



*Image courtesy of liberators.biz.*

All WCPCA members and their families are invited to a pool party at the home of Bob and Rosa Watada by Jasper State Park on the Willamette River on Sunday, August 9th. Hamburgers on the grill will start at 3 pm. Everyone is welcome to begin showing up at 2 pm. Attendees are asked to bring a side, salad or dessert to share.

The pool will be open and ready for swimming! Bring your swimsuits and towels and enjoy an afternoon respite from the heat! We hope to see you there!

Bob and Rosa's address can be found in the West Cascades membership directory. If you are having trouble finding the address, please contact the Board President, Julia Harvey, for assistance. Julia can be reached by email:

[juliaannamarieharvey@gmail.com](mailto:juliaannamarieharvey@gmail.com).

days of liability insurance for WCPCA, enabling the booth to take place.

The first project offered at the booth was a postcard project. Eight currently serving PCVs representing seven countries were identified to receive postcards written by fairgoers. The currently PCVs represented the countries of China, Thailand, Botswana, The Gambia, Ukraine, Guyana and Ecuador. Postcards were donated by Hiron showing various Oregon environs and children and adults passing by the booth were invited to send a postcard to a PCV and country of their choice.

The second project was the World Map mural. The mural was created on three 4' x 8' panels that were prepared ahead of time with the outline of countries. Using a paint-by-numbers method, fairgoers were invited to paint portions of the mural. Children were offered smocks made by garbage bags and were given the chance to "sign" the mural with a handprint and a signature. Denise, Maggie and Nicolette hope to donate the mural to a local school by the end of summer after touching up the borders. The entire map mural was complete by the end of the fair on Sunday night.

Twenty-six WCPCA members came out to the fair to help run the booth over the course of the five days. Overall participation in this year's fair was a success: WCPCA achieved community engagement, made contact with new RPCVs to the Eugene area, and dispersed information about Peace Corps and about RPCV activities, including an upcoming fundraiser planned for December 5, 2015. *See page 3 for more photos from the project.*







**Left:** RPCVs prepare the World Map mural panels. **Middle:** Displays showing the seven countries where postcards were sent. **Right:** Rolly and Wayne Thompson open the booth on the first day of the fair.



Three of the PCVs receiving postcards: Jenny Wininger, PC Thailand; Gina Leow, PC China; Jake McGrew, PC Ukraine.

## Picnic at Fox Hollow Farm & Fiber

Members and their families were invited to a potluck picnic at the home of Wayne and Rolly Thompson (Peru 1964-1966). Wayne and Rolly live at Fox Hollow Farm & Fiber, their alpaca and sheep farm off of Fox Hollow Road. Guests enjoyed a beautiful summer afternoon on Sunday, July 12th. Brats were served from the grill and members enjoyed an array of side dishes, salads and desserts contributed by attendees. It was a great time to connect with fellow members and share lively conversation. Thank you to everyone who came out!



*Thank you to David Jones (Honduras 1985-1987) for the photographs!*







## Funded Project: Library in Botswana

WCPCA recently donated to a library project in Botswana by PCV Jessica Walker, originally from Portland and Corvallis. Jessica reached out to WCPCA in response to requests for currently serving PCVs to participate in our postcard project at the Lane County Fair. Jessica described the library project in an email:



*"Just over a year ago, the primary school in my village asked me to help them get a library. I was, of course happy to help; libraries are my favorite place. I was always an awkward kid, and I spent a large amount of my free time at the library. For me, it was the only place I felt normal. These kids didn't have that, and it was perhaps more shocking to me than the regular lack of water. Together, we came up with a plan to build a structure, but too late in the game we lost support on that, so we found another route; a prefabricated mobile unit. The school has been the driving force behind every step of this incredible journey. It's been a mad dash since April to pull it all together, but now that everything is finally falling into place, it hardly seems like any work at all. It will be the only public library in the village; there's nothing like being able to visit the library that you helped create. We all know how powerful books are, and the knowledge they contain. The kids at Molapowabojang Primary School and the villagers are about to learn just how powerful they can be."*



After some setbacks including indecision about the type and size of the structure, Jessica has reached her funding goal of \$8857.72, including extra funds from the school. Jessica has been in country a little over

two years, and plans for the library have been solidified and are moving forward. You can read more about Jessica's library project at her blog: <http://www.jessicafwalker.com/thelibraryproject/>.

*All photographs were submitted by Jessica Walker or taken from her blog.*

## Curry Feed Fundraiser: December 5, 2015

Don't forget to plan ahead! WCPA will be holding a Curry Feed Fundraiser on Saturday, December 5th near campus. The fundraiser will coincide with Dead Week on campus, when students are frantically looking for easy food while they cram for finals. All proceeds from the fundraiser will go towards supporting Peace Corps Partnership Program projects of Oregon Volunteers. Stay tuned for details about how to volunteer or where to show up for a great plate of curry!

### Looking for something to do on a sweltering August afternoon?

Revisit these links to reconnect with Peace Corps goings-on!

Search for Oregon Volunteers on the **Peace Corps Partnership Program** page:

<https://beta.peacecorps.gov/donate/>

Check out resources for promoting Peace Corps' **Third Goal**:

<http://www.peacecorps.gov/resources/returned/thirdgoal/>

Ready to serve again? Search opportunities for **Peace Corps Response**:

<http://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/response/>

Check out the **Blog It Home Finalists** for 2015 on the Peace Corps Facebook page and vote for your favorite Volunteer blog:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10153164370980914.1073741853.110634980913&type=3>

## Wanted: Newsletter Editor Extraordinaire

Hi all, it's me, Denise Silfee (Thailand 2011-2013) the maybe not-so-secret person behind the newsletter. I hope you have enjoyed the newsletter format since I began producing it in January of this year. It has been a fun experience, and while I can't say the newsletter is perfect, there has been positive feedback so far on the inclusion of photographs and different types of content.

My goal was to finish out 2015, but alas, I may not be able to do so. I have just recently (9 days ago) accepted a 10 month contract with the English Language Programs Fellowship through the Department of State and Georgetown University to work at a women's university in Sudan. I will be heading to DC this month, and then on to Sudan in early September. This exciting opportunity has kept me from being able to get this month's newsletter out in time (sincerest apologies) and it would probably be best to have someone with more regular internet access take it over.

Creating the newsletter is not that difficult and can be done using Pages, Word, Publisher, or other programs. I would be more than happy to meet with an interested individual and review what I have been doing so far. If you are interested in becoming the newsletter editor, please contact me at your earliest convenience at [denise.silfee@gmail.com](mailto:denise.silfee@gmail.com). Thank you and it's been a pleasure! I will look forward to returning to WCPA activities next summer!



## Regional Campout with Columbia River Peace Corps Association

The Columbia River Peace Corps Association is organizing a Regional Campout! If you are interested, please visit the page for the Columbia River PCA and go to the "checkout" link to register: <http://www.crpca.org/checkout/>. Please use the

"exrta" button to indicate how many nights you will be there. This does not change the price of \$18/ person for the whole weekend!

The price is \$18.00 per person flat rate (no matter how many nights you stay.) Kids 14 and under camp FREE! And NO charge for parking. The park is right on the Columbia Gorge. You can enjoy the view from the top of Beacon Rock, visit the fish ladders or just hang out at camp and visit.

With room for up to 200 people, this site has plenty of space for games, many tents and small RVs (no hook ups). Check out the RPCV Eugene Facebook page for more information (see link on page 1).

### **Notice:** Membership Dues Will Be Increasing

WCPCA will be increasing membership dues beginning October 1, 2015. An individual membership will increase to \$20 from \$15. Family membership will increase from \$22 to \$25. There are several reasons for this increase. One of our missions is to support Peace Corps Partnership projects. Increasing membership fees will allow WCPCA to support more projects with a local connection. We will also be able to continue to expand community outreach. WCPCA at Lane County Fair was a big success.. If you have any questions please contact Julia Harvey,

### **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, Madagascar 2004-2006

*Stay tuned for the next Board meeting date! All WCPCA members are welcome to attend. You may submit agenda items to the Board president*

*at [juliaannamarieharvey@gmail.com](mailto:juliaannamarieharvey@gmail.com).*