

# ReConnections

The Monthly Newsletter of the West Cascades Peace Corps Association

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

[www.facebook.com/RPCVEugene](https://www.facebook.com/RPCVEugene)

July 2016



## Peace Corps Calendars are Here!

by Gary Cornelius

It's like Christmas in July!

2017 Peace Corps calendars, produced annually by Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Madison, WI, were shipped this week to WCPCA. Madison sells calendars to PC groups everywhere to help them raise funds, to promote PC service and to educate Americans about developing countries.

Each month features a colorful photo, taken by a PC volunteer, in a country of service. The 2017 calendars feature Peru, Figi, Argentina, Uganda, The Gambia, Togo, Micronesia, Morocco, Ghana, Mongolia, Armenia and Indonesia.

In addition to educating about culture, the calendars include information about holidays in each country. Calendars are sold at WCPCA events or can be ordered directly from Gary Cornelius, calendar chairman, at [garycorn@quixnet.net](mailto:garycorn@quixnet.net), or by phone at 541-912-1518.

## Upcoming Events



## Oregon Country Fair

**Go visit the WCPCA  
booth!!!**

<http://www.oregoncountryfair.org/>

Calendars are \$12 each, or \$10 each if 5 or more are purchased. They can be shipped directly to recipients in the U.S. for \$15, which includes postage. They make great holiday gifts and help promote a unique and treasured organization.

WCPCA clears \$500 to \$600 each year by selling calendars. The money earned supports PC Partnership programs of Oregon volunteers in their countries of service, and other WCPCA expenses.

Gary Cornelius (So. Africa, 2012-13)



# Curry for a Cause Benefit

By WCPCA

WCPCA's fall fundraising event last year, Curry for a Cause, was such a success that we're doing it again this year, though it may have a different name depending on what ethnic food we decide to serve.

Last year's event netted close to \$2,000 and enabled us to make significant donations to projects of Oregon volunteers -- including a project of First Lady Michelle Obama's Let Girls Learn initiative -- through the Peace Corps Partnership Program (PCPP). We're currently exploring what project or projects to target this year. Peace Corps has partnered with the Let Girls Learn program to start and carry out projects to help educate some of the 62 million girls -- in developing countries worldwide -- who would benefit.

This year's event, scheduled for October 15th, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., will once again be held at Central Presbyterian Church at 15th and Patterson in Eugene. In addition to dinner, there will be entertainment, possibly a local group that performs Zimbabwean music, and the opportunity to further support WCPCA's work by buying t-shirts and 2017 calendars produced by the RPCV group of Madison, WI, adorned with photos from Peace Corps countries, taken by volunteers. This is another annual WCPCA fundraising project.

We've invited one of Oregon's congressional delegation to join us and speak.

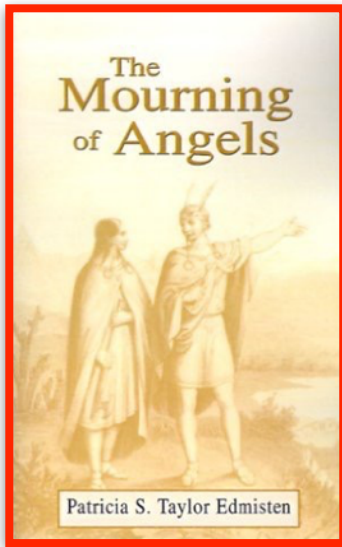
RPCVs who would like to help plan and carry out the dinner should contact Patty Mac Afee or Gary Cornelius of



## Hiroshima/ Nagasaki Commemoration

**August 6, 2016  
Alton Baker Park  
7:30 PM  
Luminaria Float at  
8:30 pm.**

**The event will include  
Mayor Piercy,  
reminding the public  
of the real dangers of a  
nuclear  
arsenal, and the Yujin  
Gakuen Children's  
Peace Choir.**



## WCPCA Book Club

**The book club is on a summer break but be sure to join us when we resume.**

**On Sept. 8, 2016 we'll be discussing *The Mourning of Angels* by Patricia Taylor Edmisten (Peru 1962-64). There's plenty of time to order it from Amazon and read it in time for the meeting. A great book to add to your summer reading list. Rolly Thompson will be hosting the group that begins at 6:30 PM. Enjoy your summer.**

29th, 3 p.m., at the Bier Stein at 16th and Willamette Street. Help will be needed for set-up, food preparation, serving and clean up; publicity; and ticket-taking and sales at the event.

## Peace Corps Budget and WCPCA

### Advocacy

By Juliet Bender

In response to a request from the National Peace Corps Association, the West Cascade Peace Corps Association sent the following letter to Senator Merkley to encourage his leadership in supporting a budget of \$450 million budget for FY2017. The current budget is \$415 million, so this additional funding would, among other things, help increase the number of Peace Corps volunteers. We also invited him to speak at our fundraising dinner on October 15, 2016.

June 16, 2016

The Honorable Jeffrey Merkley  
United States Senate  
313 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-3705

Dear Senator Merkley:

On behalf of the West Cascade Peace Corps Association (WCPCA), we are writing to thank you for your support of the Peace Corps, and ask for your leadership in working with your colleagues on the State, Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee to support a budget of \$450 million for FY 2017.

WCPCA represents about 130 Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) living in the Southern Willamette Valley, especially around the Eugene-Springfield area. Our members represent all decades

of Peace Corps service - from the early 1960s to the 2010s. We understand that in FY15, more than 5,000 qualified applicants were turned away due to lack of funding. We are proud of our service and eager that more Americans get the opportunity to serve. An increase in funding would allow the Peace Corps to increase the number of Volunteers serving in more communities around the world.

Our Association is also active in contributing funds to Peace Corps projects organized by current Oregon Peace Corps volunteers serving around the world. Funds come from, among other sources, our annual fundraising dinner, which will be held on October 15, 2016. If your calendar allows, we would be honored to have you speak at this important event. Last year more than 170 people participated and we are hoping for an even larger turnout this year!

Finally, the University of Oregon in Eugene is one of the leading institutions in recruiting Peace Corps volunteers. WCPCA works closely with the campus Peace Corps recruiter to maintain this admirable record.

Thank you again for your leadership in working with your colleagues on the Subcommittee to provide the Peace Corps with the resources it needs to continue making an impact. A bigger, better Peace Corps is what America and the world need today!

Sincerely,

Julia Harvey

President, West Cascade Peace Corps Association

Juliet Bender

Vice President, West Cascade Peace Corps Association





# **PITCH, PUTT AND PIZZA AT ROARING RAPIDS**

By Wayne Thompson

Join us on Sunday, July 17 for a miniature golf tourney at Camp Putt, a course with 2 18 hole courses, located between Eugene and Springfield next to Roaring Rapids Pizza Company. The location is 4006 Franklin Blvd. Camp Putt is operated by Willamalane Park and Recreation District and is great fun for all ages. We receive special rates should our group have more than 12 which I assured them we would have. Cost is \$5 per person for 18 holes.

We are asked to be at the “golf course” by 3:30 with tee off times happening at 4:00 p.m. Prizes will be given to individual and partner winners after the tourney at the Roaring Rapids Pizza Company. For those not “golfing”, please join us at 6:00 p.m. at Roaring Rapids, located behind Camp Putt on the Willamette River in Glenwood where pizza, salads and beer are available. We can talk about that missed putt that cost someone the tourney or maybe that time you played golf while in the Peace Corps. Did that ever happen to you? We will also award the prizes which the winners must share with the rest of us.

Remember Sunday, July 17 at 3:30 for golf and 6:00 for pizza at Camp Putt and Roaring Rapids in Glenwood.

## **Future dates to remember:**

August picnic by the pool at the home of Bob Watada and Rosa Sakanishi in Pleasant Hill.

October winery evening at Sweet Cheeks vineyard in Crow

## **Miniature Golf Tourney**

**Camp Putt**

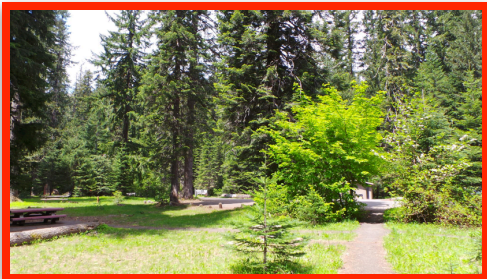
**July 17th**

**3:30PM**

**4006 Franklin Blvd.**

**Eugene OR**

**\$5 for 18 holes**



## August 12-14 Lost Prairie Campout

by Patty Mac Afee

**THERE IS STILL TIME . . . to sign up for the  
WCPCA Campout August 12-14, 2016**

**RESERVATIONS:** The first ten reservations received will secure a campsite; any reservation requests, after the first ten, will be on a wait list. Please make checks to WCPCA for the amount of \$30, mail to Patricia Mac Afee, PO Box 5022, Eugene 97405. Also include your phone number, email address, and number of people in your group.

**Lost Prairie Group Campground** is located 37 miles east of Sweet Home on Highway 20. It has ten sites, two sites can accommodate RVs 24 feet or less. Additional motor homes may use the paved parking lot. This campground was converted from individual sites to a group campground, so the tent sites have ample space. WCPCA has the entire campground reserved for August 12-14 (arriving August 12, leaving August 14 – two nights camping). There are vault toilets and no electricity.

**Things to do:** the campground is located near scenic hiking trails: Santiam Wagon Road, Cone Peak, Iron Mountain, Hackman old growth trail, and several others. Clear Lake is a twenty minute drive if people prefer boating.

**Meals:** Campers will be responsible for their own meals, except for a Saturday evening group meal. WCPCA will provide the fixings for the main dish.

### 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**

**See article for more  
details —>**





## **Idaho RPCV Northwest Regional Campout**

**When: August 11-14,  
2016**

**Where: Grayback  
Gulch Campground  
Who: Idaho Returned  
Peace Corps  
Volunteers**

**See article for more  
details —>**

## **Idaho Returned Peace Corps**

### **Volunteers Campout**

Come one, come all! The Idaho Returned Peace Corps is hosting a summer campout adventure of the likes you shall never forget. Continuing the tradition of gathering fellow RPCVs from the Northwest in a scenic natural setting for good times, this year's campout will be at Grayback Gulch Campground, just 36 miles northeast of Boise with reserved space available from Thursday - Monday August 11-14th.

Nestled among shady Ponderosa pines along the banks of Mores Creek in the scenic Boise National Forest with ample space for privacy and large group comradery, you are going to love it!

Stories will be shared, tasty food from around the globe shall be cooked upon open fires, mountain bluebirds will sing, rainbow trout will jump, stars will twinkle, and plans for the future will be discussed to make it all official. Families, friends, and pets are welcome. Please invite your fellow RPCVs from your country to come visit Idaho and catch up, the adventure is already planned for you!

Essentials:

Please check out more information and links on our Campout website – and check out the IRPCV webpage for calendar of summer events and link to newsletters as well: [Idaho RPCV Website](#)

Please register yourself and # guests for and the nights you believe you will be in attendance. This will help for planning and set up our camp email distribution list. Children may get in for free, or 2 for price of 1 depending on their size. Cost is \$10/day. This is basically to cover the site and group shelter reservation fee. We have lots of great spots booked, but please check in once you make it to camp.

**Schedule:**







## WCPCA T-Shirts for Sale!

**Picture yourself in our  
brand new West  
Cascade Peace Corps  
Association tshirt.  
You'll want to wear  
this comfortable and  
colorful  
shirt everywhere!  
They will be available  
at WCPCA events for  
\$20.**

**Thursday** – Pioneers set up camp and scout the area for danger and delight; prime site selection available to the enthusiastic early birds

**Friday** – More RPCVs come hither, day open for activity; mountain relaxation. Provide nourishment for you and your party. Fishing, hiking, swimming, go to the City – whatever you want!! Gather round the fire and make merry (if fire allowed by Smokey the Bear)

**Saturday** – open day, more plans to be hatched. OFFICIAL events –

**Afternoon (pre-supper) TBA** – Regional meeting of RPCV operatives (all welcome, attendance not required).

Update from Peace Corps, share group news & success stories, and make plans for future including campouts etc.

Peace Corps Calendars will be for sale!

Group potluck and party starts @ or around 6:00 PM. Share inspired dishes from around the world and enjoy a tasting contest. Think of something you made or learned in Peace Corps. Eat with your hands. Prepare a dish or side dish or dessert of your choice. Planning phase is still in progress.

It's a potluck my friends!

**Sunday - Monday** – open days to plan fun with your new and old friends. When leaving camp please clean up your site. Pack it in, pack it out as they say.

We hope that the open dates give everyone a chance to come to Fort Grayback Gulch for the number of nights their supplies and camping spirit will allow. The wisely and strategically selected, convenient location will serve as an excellent base of operations to explore the area. Trails, mighty rivers, historic Idaho City, natural hot springs, and a short cruise on the Ponderosa Pines Scenic Byway to Boise if you need to check up on the garden, parrot, or take a shower. For visitors afar, a night or two in the warm summer nights of Boise could be a delightful surprise combined with a mountain experience.

It's like coming into the Capitol city or market town from your remote Peace Corps site!! I dare someone to ride a bike! Maybe we should arrange an expedition?

See you there at the IRPCV event of the summer! Spread the word, we are working on contacting groups in Oregon, Washington, and Montana as well. If you've got contacts let us know.

Questions? Concerns? Bright Ideas? Please contact the planning team of site selector camp coordinator Chloe, camp registrar Connie, and miscellaneous duties Andy. Also big Thank You to Matt Anders for setting up the website and PayPal link.

irpcvpresident@gmail.com

andyjlong@hotmail.com

Connie1940@gmail.com

**Check out the New Peace Corps Website:**

**<https://www.peacecorps.gov/>**





## 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 meeting July 17th at 3PM at Camp Putt