



# ReConnections

A monthly newsletter of the West Cascades Peace Corps Association

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

[www.facebook.com/RPCVEugene](http://www.facebook.com/RPCVEugene)

## For the Calendar...

**Fri. Oct. 2: Empty Bowls** dinner and volunteer event. See front page for details.

**Sun. Oct. 11:** Bring the family or a friend to an afternoon at **Pfeiffer Vineyards** located west of Junction City. See p. 2 for details!

**Wed. Oct. 14-Fri. Oct. 16:** **Fall Street Fair** at U of O. See p. 3 for details.

**Wed. Oct. 14:** Pub night with special guest at **Wildcraft Cider Works at 6 pm**. See p. 3 for details.

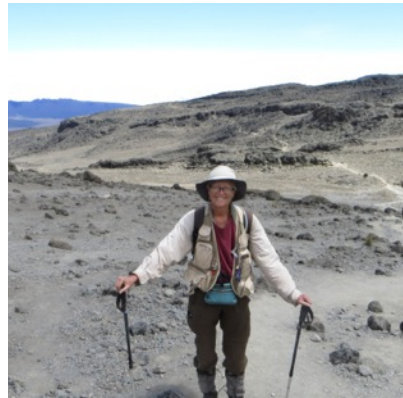
**Thurs. Oct. 22:** Pub Night at **Bier Stein at 6 pm**. All are invited!

**Mon. Oct. 26:** Volunteer at **Food For Lane County, 6-9 pm**. See p. 4 for details.

## Next Month...

**Sun. Nov. 15:** Fall potluck, details in Nov. newsletter

See p. 5 for more November events!



## From the Field: Eugene PCV Diantha Hull

Diantha Hull of Eugene is currently serving in Tanzania. WCPCA recently funded Diantha's sewing project. She recently climbed Mount Kilimanjaro and went on a safari with her son who visited her. For more great pictures like the ones above of Diantha on the climb up Kilimanjaro and resting hippos, and to read about Diantha's service, visit her blog at <https://fencerowgallery.wordpress.com/>.

## Empty Bowls Dinner & Volunteer Opportunity: Friday, October 2nd

WCPCA volunteers are needed to help clean up after the annual Empty Bowls Dinner put on by Food For Lane County and catered by King Estate Winery. Volunteers arrive at 8:30 pm, eat dinner for free, and then help with the clean up. The event raises money for Food For Lane County and is taking place at Food For Lane County at 770 Bailey Hill Road in Eugene. Please contact Board President Julia Harvey at [juliaannamarieharvey@gmail.com](mailto:juliaannamarieharvey@gmail.com) if you are interested. We hope to see you there!



## Peace Corps Calendars are Here!

by Gary Cornelius, South Africa  
2012-2013

Calendars are \$12 each, or \$10 each if five or more are ordered at the same time. If ordered from afar, calendars are \$15 each, which covers postage for mailing. Calendars will be available at upcoming WCPCA events, and directly from Gary Cornelius, WCPCA Secretary and calendar project coordinator. He can be reached at [garycorn@quixnet.net](mailto:garycorn@quixnet.net), or by phone at 541-912-1518.

Calendars are a nice addition to any RPCV kitchen or office, or as holiday gifts to friends and relatives. The 2016 calendars include beautiful photos from Peace Corps countries, including Namibia, Moldova, Jordan, Peru, Sierra Leone, Ecuador, Thailand, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Poland, Mexico, and Turkey, most of which are countries where WCPCA RPCVs served. The calendar also includes interesting statistics and fun facts about each country represented, and various holidays celebrated in each country.

## You're Invited: Afternoon at Pfeiffer Vineyard

by Wayne Thompson, Peru  
1964-1966

You will not want to miss our October potluck! On Sunday, October 11 from 2-5 WCPCA members and families are invited to Pfeiffer Vineyards

located west of Junction City. For a small cover charge (TBD, but between \$5-\$10 per person) everyone can enjoy appetizers and fine wine in a beautiful setting.

It will be harvest and crushing time for Robin and Danuta Pfeiffer, who established their winery 31 years ago. Although not a Peace Corps Volunteer, Robin spent several years in Chile during the 60s, taught Spanish in District 4J for awhile and raised chickens and sheep before deciding on establishing a vineyard. Danuta had been a TV personality prior to their planting 70 acres of pinot gris and pinot noir in 1984, making it one of the oldest vineyards in Oregon. Since then, the Pfeiffer's solar powered winery has won numerous awards and the expanded tasting rooms and gardens make it a unique experience.

Pfeiffer Vineyards is about 45 minutes from Eugene, roughly 25 miles away. The Pfeiffer's would like an estimate of how many people hope to attend. Please email me at [cwt1542@gmail.com](mailto:cwt1542@gmail.com) with how many people you will bring. Then stay tuned for information about car pooling to the vineyard for those who are interested. The vineyard address is 25040 Jaeg Road. The blog site is [www.pfeiffervineyards.com](http://www.pfeiffervineyards.com) for a map to the vineyard and other information about the vineyard you might want to read. For example, 90% of the grapes grown by the Pfeiffer's are sold directly to King Estates. The other 10% is kept by Robin and Danuta for their own wine which is sold only at their winery.

Thank you and we hope to see you and your family and friends on October 11!



Pfeiffer Vineyard in Junction City. Photo from [oregonpinotnoirwine.com](http://oregonpinotnoirwine.com).



## Fall Street Fair on Campus

It's that time again! University of Oregon will be hosting the annual Fall Street Faire, shutting down 13th St on campus and inviting food trucks, local organizations and student groups to join together to celebrate the beginning of the fall term. This year it will be October 14th - 16th from 10 am - 4 pm. As usual, Peace Corps will be participating in the festivities with a booth and offering our normal assortment of swag to the university students.

Click here to sign-up:

[Doodle Poll](#)

During the first week of October, Nicolette Ulrich, the Peace Corps Recruiter on campus, will be sending out a volunteer sign up link via email for all RPCVs to sign up for a block of time to man the table and partake in the Fall Street Faire. Please consider assisting our local

RPCVs is this outreach opportunity. If you are eager to sign up and get a particular time block for the Fall Street Faire, please feel free to email Nicolette directly at [pcorps@uoregon.edu](mailto:pcorps@uoregon.edu) or sign up at the link to the Doodle poll in the above box. It is our highest volume event and a great place to achieve our Third Goal objectives. We look forward to have all our local RPCVs at this event!



## Pub Night with Special Guest, Sarah Kassel

Another pub night is underway, and this time we have a special guest! WCPCA welcomes Sarah Kassel from Seattle. Sarah is the Peace Corps Regional Recruitment Supervisor for the West Coast based in Seattle. She is an RPCV from Micronesia from 2004-2007. Our local recruiter, Nicolette Ulrich, had the pleasure of traveling up to Seattle this summer to train with Sarah on changes in the application process and recruitment objectives.

Sarah is making a special trip down to Eugene to help out at University of Oregon's annual Fall Street Faire. WCPCA will be holding a special Pub Night at

WildCraft Cider Works (390 Lincoln St, Eugene) at 6:00pm on Wednesday, October 14th to welcome and thank Sarah for coming down to Eugene, and also to celebrate a successful first day of the Fall Street Faire. We look forward to everyone coming out and showing Sarah a great evening in Eugene.

WildCraft has small, seasonal batches of cider and a menu of salads, small plates and desserts. You can visit WildCraft's website at <http://wildcraftciderworks.com/>.



## We Still Have It: That Volunteer Spirit!

by Patty MacAfee, Cameroon 1989-1991

Here are a few reasons why we volunteer at **Food For Lane County** the 4th Monday of each month:

*"To be part of the team effort."*

- Miriam Aiken, Philippines  
1965-1967

*"I've worked with mental ill homeless people, and I've seen firsthand people who are hungry."*

-Gary Cornelius, South Africa  
2012-2013



*"We love to help people eat, and we've been recipients of food help in the past."*

- John (Honduras) & Noy Moser



**"It's good to give back. I've occasionally used food banks, and I appreciated it."**

- David Jones, Honduras 1985-1987

*"Food For Lane County helps thousands of people each month. I like to think fewer children go to bed hungry as a result of our effort."*

- Patty MacAfee, Cameroon 1989-1991

There is a place at the table for your volunteer spirit!

Please join us

**Monday, October 26th at 6 pm**

at 770 Bailey Hill Road in Eugene.

*It's easy, it's fun, and it's worthwhile!*





## Thai Cooking Class: Thurs. Nov. 5th

By *Juliet Bender, Mexico 2009-2012*

WCPCA will again offer a Thai cooking class taught by Jeem Peterson. At his last cooking class, he prepared such mouthwatering dishes as Hot and Sour Prawn Soup, Green Curry with Chicken, Phad Thai, and Chicken with Cashew Nuts. The menu for the upcoming class will be as delicious.

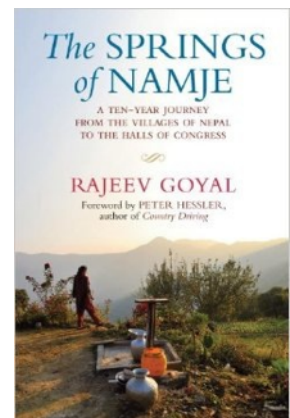
The event will take place on Thursday, November 5 at 6:00 pm. The number of participants is limited, so contact Juliet Bender at 936-520-3923 or [julietbender@aol.com](mailto:julietbender@aol.com) as soon as possible. Participation will be on a first-come basis. The class will be held at Juliet Bender and Charles Goldsmith's house. There will be a \$15 charge to cover the cost of ingredients. If you'd like to bring something to drink it is BYOB.

## Book Club Selection for November

by *Juliet Bender, Mexico 2009-2012*

The next book club meeting will be on Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the home of Juliet Bender and Charles Goldsmith.

The book to be discussed is *The Springs of Namje: A Ten-Year Journey from the Villages of Nepal to the Halls of Congress* by Rajeev Goyal. Goyal, the son of Indian immigrants, joined the Peace Corps in 2001 and was assigned to teach English in the small village of Namje in eastern Nepal. Brimming with idealism, he expected to find people living in conditions of misery and suffering; instead he discovered a village of happy, compassionate people. There his very frank memoir begins.



The book can be purchased online at Amazon.com or at the website of Powell's books. Please see the membership directory for Juliet and Charles' address. We hope to see you there! Book Club meeting will be on Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the home of Juliet Bender and Charles Goldsmith.

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## Board Meeting Updates: Sunday, September 27th

by Gary Cornelius, South Africa  
2012-2013

Perhaps the most poignant part of the September 27th WCPCA Board meeting was the goodbye expressed by Denise Silfee, Board member and newsletter editor, who leaves in a few days for a 10-month assignment in Omdurman, Sudan. Hopefully

you're on her email list to be a recipient of her periodic missives about her experiences. She reported that a new newsletter editor has not stepped forward to take her place, so if that's of interest to any WCPCA member, please contact Denise or President Julia Harvey.

There was also much discussion and planning for WCPCA's next big fundraiser, a curry dinner scheduled for Saturday, December 5th at Central Presbyterian Church at 15th and Patterson, near the UO campus. If you'd like to volunteer to help with this event, please let the Board know. Proceeds from this event will be split to help fund education for girls in developing countries— think the Peace Corps initiative Let Girls Learn led by First Lady Michelle Obama— and PCPP projects.

Nicky Ulrich, the newest Peace Corps recruiter at UO and WCPCA's membership coordinator, introduced two updated versions of the WCPCA Membership Directory, a PDF version and Excel spreadsheet. See page 7 for details. Nicky also announced that she will be hosting Sarah Kassel, the West Coast Peace Corps Regional Recruiter, in connection with the annual fall UO Street Fair where WCPCA will have a booth (see page 3 for details about how to get involved).

Treasurer Patty MacAfee reported that WCPCA's checking and saving accounts balances total \$4428.05. The June 30th balance in the Beryl Brinkman Memorial Fund is \$30,373.17, and WCPCA has donated \$2000.00 this fiscal year to PCPP projects of Oregon PCVs. A full, detailed budget report is available from the Board.

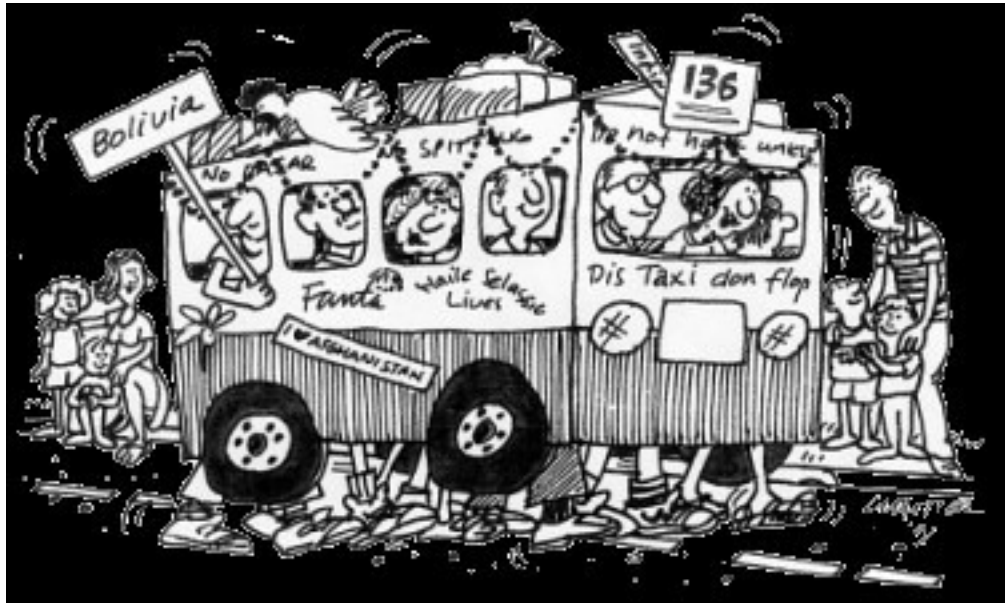
Upcoming events were reviewed. A fall potluck has been scheduled for Sunday, November 15th at 5 pm at the home of Roger Brubaker, Denise Silfee (who will be in Sudan), and Nicky Ulrich in the Whittaker. See accompanying articles about other upcoming events.

The next board meeting is November 1 from 4 pm - 6 pm at New Day Bakery on Blair Blvd. Board meetings are open to all WCPCA members to attend.



September Board meeting at New Day Bakery. Nicky (far left) loves photographs.





## The Directory is Coming! The Directory is Coming!

By Nicolette Ulrich, Senegal 2011-2013

After a long wait, current members will be receiving their directory this month. It will be delivered in TWO forms. At the end of this month, all active members will receive a PDF file directory that includes their name, contact info, dates of service/location, and bio. Please ensure these are all up-to-date in our system. You can update everything via our website or by clicking [HERE](#). Once all updates have been made they will be added to the PDF directory and sent out. In addition to this PDF form, each active member will receive a website link with a current member list. This list will be added to each month and a new link will be sent out at the beginning of each month. This online version will allow incoming members to have access to the most up-to-date member list.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please email [membership@westcascadepca.org](mailto:membership@westcascadepca.org).

### Calling for a New Newsletter Editor!

Hello all WCPCA members (and prospective members)!

We are still looking for an interested individual to take over the WCPCA monthly newsletter! Current editor, Denise Silfee (Thailand 2011-2013) will be heading to Sudan for ten months as an English Language Fellow around October 1st. If you are interested in putting together the newsletter, please contact Denise at [denise.silfee@gmail.com](mailto:denise.silfee@gmail.com). Thank you for considering!

## WCPCA Pub Night Scrapbook!

WCPCA members and friends of Peace Corps shared beers and dinner at Hop Valley on Thursday, Sept. 24th. Join us for the next Pub Night by checking the calendar on page 1! We hope to see you there!



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

West Cascade Peace Corps Association will increase the membership dues beginning October 1st. Individual membership will be \$20 and family membership will be \$25. This increase will allow us to further the mission of our group. For example, WCPCA recently helped fund a maternity ward in Zambia. I just received word that the fundraising is complete and the ward will be constructed before the rains arrive. This was an ambitious project by an Oregon volunteer but she raised over \$19,000, with help from WCPCA. Thank you for your support and participation!

### **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).*