



# ReConnections

The Monthly Newsletter of the West Cascades Peace Corps Association

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

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February 2017



## Latest WCPCA Donation

By Julia Harvey

WCPCA recently donated \$500 to Grassroots Soccer Skillz Girls Counterpart Training a Peace Corps Partnership Project proposed by an Oregon volunteer. The “project is a training for 25 Volunteer counterparts in girls' empowerment, reproductive health and malaria education. Through this five-day training, our counterparts will learn how to implement the Grassroots Soccer curricula referred to as SKILLZ Girl (girls' empowerment and reproductive health) as well as SKILLZ Malaria (malaria information). This education and empowerment given from the training will give our counterparts the ability to apply these curricula to run camps or after-school activities in our communities to educate girls. It is our hope to apply the information learned from this training to implement Grassroots Soccer camps or after-school activities within our respective volunteer communities during our service. Our counterparts are already strong leaders within our communities and this training will equip them with the necessary tools to be able to empower girls within our communities with soccer skills, self-confidence, reproductive health knowledge, as well as malaria knowledge through application of these curricula. With this knowledge, girls in our community will take away confidence, knowledge about reproductive health, knowledge regarding malaria, and will be able to make informed decisions to lead healthy lives.”

## Upcoming Events



### Pub Night Wednesday,

February 23rd, 6-8  
PM

Come to Peace Corps  
Pub night at the Falling  
Sky at the EMU at UO.

1395 University St. Rm  
#46 Eugene, OR 97403

Swap stories and  
socialize with other  
RPCVs.

## Regional Summer Campout

By Julia Harvey

Mark your calendars for July 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>. WCPCA will be hosting the 27<sup>th</sup> annual Summer Regional Campout. RPCVs will travel from Idaho, Seattle area, Spokane and Portland to join us at South Beach State Park. If you are interested in helping organize the event please contact Julia Harvey at [juliaannamariaharevy@gmail.com](mailto:juliaannamariaharevy@gmail.com).

## Anti-malarial Drugs

By Daniel Zwerdling

NPR seeks to interview RPCVs with negative experiences with Lariam. CRPCA's acting E-update Editor, Bill Stein, had two phone conversations this morning with National Public Radio investigative journalist Daniel Zwerdling, who asked to forward the following information request to Peace Corps networks.

I'm doing stories on the controversial history of mefloquine (the brand name used to be Lariam). Among other issues, I'm examining why the Peace Corps continues to use it widely, even though the US military has pretty much banned it. I've interviewed dozens of former volunteers, government officials, researchers at university medical centers in the US and Europe, and others. I'm actually putting the stories together now, but I'm always eager to chat with more people who took it, right up to when the pieces go on the air. I'm especially interested in chatting with folks who were in the Peace Corps in 1989-1993, as you were among the earliest mefloquine users in the Peace Corps. Could you ask them please to email me at [DZwerdling@npr.org](mailto:DZwerdling@npr.org) or call [202-513-2217](tel:202-513-2217).

Also, it'd be great if they feel like filling out this survey: <http://goo.gl/forms/Jlfvh5H3nY>  
We've received @2000 responses so far. Thank you!



## **BOOK CLUB**

**Thursday, March 23rd,  
2017, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM**

**Book: História, História:  
Two Years in the Cape  
Verde Islands, by Eleanor  
Stanford.**

**Host: Home of Patty  
MacAfee.**

**Where available:  
cclapcenter.com (free  
ebook) or Kindle store.  
All welcome regardless of  
whether you read or  
finished the book.**

## **RPCV's Desperate for YOUR Help**

By Patty MacAfee

Food for Lane County needs your help on the the 4th Monday of each month. Come package rescue food with other RPCVs, give back to our community, and meet new friends.

6:00-8:30PM. Please contact Patty MacAfee if you have questions.

## **RPCVs Needed for Peace Corps Week Event!**

By Nicolette Ulrich

Hello RPCVs,

I hope this email finds you all well. Here at the University of Oregon, we are always thinking of new and interesting ways to connect with our students. This year we are celebrating Peace Corps Week 2017 with an event that shows off many of the amazing communities we've worked in. The theme for Peace Corps this year is Highlighting Hospitality and our event on campus will be complimenting that idea.

From 5-7pm on Wednesday March 1st Peace Corps at the University of Oregon will be hosting an "open house" event called Family Far and Wide where students can come and enjoy stories, music, food and a short video about hospitality in Peace Corps counties. I'd like to have at least 6 countries represented during this event and as a RPCV I'd ask that you come and be ready to talk about your Peace Corps country. In addition, we'd love for you to bring a food item that may (or may not) be representative of that country. It will be an open event, so even if you can only come to some of it, I'd still be interested in your assistance.

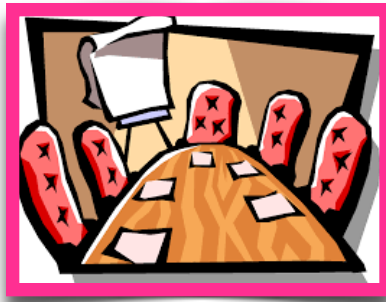
If you have any questions, need more information, or are interested in volunteering, please do not hesitate to email me at [pcorps@uoregon.edu](mailto:pcorps@uoregon.edu)

Nicolette Ulrich

Peace Corps Campus Recruiter

University of Oregon

Returned Volunteer, Senegal 2011-2013



### **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: Amanda Robinson,  
South Africa**

### **Members at large:**

**James Cloutier, Kenya 1964-1966**

**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)**