



ReConnections

The Monthly Newsletter of the West Cascades Peace Corps Association

www.westcascadepca.org

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May 2016



Volunteers Needed for Peace Corps Spring Send-Off Party

by Nicolette Ulrich

New Format: This is an "Around-The-World Event". It will begin with a brief welcome from Eugene's mayor, Kitty Piercy, and recognition of RPCVs and newly invited PCVs. We will break out into different regions/table groups for 30 minutes to share stories, pictures and advice about our service, people we met, food we ate and lessons we learned.

We are looking for help with:

*RPCVs to participate in and help facilitate regional break out Q & A tables after welcome & music presentation. (5 facilitators and lots of RPCV participants to gather together and share). We especially need those who have served on an island nation, Asia, and Eastern Europe.

*Event set-up or take down (30 minutes)

*Music coordination (we'd love to find someone or a group who can provide live music for a portion)

*Help greeting/registration (15-30 minutes)

Please support this important celebratory event and help it grow. We are looking for a large number of RPCVs to participate and contribute during regional break-out sessions, as well as some organizational support. Please email: Nicolette Ulrich at Pcorps@uoregon.edu if you can provide any help and to RSVP to the event.



Peace Corps Spring Send-Off Party

Thursday, May 5th

6 – 7:30 pm

**Please join this fun,
celebratory event to
welcome future
PCVs, engage with
the friends and
families of
volunteers currently
serving, and stay
connected with our
own history of
service.**

**Where: University of
Oregon, Gerlinger
Alumni Lounge,
University St. & 15th
St, Eugene**





Save the Date for WCPCA Campout

When: August 12-14, 2016

**Where: Lost Prairie
Group Site (off Highway
20)**

**Who: West Cascades
Peace Corps Association**

**Watch the June WCPCA
newsletter for: campsite
details, reservation cost
for two nights, group
meal, directions, and how
to make your reservation
(through WCPCA) for
one of the ten campsites.**

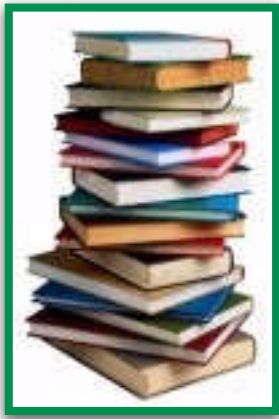
WCPCA Project Funding Update

By Julia Harvey

WCPCA decided to support a Peace Corps Library Project in Madagascar with a \$500 contribution. Sam Hollerup is a graduate of the University of Oregon and is currently serving in Madagascar. Sam along with 18 other volunteers, are planning on bringing 22,000 books to 17 Malagasy communities. "Each of the communities to receive books has expressed a need for English books and has enthusiastically demonstrated commitment to the project through collaboration on the project design and contributions.

Communities have provided spaces for the books, shelving and tables for their storage and use, and librarians for their maintenance. They have also made repairs, attended trainings, and developed plans constituting how the books will be managed in anticipation of their arrival." To learn more about this "Turning the Page" project check out the description at <https://donate.peacecorps.gov/donate/project/turning-the-page-books-for-madagascar/>





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.

I am still 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.

WCPCA Book Club

May 12 from 6:30 - 8:30 PM at the home of Dale Morse. His address can be found in the WCPCA directory. Please bring a snack.

Is Madagascar on your bucket list of trip destinations and you can't quite find the time or money to go? Here's an easy way.....Journey with the book club to Madagascar all in one evening.

The book is Souvenirs de Nancy: A Peace Corps Martyr by Nancy Coutu and edited by her family. Nancy unfortunately died while in the Peace Corps but her family picked up the story of her time in the Peace Corps through her journals and wrote this book. Nancy began her PC service in 1994 and after training lived in a village of 350 people without running water or electricity. Her journal was filled with really funny life situations as she took on the project of rebuilding the village school. Reviewer say the book is captivating.

Come and join in the always entertaining conversation.



Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Pub Night

Where:

Beer Garden

777 W. 6th Ave.

Eugene OR 97402

When:

Friday, May 20th 2016 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Come socialize with other RPCVs for our monthly pub night!

Upcoming Peace Corps Connect Annual Conference

(article suggested by Dorothy Soper)

Peace Corps Beyond — September 21-25, 2016

Peace Corps Connect is the Peace Corps community's annual conference hosted by the National Peace Corps Association and its affiliate groups to connect, engage and inspire our community.

At this year's conference – Peace Corps Beyond – we look forward to celebrating 55 years of Peace Corps and the limitless potential of our community to continue to affect change.

Over the past 55 years, our community has had a profound impact, both at home and abroad. In addition to celebrating these achievements, Peace Corps Beyond will look to the future.

The conference will highlight work being done by our community members and partner organizations and explore how through increased collaboration we can continue to champion Peace Corps ideals.

This is a new era for the Peace Corps community and the NPCA.

With recent developments at NPCA, including advances in technology, more – and stronger – partnerships with like-minded organizations and an increasingly connected community we have unprecedented capacity as an organization and as a community to make an impact. You are invited to be part of it.

Join us at Peace Corps Beyond.

<http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/community/annual-gathering/>



Food For Lane County

**Monday, May 23rd
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.**

Peace Corps Announces Major Changes to Application Process (July 2014) (article suggested by Dorothy Soper)

“Our former process was long and bureaucratic and cumbersome,” Hessler-Radelet said. “We feel that today’s applicants have career goals and have professional goals and they have strong opinions about where they want to serve. . . . We want to honor that as best we can.”

The Peace Corps will hope to avoid leaving potential volunteers in limbo, part of a package of changes that officials think will make the organization more appealing to the nation’s under-30 crowd.

For more information about the new application process:

<http://wpo.st/t5lX1>

Interested in getting more involved with WCPCA?

WCPCA is looking for someone to assist in the position of Membership Chair. This position maintains our membership database, and participates in board meetings. If you have been looking for a way to get more involved in WCPCA since finishing your Peace Corps service, this is a great opportunity.

Please contact Nicolette Ulrich at

membership@westcascadepca.org



Monthly Inspiration

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.

Mahatma Gandhi

Without community service, we would not have a strong quality of life. It's important to the person who serves as well as the recipient. It's the way in which we ourselves grow and develop.

Dorothy Height

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

