



# ReConnections

A monthly newsletter of the West Cascades Peace Corps Association

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

[www.facebook.com/PCV Eugene](https://www.facebook.com/PCV Eugene)

## For the Calendar...

**Sun. Nov. 1: Board meeting**  
at New Day Bakery on Blair,  
6-8 pm. All are welcome.

**Thurs. Nov. 5: Thai cooking class** for those who RSVP'd.  
Contact Juliet Bender  
([julietbender@aol.com](mailto:julietbender@aol.com)) with  
questions.

**Tues. Nov. 10: Pub Night** at  
Beer Garden at 6 pm! See you  
there!

**Thurs. Nov. 12: Book Club**  
meeting, 6:30 pm. *See p.4 for  
details.*

**Sun. Nov. 15: Fall potluck**, 5  
pm. *See p.5 for details.*

**Mon. Nov. 23: Happy Hour**  
at Oakshire at 5 pm! Come on  
down!

## Sunrise Yoga... RPCV Approved

Come down to [Eugene  
Yoga's Downtown Location](#)  
(245 E. Broadway) for yoga  
with RPCV Nicky (Senegal  
2011-2013)! First class is  
FREE!

Mon. & Wed: 6:15 - 7:15 am  
Fri. 7:15 - 8:15 am



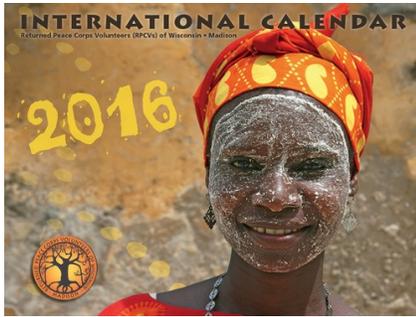
## An Afternoon at Pfeiffer Winery

*By Gary Cornelius, South Africa 2012-2013*

A Sunday afternoon winery event at Pfeiffer Vineyard, in the country west of Junction City, proved to be one of the most successful social events WCPCA has done in some time. Thirty people, including RPCVs previously unknown to us, participated.

Some of us carpoled to the October 11 event and others made their own ways to the vineyard after leisurely country drives on a perfect fall afternoon. The gathering was organized by WCPCA board members.

The wine was good and the company even better. Robin Pfeiffer, who with wife Danuta owns the vineyard, entertained with his story of trying to become a Peace Corps Volunteer in the 1960s, but failing the physical exam. So, he found another way to volunteer for an international organization and ended up living in both Peru



## 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.

and Chile, along the way having experiences every bit as interesting as what many PCVs experienced. Robin's boyhood family lived on what is now the vineyard and winery, and he regaled visitors with tales of hunting deer with his brother and otherwise working to survive in rural Oregon in the 1930s and '40s.

After sharing his entertaining stories, Robin led a tour of the vineyard for those interested in learning more about growing grapes and making wine, and some of the history of wine making in Oregon.

Now that we've learned that so many WCPCA members are wine aficionados and like friendly country events, perhaps we can do another such event in the future.





## UO Fall Street Fair and Sarah Kassel's Visit

*By Nicolette Ulrich, Senegal 2011-2013,  
UO Campus Recruiter*

Thank you to all of those who took time out of their busy days to enjoy sights and sounds of the University of Oregon Fall Street Fair. With our new location next to the EMU Amphitheater, RPCVs

representing all corners of the earth came out to engage with the excited, wide-eyed, and eager future generation of Peace Corps Volunteers. We were able to not only give out information and insight about the application process and about serving in a new country, but to also litter the students with bags, stickers, and awesome Peace Corps sunglasses. We talked to well over 100 students over the course of the three days, along with engaging with lots of RPCVs connected to the UO campus, but not with WCPCA. It was great to see so many new faces and hear so many wonderful stories of service.

Sarah Kassel was our special guest for the week as well. All the way down from our regional recruiting office in Seattle, Sarah spent most of the week talking with local members of WCPCA and helped us recruit students from campus from our booth. Sarah and I also got to meet with many departments on the UO campus to talk about ways we can better engage with the student community. Each meeting was well received and professors on campus are excited to connect their students with their local recruiter. When all was said and done, Sarah was extremely complimentary of not only the recruitment campaign during the Street Fair, but also the community of RPCVs in Eugene. She hopes to come back down this way once again before the new Portland recruiter is hired.

### Calling All Health Volunteers!

Did you serve as a health volunteer during your service? Do you work in the health field now? WE NEED YOUR HELP! In conjunction with World AIDS Day on December 1st, the University of Oregon will hold a **Peace Corps Health Volunteer Panel on December 1st from 6 - 7:30 pm.** During the panel discussion, students and community members will be invited to listen to RPCVs talk about their experience working in the health sector, or talk about how Peace Corps brought them to their current job in the health care field. If you are interested in participating, please contact campus recruiter Nicolette Ulrich as soon as possible at [pcorps@uoregon.edu](mailto:pcorps@uoregon.edu). We hope to have a diverse and exciting panel that future Peace Corps Volunteers can learn from.

## Board Meeting Nov. 1st

By *Julia Harvey, Tonga 1990-1993*

The next Board meeting will be **Sunday, November 1st from 6 - 8 pm** at New Day Bakery on Blair in Eugene. All members are welcome. Charlie Goldsmith (Mexico 2009-2012) was appointed to the nominating committee for the 2016 WCPA Board of Directors. See text box at right for the nominees for the 2016 Board.

Elections for the 2016 Board will take place at the fall potluck on Sunday, November 15th. See p. for details. We hope to see you there!

### 2016 Board Nominees

President... Julia Harvey, Tonga 1990-1993

Vice President... Juliet Bender, Mexico 2009-2012

Secretary... Gary Cornelius, South Africa 2012-2013

Treasurer... Dale Morse, Nepal 1969-1971

Membership Chair... Nicolette Ulrich, Senegal 2011-2013

Campus Recruiter... Nicolette Ulrich, Senegal 2011-2013

Members at Large... James Cloutier (Kenya 1964-1966), Wayne Thompson (Peru 1964-1966), Denise Silfee (Thailand 2011-2013), Patty MacAfee (Cameroon 1989-1991), Laurette Garner (Madagascar 2004-2006)

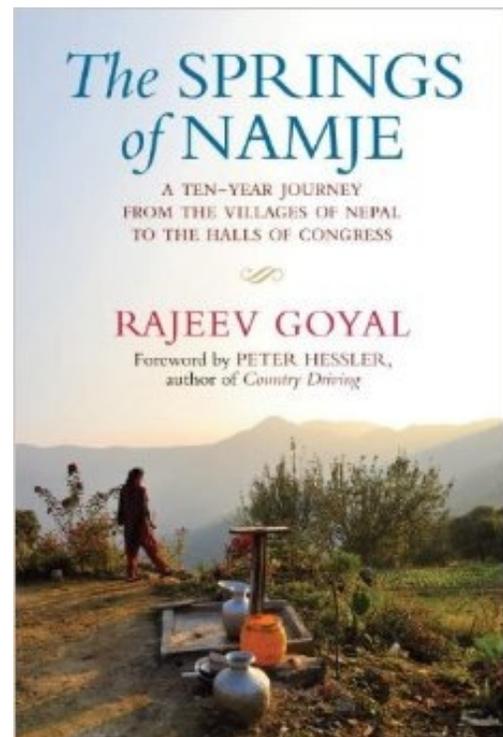
## Book Club Selection for November

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!





## Fall Potluck, Sunday, Nov. 15th!

The Fall Potluck will be on Sunday, November 15th at 5 pm at the Whittaker neighborhood home of Denise Silfee (Thailand 2011-2013), Roger Brubaker (Thailand 2011-2013), and Nicolette Ulrich (Senegal 2011-2013). Denise (who is currently in Sudan and will not be present), Roger and Nicki's address is in the WCPCA directory. If you need help finding the address, please email Nicolette at [pcorps@uoregon.edu](mailto:pcorps@uoregon.edu). UO campus recruiter Nicolette will present about Peace Corps and updates to the application system. Please bring a dish to share and a beverage of your choice. Children are welcome! Votes for Board nominees will also be conducted. We hope to see you there!

## Help Us Find a Home For Our World Map!

As many of you know, West Cassade Peace Corps Association put together an incredible booth and display for the Lane County Fair this past summer. One of the hands-on projects was to provide the materials for community members to paint an 8' x 12' mural of the world, including a Peace Corps logo and the handprints of participants.

Even though this summer is long behind us and the brisk air of fall is upon us, we are still in search of a home for our World Map. The WCPCA would like to donate the map as a wall installation at a location such as a local school, business, or community building. The map is in three panels. If you have a suggestion or know of a place that might be interested, please contact Nicolette Ulrich at [pcorps@uoregon.edu](mailto:pcorps@uoregon.edu) with a lead! We want to give our mural back to the community and need your help to find the perfect home! You can also see more photographs of the World Map in progress at the WCPCA Facebook page. You don't have to have a Facebook account to view the page! Check it out!



## Peace Corps Partnership Project: Jessica Way of Pleasant Hill, OR



*WCPCA recently received the following letter from a currently serving PCV in Nicaragua. Jessica Way hails from Pleasant Hill. The grant closed on October 28th, but we wanted to share what local Oregon PCVs are up to in their communities.*

Greetings from Nicaragua! I am a Peace Corps Volunteer serving in the Entrepreneurship Education program in Nicaragua. I grew up in Pleasant Hill, Oregon, just south of Eugene. I wanted to let you know about a national project I am working on here.



I support my counterpart teachers and their senior high school students in an entrepreneurship class where the students are required to create and write a business plan. The class culminates in the business plan competitions at the end of the school year, when the students have the opportunity to present their plans and compete against one another.



In addition to competitions at the community level, the first place team from each of the 12 regions of Nicaragua is invited to participate in the well-loved National Congress and Competition. This is a two day event that takes place in Managua where young entrepreneurs have the chance to come together and learn valuable skills applicable to their business plans and their professional futures. Right now, we are busy preparing for this event, which will take place November 16-18.

This year, in addition to inviting the



top 12 teams, we will invite 60 qualifying 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> year students and 40 teachers so they may have the opportunity to participate in this inspiring event and deepen their understanding of the course. This has been effective in past years in motivating 10<sup>th</sup> grade students to perform even higher in their 11<sup>th</sup> grade emprendedurismo course, acting as role models for their classmates and changing the environment of the classroom. It has also helped participating teachers familiarize themselves with the goals

of the program, and become excited by its potential.

I have experienced first hand the difference this event makes in the teachers and students of Nicaragua. I have attached a few pictures from the competitions I've already held at the school level this year, I hope you enjoy this small glimpse into our hard work!

Sincerely,

Jessica Way  
 Entrepreneurship Educator  
 Peace Corps, Nicaragua

## **The Membership Directory is Out!**

*By Nicolette Ulrich, Senegal 2011-2013*

The directory should have been delivered to your inbox by October 31<sup>st</sup>. If you did not receive it and believe that you are a registered member, please contact Nicolette Ulrich at [membership@westcascadepca.org](mailto:membership@westcascadepca.org). For the remainder of 2016, the online version will be updated and emailed out to registered members. Other hardcopy version will be dispersed at the end of 2016. Thank you for all those who updated their information and continue to be sustaining members.

## **Updates from a Wayward Newsletter Editor:**

Greetings, fellow WCPCA members! Your current newsletter editor here, Denise Silfee (Thailand 2011-2013)! I am currently compiling this newsletter from my home for the next ten months, a cozy apartment in sweltering Khartoum, Sudan. I am here as an English Language Fellow funded by the US Department of State and working at Ahfad University for Women in Omdurman, the city across the Nile River from Khartoum. I have found the transition to newsletter editing from Sudan a little easier than I anticipated, and so will continue until another newsletter editor is found. Ideally, a WCPCA member will take over in January. If anyone would like more info, answers to questions, or is interested, please email me at [denise.silfee@gmail.com](mailto:denise.silfee@gmail.com). Thank you!

### **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).*