



ReConnections

A Monthly Newsletter of the West Cascades Peace Corps Association

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April 2016



National Peace Corps Association President Visits Eugene and WCPCA

by Wayne Thompson

Our winter WCPCA potluck, held at the home of Juliet Bender and Charles Goldsmith, featured Glenn Blumhorst, the President and CEO of the National Peace Corps Association who, with his wife Cathy, were visiting NPCA groups in the Northwest. Glenn was introduced by Pat Wand (Colombia 1963-66), an early organizer for the WCPCA and a BOD emeritus of the NPCA, now living in Bethesda, MD. Before joining the NPCA three years ago, Glenn and Cathy (PCVs Guatemala 1988-1991) spent 25 years in community development helping to set up USAID-funded programs in 28 countries worldwide while living in Bolivia and Guatemala.

Glenn's power-point presentation was informative and showed that the NPCA is making changes and adding new programs, mainly to attract PCVs who have recently returned home. There are 140 Peace Corps alumni groups affiliated with NPCA and dues are no longer required to become a member of the NPCA which Glenn said never has paid for much of the total NPCA budget.

Upcoming Events



The annual NPCA conference has been brought back. NPCA is working with universities and employers to help RPCVs further their education or find a job once they return home. The NPCA has created grass roots legislative programs while working with the Peace Corps for Congressional funding. Glenn said this year's Peace Corps budget is the same as last year's \$410 Million. With only Glenn and the PC Director as paid lobbyists, that's pretty good. After 35 years, the NPCA and PC have finally signed a pledge to strengthen the ties between the two groups and work together in accomplishing the third PC goal. To some of us in attendance, the most interesting new program is "Next Step Travel" where RPCVs spend several weeks in Cuba, Thailand, Iran or Guatemala visiting communities, helping with local projects and getting to know the people. As usual with our potlucks, the conversation was good, the food excellent and our speaker informative. Thanks again to Glenn and Pat for coming to Eugene and to Juliet and Charles for hosting.

CHEF'S NIGHT OUT

Tuesday, April 5th, 2016,
8:00 PM - 10:30 PM

This is one of the best volunteer gigs in Eugene! Join our large clean up crew at this outstanding fundraiser at the Hult Center. WCPCA has helped at this event for many years. Contact James Cloutier cloutierjames@yahoo.com.





Peace Corps Meet & Greet

April 6th 2016
5:30PM
Lokey Building UO

We have had an overwhelming amount of requests for RPCV involvement in upcoming events at the UO and for the Eugene community. Which is awesome!!!

I appreciate those of you who have been so involved in helping me reach the greater student population and I look forward to connecting with more of you in the near future.

There is an opportunity for a Peace Corps Meet-and-Greet for the students in the Family and Human Services (FHS) Department. It will be on April 6th at 5:30pm in Lokey building on campus. It will be a low key event, starting with a presentation by me and then some open questions time and break out conversation with students. It will be about 90 mins long.

If you are able to participate in this event, it would be greatly appreciated! Please email PCorps@uoregon.edu to confirm.



Calling all RPCV's, it's SPRING

STREET FAIR TIME!

By Nicolette Ulrich

It is once again spring, the flowers are blooming, and that means thousands of eager students have returned to campus after Spring Break in search of what they will do upon graduation. The University's Spring Street Fair is a wonderful opportunity for returned volunteers to talk with new and graduating students about the exciting option of joining the Peace Corps.

As always, I am looking for some volunteers to help out with manning our booth. This year we will be located somewhere on 13th Ave, possibly near the EMU Amphitheater like we were in the fall.

The fair takes place Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, May 4th-6th. The booth will be open from 10am-4pm each day. Having two volunteers at a time is the most fun. Each shift will be approximately 2 hours and believe me the time flies.

You can fill in your time on the link below, or simply send me an email with your available times.

DOODLE POLL LINK: <http://doodle.com/poll/xfhc492c4id74tww>

Thank you in advance for your assistance with this and continuing the great collaboration between the University of Oregon Peace Corps recruiting efforts and the WCPCA. I look forward to seeing you there.



RPCV Pub Night

**Friday, April 15th
6:30pm**

**Ninkasi Brewing
272 Van Buren St.
Eugene**

**Come to Peace Corps Pub
night at Ninkasi Brewing and
socialize with other RPCVs.
And who knows? We might
get to enjoy the patio!**



FOOD RESCUE EXPRESS

Monday, April 25th, 2016,
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Join us for our ongoing service project at the commercial kitchen of Food for Lane County, 770 Bailey Hill Rd. Repack food into family size portions for distribution to FFLC's numerous food pantries and meal sites.

Save The Date! May 5th 2016

Peace Corps Send Off Party

By Nicolette Ulrich

Come celebrate future Peace Corps volunteers from the University of Oregon and surrounding community!

What: Send Off Party! (Previously known as Nom Party)

When: May 5th from 6-7:30pm

Where: Gerlinger Hall, University of Oregon

Why: Send off all the Future Peace Corps Volunteers

RPCVs are encouraged to come dressed in traditional clothing from their country of service to send the nominees off in style! Please bring an ethnic dish to share with nominees and their guests. Drinks, condiments, and utensils will be provided by the West Cascades Peace Corps Association. Families and children welcome!

RSVP here: <http://evite.me/rSn8mZq5gV>





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.

A Public Lecture by Dr. Robert

Thurman

Submitted by Robert Watada

This may be of interest to the group:

Professor Thurman is the pre-eminent scholar of Tibetan Buddhism in the West, founder and president of Tibet House, an intimate friend and colleague of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama for over 40 years, and a prolific author and scholar.

Thursday April 7, 2016

7:00 p.m.

Lillis 182 955 E. 13th Ave.

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

BOOK SIGNING TO FOLLOW

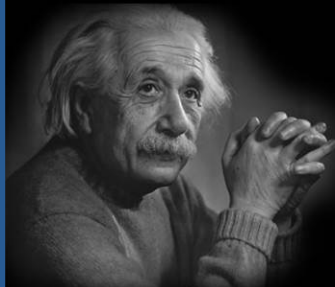


“WHEN I WAS IN THE PEACE CORPS I NEVER MADE A PHONE CALL. I WAS IN CENTRAL AFRICA; I DIDN'T MAKE A PHONE CALL FOR TWO YEARS. I WAS IN UGANDA FOR ANOTHER FOUR YEARS AND I DIDN'T MAKE A PHONE CALL. SO FOR SIX YEARS I DIDN'T MAKE A PHONE CALL, BUT I WROTE LETTERS, I WROTE SHORT STORIES, I WROTE BOOKS.”

PAUL THEROUX

© Lifehack Quotes

**Peace cannot be kept
by force; it can only be
achieved by
understanding.**



Albert Einstein

German Theoretical-Physicist

(1879-1955)

QuoteHD.com

