



ReConnections

A monthly newsletter of the West Cascades Peace Corps Association

www.westcascadepca.org

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**Wishing all RPCVs
and WCPCA
members a very
Merry, Happy,
Healthy &
Adventurous
2016!**

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For the Calendar...
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Thurs. Feb. 11: Join **Book Club** members at the home of Patty MacAfee at 6:30 for snacks and book-talk! All are welcome. *See p. 4 for details and other 2016 Book Club selections!*

Apparently the holidays were too much fun! Our calendar is sparse this month, but stay tuned to the WCPCA Facebook page and the WCPCA website (*see links at top of this page*) to see up to date postings for 2016 events!

If you want to plan a WCPCA or RPCV get-together, contact a Board member to get your event advertised!

Curry For a Cause Fundraiser a Success!

by Gary Cornelius, South Africa 2012-2013



The December 5th “Curry for a Cause” fundraiser event at Central Presbyterian Church in Eugene has been declared a success by the Board and those who worked to it together to raise money for the Peace Corps Partnership Program (PCPP) projects of Oregon



Last Chance for Peace Corps Calendars!

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, 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.

There are **less than 9 calendars** left! Contact Gary Cornelius right away to get yours for 2016!

Volunteers. RCPV and chef Jeem Peterson (Philippines 1982-85, Solomon Islands 1995-97) promised a delicious meal and by all accounts he delivered with the help of several assistant cooks and kitchen helpers. The cucumber salad seemed to be a hit, too.

Approximately 175 meals were served, close to the goal of 200, with the steaming leftovers delivered by committee member James Cloutier (Kenya 1964-66) to the homeless camp at River Road and Chambers in West Eugene. He described the recipients of the hot meals as quite appreciative.

The committee that organised the event believes it would be good to consider doing it again and using lessons learned this year to improve. If you want to help next time, please contact a Board member (names listed at end of this newsletter, contact information found in the directory).

After subtracting for expenses, WCPCA cleared about \$1500, counting sales of many 2016 Peace Corps calendars (see side bar to get yours; only a few remain!). An added benefit was that WCPCA members connected with several RPCVs who have not been active or involved with the group. We hope they stay in touch with us and become new members.

The Board has already voted to contribute \$750 of the raised funds to the project of Southern Oregon native Coleen Bremner who is currently serving in The Gambia. Her project, a GLOW camp for both young women and young men, has partnered with First Lady Michelle Obama's Let Girls Learn initiative ([Let Girls Learn](#)).

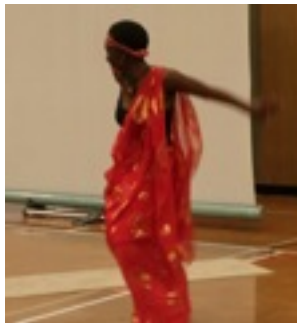
GLOW (Girls Leading Our World) camps started in Romania in 1995 and been presented in 60 developing countries worldwide by Peace Corps Volunteers since then. They generally focus on girls but at times PCVs include boys as well, recognising that empowering girls takes the efforts of all citizens. In this project, two 10th grade girls and two 10th grade boys from multiple schools and three teachers from three senior secondary schools in the region will participate, according to the PCPP website. During the seven-day camp, students will participate in sessions that concentrate on three main areas: gender equity, community involvement, and healthy home life.

The Gambia's population is young: around 59.7 percent of the

population is below 25 years old. The Gambia has achieved some noticeable progress towards gender equity, but female children have remained disadvantaged and vulnerable to limited access to education compared to the boys in the same household.

Objectives of the project include: encouraging participants to analyse the benefits and consequences of gender roles, gender issues, and gender empowerment in the culture; educating participants on reproductive and sexual health, HIV/AIDS, sexually-transmitted infections, healthy relationships, and family planning; and using life skills sessions to focus on communication, public speaking, and decision making to build self-confidence in participants. The camp will take place January 17-24, 2016.

The remaining proceeds from “Curry for a Cause” will be help in restricted funds pending future Peace Corps Partnership Projects by Oregon Volunteers and supporting girls’ education.



Music Helped Create International Flavor

by Wayne Thompson, Peru 1964-1966

WCPCA advertised that Brazilian concert pianist Priscille Dantas would play for the “Curry for a Cause” fundraiser. But when Priscilla brought several of her University of Oregon international student friends to help her, the evening became even more festive. Taking turns during the evening, we heard Priscilla perform at the piano, watched Sharon Alitema of Uganda dance, listened to Seela Sankei of Kenya at the drums, and heard and watched Na Yi of Tibet sing and dance. Win Min, of Myanmar, performed the role of technician. Thanks to their performances, the fundraiser had a truly international flavor.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Curry for a Cause Fundraiser!

We hope to see you at future WCPCA fundraiser events!

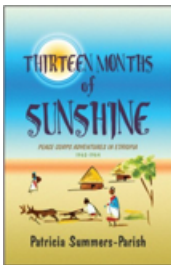
Book Club Picks For 2016

By Juliet Bender, Mexico 2009-2012

Are you interested in reading books about Peace Corps experiences around the world? If so, the WCPCA book club is the place for you! The book club meets every other month to discuss a selected book written by a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer. For example, in November 2015 we read a book about a PC volunteer who served in Nepal.

Below is the list of books we have selected for 2016, along with dates and places we will meet. Please join us! These books can be purchased online at amazon.com, or purchased locally at the Powell's Books website. We hope to see you at our upcoming meetings in 2016.

Please find the addresses of book club hosts in the membership directory. Participants are welcomed to bring a snack to share and everyone is welcome!



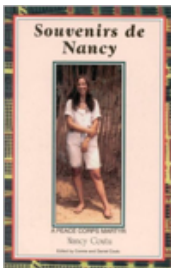
February 11, 2016

Thirteen Months of Sunshine, Peace Corps Adventures in Ethiopia 1962-1964, by Patricia Summers-Parish. The February 11th book club meeting will be held at the home of Patty MacAfee at 6:30pm.



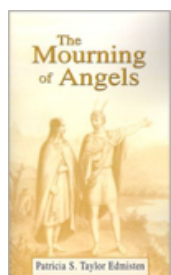
March 10, 2016

March's book club selection is *To Make a Difference, A Peace Corps Memoir, Turkey 1964-1966* by Julie Woods Smith Olson, also a WCPCA member! March book club will be at the home of Julia Harvey at 6:30 pm.



May 12, 2016

Souvenirs de Nancy: Journals of Nancy Coutu: A Peace Corps Martyr, 1994-1996 by Nancy Coutu (Madagascar). The May meeting will be held at the home of Dale Morse at 6:30 pm.



September 8, 2016

The Mourning of Angels by Patricia Taylor Edmisten (Peru 1962-1964). September book club will be held at the home of Juliet Bender and Charles Goldsmith at 6:30 pm.

HELP WANTED!

Looking for someone with: Time and basic woodworking skills. The project is building 25-30 flag stands. If interested, please contact Board member Patty MacAfee at patjpatj@hotmail.com.

Seeking...

Content writers for the WCPCA newsletter. We are always looking for articles of interest to Eugene/Springfield RPCVs and WCPCA members, including current events, international events, and local events. Please contact new newsletter editor (see right) with ideas.

Newsletter Editor Update!

Denise Silfee, WCPCA newsletter editor since January 2015, is stepping down to make way for a new, improved and far more exciting newsletter brought to you by WCPCA Board member Laurette Garner, Madagascar 2004-2006.

Denise has been sending you the newsletter from her current post in Khartoum, Sudan since October and apologises for the typos and errors that have been appearing with increased frequency since she arrived in her dusty locale. Laurette is excited to be taking over and will welcome any ideas or contributions for content.

Thank you for reading and here's to wishing you a great 2016!

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 *New* Board!

Board President: Julia Harvey, Tonga 1990-1993

Vice President: Juliet Bender, Mexico 2009-2012

Treasurer: Dale Morse, Nepal 1969-1971

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

Patty MacAfee, Cameroon 1989-1991

Please contact Board president Julia for items to be brought to the next

Board meeting: juliaannamariharvey@gmail.com.