



# Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Oregon/Portland

December 1992

Volume 11  
Number 11

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## RPCVs Of Oregon Assist OPB With Pledge Drive

When: Sunday December 13, 7:00 to 11:15

Where: Oregon Public Broadcasting  
7140 S.W. Macadam Ave.  
Portland, OR

For the second year, our RPCV group will be helping Oregon Public Broadcasting with their winter pledge drive. We will be answering phones during the Pavarotti Christmas Special as well as other programs. In between pledge breaks, we will have dinner provided for us from a local restaurant. Last year we had lots of fun and at the same time got the word out about the existence of RPCVs of Oregon...not to mention fame from the TV exposure.

Tune in and watch your fellow RPCVs support "TV worth watching." We still need a few alternates in case we have last-minute cancellations. Call JoAnn von Rohr at 282-1721 if you are interested.



## BRENDA'S CORNER

Hello everyone. By the time this reaches your hands, holiday preparations will be well underway. I hate to say it, because it's so worn out, but I can hardly believe how quickly time flies by. It will soon be 1993. As a little girl, during that special program Walter Cronkite narrated (no, not the evening news!), something about the 21st century, I remember trying to figure out how old I'd be in the year 2000. I remember wondering if I'd be alive to see it at that ancient age. Well, I won't keep you guessing, I'll be 44. At this point, I figure I mostly likely will be around, but I'm not projecting that far ahead. The truth is, I wonder what lies ahead during the first quarter of '93. Much beyond that, my mental capacities simply short-out then shut down from overload. Lordy. While I patiently wait to hear from the Seattle Peace Corps office about a recruiter position I've applied for, I'm working at Meier and Frank, Lloyd Center in Customer Service. So, if you happen to be in the vicinity, stop in on the 4th floor and say hello. I'd love to see a familiar face. Any words of inspiration for my tired old feet would be appreciated. What IS it tired old feet want to hear anyway? Poetry, I suspect. Poetry that rhymes, no doubt.

On Thursday evening, November 19th, at about 7:15 p.m. a bunch of very important people met at Dick and Joan Swee's house for a top secret business meeting (most of us were CIA agents anyway). Dick had a few pieces of business: we discussed what to do about returned mail (like when newsletters come back, etc.) and we discussed sending our newsletter overseas to members no longer in the USA. Mike would like some PCVs in the field to get our publication; it'd be great if they'd write an article for us. If you know of some Peace Corps Volunteers that might like to get the newsletter contact Johan von Rohr and give her the addresses.

Dick gave us a brief and favorable overview of our group's financial status. In a nutshell, in case you wondered, we're doing OK. Generally speaking, we maintain a pretty consistent \$1000-1500 balance in our checkbook. Our 1993 group affiliation fees are due now to the National Council. We pay \$1.00 per member to our "parent" organization, the National Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers in Washington, DC. I signed the official form and Dick will send it to DC along with our check.

Geoff Greenfield, an RPCV from Zaire contacted us about "co-convening" a news conference at Powell's on Dec. 17th. Its purpose is to promote the release of UNICEF's report card on the world, entitled "State of the World's Children Report." The Portland chapter of RESULTS, a non-partisan citizens' lobby for the end of hunger, will host the news conference. The 1993 report announces a drastic reduction in the number of daily, preventable child deaths in our world primarily through UNICEF's efforts to immunize children against killer diseases like measles, tetanus, and polio. Results is based in Washington D.C and has 120 groups in 7 countries. In the USA, RESULTS has over 90 groups in 40 states. If you'd like more information, and/or wish to represent our group on the 17th at Powells, please call Geoff at 224-2487 or Jacki Richey at 244-2187. More about this in an up-coming issue...(The news conf. is scheduled for 10 a.m.)

Our attentions then turned to calendar sales and the resulting profits. We decided to donate \$500 to SOAR, Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees. A further description of this local group can be found on the next page. Do you have a suggestion for a worthy group/organization for next year's profits? Please let us know.

We will be tree-planting on Saturday February 20. Make a note of it on your calendar. I'll be calling each of you to ask you to participate. 150 trees are scheduled to be planted in the Piedmont neighborhood in north Portland. You will need boots, gloves, warm clothes, and shovels if possible. "Friends of Trees promotes community partnerships to plant, care for, and preserve urban trees in order to strengthen neighborhoods, create a healthy environment and enhance the quality of urban life." I say

planting trees is an act of love, respect and admiration for Mother Earth and for each other. Let's join hands, work hard (briefly), do good, and have fun together. Amen.

The NW Regional Meeting will be held in Portland on Saturday, January 30th. Looks like we'll meet at Madison High School if arrangements can be made. Watch this space for the definitive word next month. Come, why don't 'cha? Mike is donating the wad of money made from the West African Pigout to Friends of Liberia. Perhaps Seattle and Eugene would consider matching our funds? We'll lay the proposal on the table at the Regional meeting for their perusal. Lastly, we had a conversation about "Development Education" generally and specifically about whether a Development Education Committee exists within our group. Gabriella's interest has not waned but neither can she do it all on her own, by herself. Are you sure you're much too busy to commit yourself? I only put it like that because the alternate approach hasn't worked. You know, the one where we ask you to call us if your interested in leading, helping, volunteering... Am I missing something? Well, in the end, we decided to continue doing the best we can with what/who we have. As for the Program Coordinator, we now have a committee! Charlene's our hostess, Pat Greendale is our reporter and Margie Hazelton is our "head hunter" i.e., she calls people and invites them to be our guest speaker.

On December 13th, we'll do the OPB thing again. Call JoAnn von Rohr if you'd like to participate, although most people signed up at the Waite's Pigout. That's about it from me. Here's wishing you All the Best in '93: Love, Peace, Hope, Prosperity (employment), and most importantly: Faith. Keep the Faith, Baby. May The Force be with you.

### 1993 Calendar Sales *SOAR*

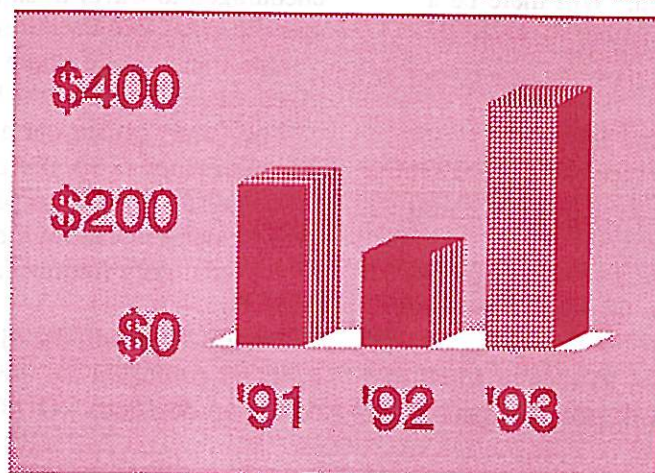
Our annual fundraiser has reached new heights this year with sales of 122 calendars and profits of \$397 as of this writing (I have 3 left unsold). Compare this with profits of \$260 and \$150 for '91 and '92 calendars. Success this year was due in part to lower costs and very eager RPCVs at three monthly meetings.

#### SOAR

Our steering committee has voted to use this year's calendar profits to donate \$500 to Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees (SOAR). SOAR is part of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and through its Portland and Boise offices works with sponsors to relocate and settle refugees in the region. SOAR also has case managers that assist refugees with housing, finding work and legal matters. (My wife Teresa has been working with SOAR as a volunteer attorney assisting two Haitian refugees with their applications for political asylum). If you would like to make an additional donation to SOAR, the address is 5404 NE Alameda, Portland 97213.

*Jerry Porter*

*Calendar Profits*



# RPCV NEWS

## Potluck In January

The next monthly potluck will be held at Charlene Holzworths home on Sunday, January 17. A presentation will be given by Jan Trzil on the Earth Summit conference that she attended this last summer. A business meeting will be held at 4:00, the potluck at 5:00, and the presentation will begin around 6:00.

## Pigout II

Once again a number of people crossed over the Columbia River to partake in the delights of Liberian food. We lost track of the number of people attending but it was around 40. What was remarkable was the distance that many traveled. Four members of the Eugene RPCV group came. A friend of ours from our Peace Corps days came up from Eureka, California for the second year. However the "It's a small world" award goes to Bob Wescom, a friend who was in my forestry group when I was a PCV. Bob was on leave from his forestry job in Guam and in Gresham when he decided to give me a call on the day of the Pigout. It didn't take much to talk Bob into coming over for a little Palm butter that night. Two other awards worth mentioning. The "still on Liberian Standard Time" goes to Shirley Forsberg" who showed up about 15 minutes after the last guest had left. The "honesty in dining award" goes to Debbie Okham, a non RPCV who admitted that she stopped on the way home for a bottle of Pepto Bismal.

\$159.00 in profits was raised during the Pigout. \$100.00 will be going to the Friends of Liberia. The remainder is going into newsletter expenses and for development of a clipart collection which can be sold to other groups. As for the hosts it was fun visiting with friends and meeting new people. And we always enjoy Liberian food. Will there be a pigout next year? Well, stay tuned. *Mike & Mary Lynn Waite*

## Health Insurance for Disabled RPCVs

Senator Cranston has introduced a bill (S.3301) to assure access to health insurance for RPCVs who contact illness or injuries during service. Unfortunately, it is too late for action during this session of Congress, but other legislators are ready to introduce it again next year.

The bill will entitle disabled RPCVs to enroll in a federal employees health benefit plan. To qualify

under the proposed legislation, an RPCV must be eligible for FECA (Federal Employees Compensation Act) benefits because of a Peace Corps related illness or injury and he or she must be denied coverage by two commercial insurance companies at standard rates. Most other Federal employees are already entitled to this benefit.

Additional funding is requested in the bill so that existing Peace Corps programs are not diminished by the costs of this new program.

Your support will be needed to make this great idea become law! Further details about how you can help will follow when the bill is reintroduced in the next session.

Ed George of Peace Corps Partners proposed the resolution supporting this legislation to the annual meeting at Fayetteville in July. Peace Corps Partners, a National Council affiliate, worked closely with Senator Cranston's office in the development of this legislation. They offer assistance to RPCVs with Peace Corps related disabilities and can be reached at 800-925-RPCV.

### New Members

Gillian Hibbs	Paraguay	1989-91
Joanne Wu	Philippines	1989-90
	Zaire	1990-91
Joanne was evacuated from both countries		

## Humor from Poland

The pre-service training for summer of 1991 was held outside of Warsaw. During this training for Poland 3, the TEFL trainees were given time and money to take a trip "out in Poland" They were encouraged to travel in small groups and to seek out specific areas that they were interested in.

One trainee went home to his host family and asked where they thought he should go.

The family pulled out a map of Poland, and for fifteen minutes or so, discussed loudly the positive aspects of a dozen or so places. The trainee heard familiar name: Drakow, Gdansk, Poznan, and some new words: gory (mountains) and Mazuri (the lake district).

Finally, however, the discussion ended, and to avoid all confusion the united family wrote out their collective decision: YOU GO TO HEL.

Hel is the name of the town at the end of the long peninsula that defines the bay of Gdansk, a picturesque spot with beaches.

Or so the trainee learned when they pointed it out on the map.

*From Re-Connections- the West Cascade Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Newsletter.*

### **Peace Corps Armenia Signing**

Peace Corps Director Elaine L. Chao and Armenian Deputy Prime Minister Bagratian signed an agreement establishing the first Peace Corps program in Armenia during a ceremony Thursday, September 24, at the U.S. State Department. The Armenian government has requested assistance with English teaching methodology, curricula and educational resources. Peace Corps Volunteers will also assist in privatization efforts, economic development and planning, and small enterprise consulting. "Nurturing small business development and entrepreneurship is critical as Armenia struggles to convert to a free market economy," said Director Chao. "The business and English skills Peace Corps will provide give Armenia information and technical resources vital for the country's growth and stabilization." The agreement was signed within a day of the first anniversary of Armenia's independence, which was declared on September 23, 1991. Armenia joined the Commonwealth of Independent States on December 21, 1991. The country is still recovering from the 1989 earthquake, which left 500,000 people homeless and which severely damaged half of the schools in the country.

Forty Volunteers are scheduled to arrive in Armenia in December. They will join groups of Volunteers already serving in Russia, Ukraine, and the Baltic nations of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia.

### **Peace Corps Tonga 25th Anniversary**

On October 10, Peace Corps celebrated its 25th anniversary of service in the Kingdom on Tonga. The first Volunteers who served in Tonga in 1967 worked primarily as teachers and highly skilled health workers. Since then, the Kingdom of Tonga has expanded its requests to include teacher training, agricultural research and extension, marine biology, forestry, youth development and rural development. Additionally, secondary and elementary education programs in the country now include math, science, English language training and industrial arts. In celebration of the anniversary, Peace Corps staff, Volunteers, and Tongan nationals held a week long festival from October 5-10. The initial festivities took place on the main island with theme days such

as "U.S.A. Day," which had activities and exhibits of American culture from different parts of the United States, and "Volunteer Day," where the community worked on a number of environmental and service projects. The festivities peaked with a formal ceremony attended by the Tongan Crown Princess. Later, the Tongan Crown Prince joined the dinner celebration and presented Peace Corps Country Director Vinette Jones with a traditional Tapa cloth. Thirty returned Volunteers who had served in Tonga returned to the island to attend the celebration. Today, the 54 Peace Corps Volunteers and 15 staff members represent the only physical U.S. presence in the Kingdom on Tonga.

### **Southern Africa Drought Relief Efforts**

The Peace Corps recently signed an important agreement with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which provided funds to enable Peace Corps to assist with emergency drought relief projects in southern Africa. The ten nations of southern Africa are suffering through the worst drought in one hundred years. A recent United Nations report said that "with less than fifty percent of average crop yields anticipated during 1992-93, at least 18 million people face the specter of starvation, even famine." There will be no other source of food until the harvest season of March or April. Peace Corps is responding to this crisis by sending Volunteers with expertise in areas such as geo-hydrology, mechanics, and computers to the drought-stricken area. The first Volunteers will arrive in Namibia where they will help to maintain rural water supplies and train Namibians in food distribution logistics. Volunteers in Lesotho will assist rural communities in constructing water catchment systems and drilling additional horizontal wells. This assistance will be invaluable over the next few months in the continuing effort to distribute food and water to all parts of southern Africa.



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## CALENDAR

- Dec. 13** OPB Pledge Drive
- Dec. 17** UNICEF "State of the World's Children Report." Powells Bookstore
- Jan. 17** Business Meeting 4:00. Potluck and Earth Summit Conference, 5:00
- Jan. 30** Regional RPCV meeting. Madison High School, Portland.
- Feb. 20** Treeplanting in Piedmont neighborhood in North Portland. 9:00-12:00
- July or Aug?** RPCV Regional Campout, Wallowa Lake
- June 30** Peace Train leaves.
- July 1-4** National RPCV Conference. Berkeley, California.
- July 1994** National RPCV Conference. Alanta Georgia

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OF OREGON/PORTLAND**  
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