



# ReConnections

A Monthly Newsletter of the West Cascades Peace Corps Association

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

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March 2016

## In Memory of Beryl A. Brinkman

(8/4/1939-2/1/2007)

RPCV Afghanistan (1967-69)

By Tricia Tate (Friend of Beryl and WCPA)

It has been nearly nine years since Beryl passed away from a sudden heart attack. Many of you may not have been fortunate to know Beryl or how there came to be a "Beryl Brinkman Memorial Fund."

Beryl's will designated that proceeds from the sale of her house would be divided evenly between 10 friends/organizations who would then distribute the funds at their discretion to individuals or organizations that will benefit from or "work toward the elimination of poverty and suffering, world peace efforts, education or the furtherance of a worthy cause not named herein." The amount was \$15,028 for each of the 10 to donate.

Friends of Beryl's (FOBs), Tricia Tate and Sherrill Kirchhoff met with WCPA FOB friends about an idea to create a memorial fund in Beryl's honor. Tricia felt that by supporting West Cascade, the organization that was closest to Beryl's heart, she would be perpetuating the world peace efforts stated in Beryl's will. Beryl's



## Upcoming Events



### Peace Corps Week Events at the University of Oregon

February 29th-March 4th

#### March 1st, 5-6:20pm- Ducks Make a Difference:

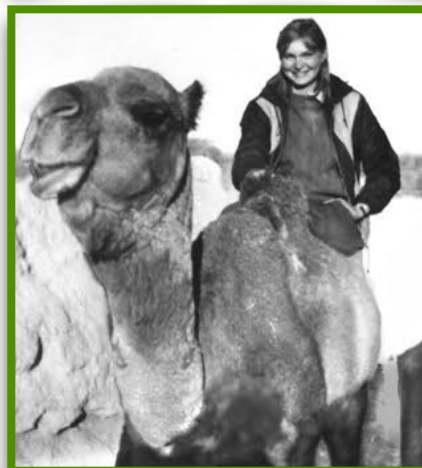
Come see Peace Corps speak on a panel of other service options post-graduation. Learn how to get more involved with Peace Corps and how you can start your application today! Location: Friendly Hall 106

#### March 2nd, 6-7pm- Highlighting Happiness: What Does Joy Look Like in My Peace Corps Country?

The theme of this year's Peace Corps Week is "Highlighting Happiness: What Does Joy Look Like in My Peace Corps Country?" Therefore, during this presentation, I will be highlighting what "happiness" looks like in a variety of Peace Corps countries while also answering questions about Peace Corps Service, the application process, and how you can prepare. Location: Willamette

dedication to West Cascade manifested itself in her service as President, Board Member and award-winning newsletter editor. She never missed a 'nom' party nor neglected to respond to requests for support from Eugene-area Peace Corps volunteers who needed a helping hand in their country of service. Her fund-raising for humanitarian needs was legendary. It was agreed that "we can do no less, as a group, than walk in her shoes by supporting those activities that illuminate the Beryl in all of us." With the seed money from Tricia and Beryl's sister, Natalie Brinkman, along with additional funds from WCPCA, the \$25,000 endowment was created at the Oregon Community Foundation.

Each year, the WCPCA board chooses 3-5 Peace Corps projects by current Oregon volunteers to support from the Beryl Brinkman Memorial Fund. So far about \$30,000 has been donated in her memory and the hope is her legacy will continue in perpetuity.



## Peace Corps Week Continued

### March 4th, 2-3pm Application Power Hour: Ducks, Make Your Resume Shine:

Bring your laptop to this once-in-a-time opportunity to work with the Peace Corps Recruiter on making your resume the best it can be. Learn about what the Peace Corps is looking for and how you can put your best foot forward and prepare to apply by the next deadline, April 1st!

Location: Career Center, Hendricks Hall, room 220.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask! Looking forward to seeing your photo submissions!

## Peace Corps Week University of Oregon February 29th- March 4th 2016 By Nicolette Ulrich

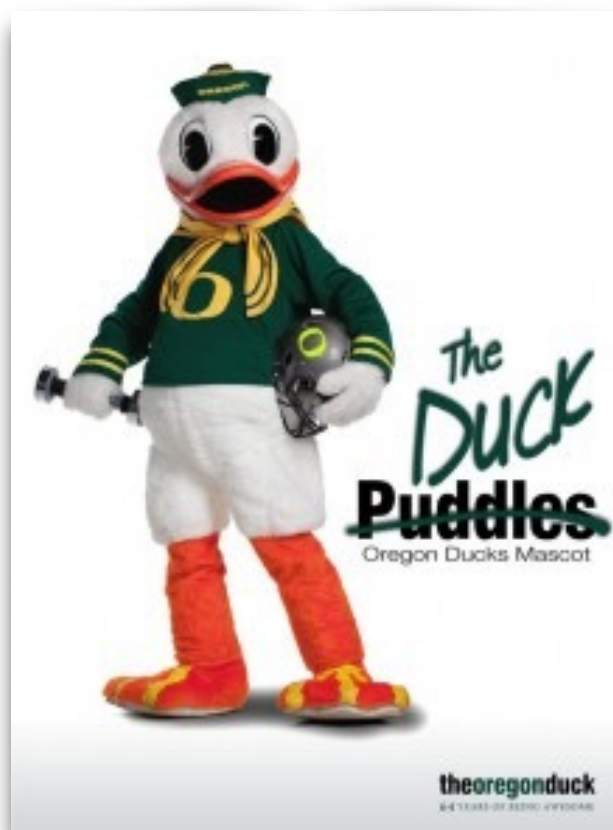
Hello!

Did you know Peace Corps Week is just around the corner? IT IS!

The week of February 28th – March 5th! University of Oregon Peace Corps is going to be launching a digital campaign to highlight RPCVs on the UO campus during the week of February 29th – March 4th. I will post photos of various RPCVs who are now Ducks (either students, faculty, or staff) and quote them on why they love being both a Duck and an RPCV. Please “LIKE” us on Facebook or “FOLLOW” us on Instagram to stay up to date on this and other events.

<https://www.facebook.com/PeaceCorpsUO/>

<https://www.instagram.com/uopeacecorps/>



# Introducing Lisa Snell, the new Peace Corps Portland Recruiter

By Lisa Snell



My Peace Corps service started a bit later in life. I had been working in the Specialty Outdoor business, in a variety of roles on the East Coast and then as Manager of the REI in Eugene, Oregon, when a chance encounter with a recruiter at a street fair at U of O got me thinking. I'd always imagined I would join Peace Corps, but life and career took priority until that day..

After a somewhat lengthy process, I served in Morocco as a Youth Development volunteer with my husband from 2003 -2005. While I qualified for Small Business, Environment, YD, Education and CD, finding a placement for married couples is a bit more complicated and I was excited to jump into the placement we were offered.

We worked primarily as teachers in a Youth Center in Ouarzazate, a town not far from the Sahara, providing after school language programs. (Fun fact: the movies *Gladiator*, *Kingdom of Heaven* and *Babel* were filmed just up the road from my site.) Additional projects included helping a local NGO to write a \$265K grant, a summer immersion camp each year, partnering with the local High School and a variety of small weekend programs.

After my service I returned to the private sector and worked in operations roles with two local companies here in Portland: Rejuvenation Lighting and Columbia Sportswear. Most recently, I oversaw the US branded retail stores for Columbia/Mountain Hardwear/Sorel and project managed the development and implementation of our customer experience programs.



## Pub Night with the New Portland Recruiter

Thursday, March 3rd  
6:30pm  
Oakshire Brewing  
1055 Madera St. Eugene

Come to Peace Corps Pub night at Oakshire Brewing and meet Lisa Snell, the new Portland based Recruiter! Check out her introduction.



The thread that has woven throughout my career has been the importance of engagement: networking and connecting with others seeking to make a difference. Inspiring my teams, recruiting new employees or volunteers for events and service projects and sharing information or training on a variety of topics are just some of the activities that were pretty standard for my role as we targeted growing our business.

This is the first time that I have been able to focus full time on recruitment activities and I am excited to partner WCPA as we develop excitement and passion for Peace Corps service in our communities. I look forward to learning more about your group and the opportunities for growth. Here's to an outstanding 2016.



## **4th Annual Mega Dance Party!!!**

**Saturday, March 5th  
8pm**

**Eugene Veteran's Memorial  
Ballroom  
1626 Willamette St. Eugene**

We are almost at the big night! Want to spread the word to others? You can use this link to invite more guests by email or your social networks: <http://evite.me/aE8Wu123gUJ>

You can also email us at [mdpeugene@gmail.com](mailto:mdpeugene@gmail.com) with any questions. -- From the RPCV Mega Dance Party Planning Team

## **Calling all RPCV Fair Coordinators?? Discovery Park 2016 Peace Corps Booth Information**

(We participated in this last year)

Thank you for being part of the 2015 Lane County Fair! I am excited to take over management of Discovery Park for the 2016 Lane County Fair. I have worked at the Fair for 6 years in various roles and I look forward to working with all of you.

We are ready to begin accepting applications for the 2016 Lane County Fair Discovery Park. Returning participants will be given the first opportunity to request space for 2016. Priority will also be given to participants able to be here all 5 days (although we anticipate accepting those who can only be here for part of Fair). We have added some new Arts & Crafts and Agricultural sales opportunities for those of you who make or grow items that you wish to sell at the fair. Please contact me for more information on sales at the Fair.



Please feel free to share Discovery park information with other organizations who could benefit from exposure at the Fair. I am available by phone or email if you have any questions.

See you at the Fair!

Elizabeth

*Elizabeth Henry*

Fair Coordinator

541-682-7332 fax: 541-682-3614

Exhibits@atTheFair.com

*Thanks for a GREAT Fair! See you next year!*

*Lane County Fair July 20-24, 2016*

[www.atthefair.com](http://www.atthefair.com)

## **Interesting NPR Article about Peace Corps Volunteers**

**Submitted by Miriam Aiken**

<http://www.npr.org/2016/02/13/466592640/peace-corps-volunteer-values-staying-active-in-old-age>

### **Book Club March 10th 2016 6:30PM At the home of Julia Harvey**

Books can transport us to a new world and this is easy to do when the book is about a different world. The West Cascade Book Club offers the opportunity to venture into a new country with other RPCV's. Come join us! March 10 is an adventure to Turkey with our own Julie Woods Smith Olsen's book entitled: To Make a Difference: A Peace Corps Memoir Turkey 1964-66.

Inspired by JFK's memorable statement "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country," newlyweds Julie and Gary Smith take off for a wild adventure in Turkey in 1964. Julie writes of her experiences in regular letters to her mother who saves these letters. As a tribute to Gary, Julie recently reread these letters and set out to write this book. Today we have the results of her work and the opportunity to join her in Turkey if only for a few hours.

The March meeting is at the home of Julia Harvey and begins at 6:30 PM.

Julia's address can be found in the directory. Please bring a snack to share.

We hope to see you there.

Best,  
Josette



# **Introducing our March Potluck Guests Glenn Brumorst and Pat Wand**

**By Wayne Thompson**



The speaker will be Glenn Blumhorst, the President and CEO of the National Peace Corps Association who will be introduced by Pat Wand, an old friend of WCPCA.

If you remember Pat Wand (Colombia 1963-1965) as an early organizer for the WCPCA, that makes you as old as I am. Pat came to the Eugene in 1982 from Columbia University as a UO Librarian which she held until 1989 when she took the same job at American University in Washington, D.C. for 16 years. Pat then spent five years at Zayed University in Dubai, UAE as Dean of Library before retiring and moving back to Bethesda, Md where she calls home.

Pat has worked hard to bring John Kennedy's Third Goal of the Peace Corps home. Some might remember back in 1986 when WCPCA held a symposium at the Valley River Inn featuring former Peace Corps Director Jack Hood Vaughn to celebrate 25 years of Peace Corps and in 1990 when WCPCA held the National Peace Corps Conference at the Eugene Hilton Hotel. With Pat's enthusiasm and leadership, we succeeded. Since moving to the DC area, Pat has been on the Board of Directors of the NPCA for many years and a strong advocate for promoting a better understanding of other people by Americans.

Prior to joining the NPCA as President and CEO, Glenn Blumhorst (Guatemala 1988-1991) spent 25 years in community development mostly with Agricultural Cooperative Development International (ACDI) and Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance (VOCA) in Colombia while helping to set up USAID-funded programs in 28 countries worldwide. Glenn will discuss the changes that NPCA is making and seek support from us to help increase the Peace Corps budget for a second year in a row.

**RPCV Potluck  
March 20th  
6pm  
Home of Juliet Bender and  
Charles Goldsmith**

Join other RPCVs for a feast and presentation. Bring a dish to share and come listen to a presentation by Glenn Blumorst and Pat Wand. They will be coming through Eugene and we didn't want to miss an opportunity to hear from them. Check out their impressive bios in this newsletter.



Glenn and Pat are in Oregon to host the NPCA Group Leaders meeting in Portland on March 19 and both are looking forward to visiting Eugene to attend our potluck meeting on March 20. Let's give them a big Eugene welcome and show them a good time.



### Know Your 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:

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

#### Next Board Meeting:

**When: March 13th**

**Time: 6:00 PM**

**Where: New Day Bakery**



**“The problems of the world cannot possibly be solved by skeptics or cynics whose horizons are limited by the obvious realities. We need men who can dream of things that never were and ask "why not?"**

**John F. Kennedy**