

ReConnections

The Monthly Newsletter of the West Cascades Peace Corps Association

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September
2016



Come Join Us

Monday, September 26, 2016

It's September, which means our volunteer opportunity at Food for Lane County starts the fourth Monday in September. We package 'rescue' food from 6:00- 9:00PM. The food is then distributed to various locations, such as county food banks. Volunteers make up the bulk of workers at FFLC, and the food bank could not operate without this vital help. We've saved you a place! If you have questions, please contact Patty Mac Afee.

WCPCA Fundraising Dinner - Volunteers Needed

Mark your calendars! WCPCA will be holding our second 'Curry for a Cause' dinner in October. Last year's event was well-attended, but we want this year's event to be even bigger and more successful. To make that happen, we need your help with various tasks: selling tickets, spreading the word, and volunteering the day of the event. Below are details about the event.

Date: October 15, 2016

Time: 5:30-7:30pm

Upcoming Events and News



Fiesta Cultural

Lane Arts Council's
month-long series of
events celebrating
Latino art and culture
throughout Lane
County starts
September 2nd.

Join us for the kick-
off event during the
September 2nd First
Friday Art Walk.

[http://lanearts.org/fiesta-
cultural/](http://lanearts.org/fiesta-cultural/)

Place: Central Presbyterian Church, 555 E 15th Ave, Eugene

Tickets: \$15 for adults, \$5 for 10 years and younger

Entertainment: Kutsinhira (music from Zimbabwe)

Need for Volunteers: We have held two planning meetings and formed several committees with specific responsibilities.

If you are willing to volunteer for one of these committees on October 15, please contact the chair of that committee or Juliet Bender. We will also be asking the WCPCA membership to bring desserts, e.g., cookies or cupcakes.

Thank you in advance for your help with this fundraiser. All proceeds will go to Peace Corps Partnership projects sponsored by Oregon Peace Corps volunteers. Tickets can be purchased by Board Members.

Calling All Storytellers

By Juliet Bender

Mark your calendars! On Sunday, December 4, WCPCA will hold our first Story Slam at Tsunami Books. What is a Story Slam, you ask? A chance for you to tell a short story about an aspect of your Peace Corps experience. Sound like fun? Then join us!

Event: WCPCA Story Slam

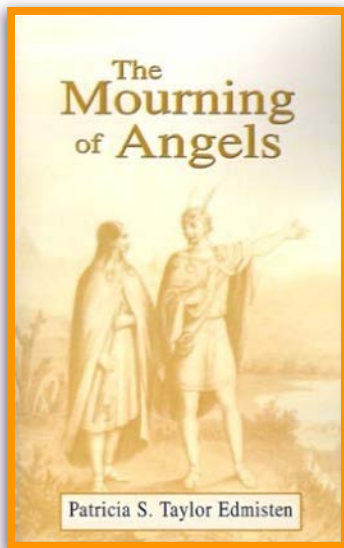
Date: December 4, 2016

Time: 3-5pm

Place: Tsunami Books, 2585 Willamette Street, Eugene

Theme: Memorable Holiday Moments

Since this event will occur around the holidays, the theme for the evening will be "Memorable Holiday Moments during Peace Corps". Storytellers will have 5-7 minutes to share their Peace Corps stories with the audience. Stories can be funny or poignant, and gifts will be given for best stories. If you are interested in being a storyteller, please get in touch with Juliet Bender at 936-520-3923 or at julietbender@aol.com.



More Info on September Book Club

Submitted by Josette Green

Patricia Edmisten is the author of the *The Mourning of Angels* which takes place in Peru. It captures the innocence of 1962 and 1963, before the Kennedy assassination, when many, swept up in the idealism of such a venture, joined the Peace Corps and journeyed to countries they'd never heard of, and when young women seized the opportunity for a kind of adventure that until then had almost solely been the purview of men. Lydia Schaefer, Edmisten's 23-year-old protagonist is from Milwaukee, Wisconsin and assigned to Peru. She is a tough, principled, sometimes provocative, but always emotionally receptive young woman, determined to do her job as a health care worker, first in Arequipa, and later in the coastal town of Ica.

MFA Degree in Creative Writing

Submitted by John Coyne

Do you want to earn your Master's Degree in Creative Writing while working full time or serving in the Peace Corps? You can enroll as a student and not have to step onto a college campus. Write your memoir or book about your Peace Corps experience while working full time.

Here's your chance to do it all.

NPCA is pleased to announce partnership with National University to offer a TOTALLY ONLINE Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree for Peace Corps Writers.

The inaugural program is slated to begin in Fall 2016. The initial coursework will focus on the Peace Corps experience and how students might develop that material into a memoir or non-fiction book.

TUITION IS APPROXIMATELY 20K

FINANCIAL AID IS AVAILABLE

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.

All are invited whether or not having read the book. Please bring a snack to share.



Upcoming Winery Event

**Sunday,
Oct. 2, 2-4 p.m. at
Sweet Cheeks
Vineyard.**

**The winery has
asked us to tell them
about how many they
will be
accommodating, so if
you plan to join us,
please drop an
email, or text, to Gary
at 541-912-1518.**

**Email is
garycorn@quixnet.net**

**A phone call would be
fine also.**

All classes are online. There are no classes on campus. The student controls his or her agency of time spend at the computer. Classes are one at a time for one-month or two-months in duration.

Learn More

If you are interested in learning more about the MFA program for Peace Corps Writers, contact the instructor, John Coyne (RPCV Ethiopia), directly at jcoyneone@gmail.com.

John is the editor of <http://peacecorpsworldwide.org> and author of 26 novels and non-fiction books, five of them on the Peace Corps. He will teach the first classes of the Peace Corps class.

Refugee Resettlement Coalition

Submitted by Indira Bakshi

The Refugee Resettlement Coalition of Lane County is looking for volunteer Arabic, Kurdish and Farsi interpreters and translators to help our first families periodically, as they settle into their new lives.

Please share this e-mail to contacts in the Eugene area or others who might be able to help, speak these languages or know someone who speaks these languages. We are looking for volunteers, but may also be able to pay a fee. Fundraising is underway to support the needs of refugees.

The Refugee Resettlement Coalition of Lane County (RRCLC) is a coalition of community volunteers who have banded together to support the Catholic Community services' newly-launched program to resettle refugees in Lane County. Working in concert with Catholic Community Services, our coalition will be supporting the ongoing resettlement of refugees who already have a family tie here in the area.



WCPCA T-Shirts for Sale!

**Picture yourself in our
brand new West
Cascades Peace Corps
Association t-shirt.
You'll want to wear
this comfortable and
colorful
shirt everywhere!
They will be available
at WCPCA events for
\$20.**

The Refugee Resettlement Coalition's English Language Learning committee's goal is to get these individuals into ELL classes, provide them with extra-curricular learning opportunities, and to locate appropriate translators for them. We would greatly appreciate your support with this effort.

Thank you very much for any help you can give to our resettlement effort. Please don't hesitate to contact me with ideas, thoughts and suggestions at: indirabakshiz@gmail.com or my lane e-mail.

You may also volunteer to help the effort or donate by visiting Catholic Communities Services website and follow links to the donation and volunteer applications.

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

<http://www.ccslc.org/refugee-resettlement-program/>

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1KmmQiZWbZthmHm8HlMKtYxa2DozoIk8zo8RvoAHAR3Q/viewform?c=0&w=1>



International Calendars are here!

**Calendars are sold at
WCPCA events or can
be ordered directly
from Gary Cornelius,
calendar chairman, at
garycorn@quixnet.net
or by phone at
541-912-1518.**

Tolerance, Freedom, and Peace

Poem by Julie R. Dargis (Morocco 1984-87)

Pitch with us tolerance, freedom and peace

In churches, synagogues, temples, and mosques.

Stand up with our friends at home and abroad.

Let respect choose the words we use wisely.

In Morocco, Mali, throughout Asia,

Eastern Europe, across the Middle East,

Peace Corps volunteers are welcome in homes.

We live together as one in global

Communities, Humanitarians

Working in Turkey, Greece, and Syria

Attest to the same. Islamophobic

Rhetoric, spinning in news cycles, is

Staining our communities with chatter.

Can you not hear all our cries to stand down?

Monthly Cartoons

By James Cloutier





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: Emily Fiocco, Columbia

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