



Western Montana RPCV News

December 2010

VOLUME 19 NUMBER 4

Upcoming Events

**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 18
Potluck/Christmas
Party, 525 Fairview
6:00 PM**

**MARCH 1, 2011
PEACE CORPS'
50TH BIRTHDAY**

**JUNE 10, 11 & 12!!!!
2011!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Goat Chase Retreat
Flathead Lake!!!!**



Halloween group photo at Mary's place.

From the President

Dennis C. Bangs (Ecuador 70-72)

Another year is coming to a close for the Western Montana Returned Volunteers. One of the end of the year highlights was our participation in the University of Montana Homecoming Parade. Thanks to Tenly Snow (Senegal 2007-09), the Peace Corps Rep. on the UofM Campus for making that happen, and a big thank you to all of the enthusiastic people who made signs and joined in the festivities on the day of the parade. It was great for the community to see the positive energy of the local Returned Volunteers. And for me, and I assume the other participants, it was fun to be recognized by the community.

Thanks also goes out to Mary Younger (Cameroon 1974-76) for hosting the Halloween potluck. A good time was had by all.

Now for wrapping up this year and getting along with the new one, I want to remind everyone of the photo-history project we are working on and remind you that the deadline for getting the photos and information to Kat is the first of January. I know some of you have sent stuff in, but our goal is to get as large of a representation of the first 50 years of Peace Corps as we can, so I encourage everyone to participate. The details of the project can be found on the next page.

On another note for the 50th anniversary, the NPCA is having a lot of events around the country to celebrate the historic year. One of the things is they are encouraging people to join the NPCA by offering a free one year membership to anyone who has never been a member before. Your national membership fee also includes membership in a local group like ours, so if you have never been a member of NPCA, now would be a good time to check it out. The website is <peacecorpsconnect.org>. Happy holidays.

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The WMRPCV Newsletter is published quarterly by and for the non-profit Western Montana Returned Peace Corps Volunteers.

All dues paying members receive a copy and are encouraged to participate in it's creation by sending comments, articles or other submissions to Dennis Bangs 1729 North Ave. West, Missoula, MT 59801, <wmrpcv@yahoo.com>

All newly returned volunteers will receive two free copies before they are requested to join.

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WMRPCV WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS.

Travis Bays who was in Costa Rica and now lives in Costa Rica.
Betsy Cincoski from Missoula who was in The Dominican Republic.
Diana Frick from Helena who was in Gambia.
Elaine Grimm from Washington DC who was in Niger.
Collin McCoy from Helena who was in Guyana.
Samuel Rankin from Billings who was in India.



50 years of Peace Corps through the eyes of Western Montana RPCVs

At our August potluck we decided to create a photo exhibit celebrating the 50th anniversary of Peace Corps through the images and memories of the western Montana returned Peace Corps volunteers. Kat Barry (Ecuador 00-03) has volunteered to compile it. Based on the discussions at the last potluck, and subsequent comments from numerous people this is what we came up with.

We want to show in pictures and words a comprehensive history of Peace Corps through the memories of our members. We won't be able to have a representative of every year but we would like to have as many years as possible covered.

We want to have the exhibit ready for the 1st of March 2011, which is the official anniversary date. The format will be a computer generated slide show which would

be able to shown on a video monitor, slide screen or TV with a DVD player. The venues of where and how to display the exhibit can be worked out later but for now we need the photos and text. Kat is going to put it together and following is a brief description of the project and what she needs from each of you.

Like always any input from anyone else is encouraged.

We will do two main projects for the 50th anniversary.

- A poster with a timeline of the last 50 years, what WMRPCV locals have served and where, and their photos. The poster will explain the exhibit and welcome people
- A digital slideshow of about a half hour which will be set up on a monitor to continuously cycle during the exhibit.

From volunteers we need:

1. 2 photos of each volunteer, one during service of you at your most Peace Corpish. One current photo. These will be cropped to face shots for the timeline poster.
2. Your name, years and country of service.
3. Up to 10 of your peace corps photos in digital jpg format. Printed photos can be scanned at Wal-Mart, Kinko's, or Staples. Kat can also help with this if necessary. Dennis has a slide converter if you have slides.
4. A paragraph of 25 to 50 words about your Peace Corps experience, Peace Corps in general or the 10 photos you submitted, Be brief, this will be edited for space.
5. The photos, text and info should all be emailed to Kat <barrygirl7@yahoo.com> together to make sure it stays in the correct group.
6. The deadline for getting this material to Kat is Jan 1, 2011, but as soon as possible is better.
7. Other ideas welcome.



National Peace Corps Association

A message to all members of Connected Peace Corps

Dear Peace Corps Ning Community
Member,

As our community prepares for the 50th Anniversary of the Peace Corps, we at the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) want to make sure as many RPCVs as possible are included in this historic celebration. Our members will be the first to

receive updates about 50th Anniversary events and will be offered special opportunities.

NPCA is extending a free year of membership in the National Peace Corps Association for all current Peace Corps volunteers and returned volunteers that have not been members of NPCA in the past.

Do you qualify?

If you don't qualify for the complimentary membership, please join and/or make a donation to our general fund to ensure your participation in the 50th Events and the continuation of NPCA's programs, such as this online social networking platform.

Your support and participation help make us a more vibrant community that carries on the legacy of the Peace Corps!

Best,

Emily Bello (RPCV Benin '02-'04)
National Peace Corps Association
emily@peacecorpsconnect.org

P.S. Whether you served in the '60's, 80's, 00's or in between, we'd love to have you as a full member of the NPCA Peace Corps community. It's not too late to join us for the Peace Corps 50th Anniversary year!
Visit Connected Peace Corps at: http://community.peacecorpsconnect.org/?xg_source=msg_mes_network

It's here! NPCA Launches 50th Anniversary Calendar and Site

Want to find an event near you for the 50th Anniversary of the Peace Corps? Need people to attend your event?

Starting now, you can visit the NPCA / Peace Corps 50th Anniversary Calendar of Events at <http://peacecorps50.org>. Keep track of all of the exciting, meaningful, fun celebrations happening around the world during the Peace Corps 50th Anniversary year. Don't forget to add your own events on the calendar!

Today we're also launching NPCA's special 50th Anniversary page. In addition to a link to the calendar, you'll find special blog posts and 50th anniversary "tweets." Bookmark <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/50/>.

Make a gift to the 50th Anniversary Fund

The 50th Anniversary belongs to each one of us and it is off to an exciting start. Did you miss the University of Michigan events in early October? Please join us for the next National Peace Corps Association (NPCA), Peace Corps 50th event, the Global House Parties – March 1, 2011. You can start your 50th celebration by becoming a host or attending a party. To find out more about this event, check out the NPCA House Party toolkit.

Are you planning to travel to Washington, DC? Make September 22-25, 2011 your weekend to visit the nation's capital. NPCA is planning an exciting menu of events for this weekend. Unlike in years past, all but one event will be free and open to the public. To be as inclusive as possible we are relying on community members like you to help us meet our event goal of \$250,000. We will reach our goal if every person in the community makes a \$50 donation. Help make this a moment to remember. Make a gift of \$50 for the 50th today!

Thank you to all of you who have already made a gift to the 50th!



The following is from Cammy Swanson, whom we met at last spring's NOM party. She writes a blog about her Peace Corps Moldova experiences at <www.eachmile.wordpress.com>

**I'm Going to be Okay.
November 9, 2010 by eachmile**

Another Peace Corps volunteer once shared with me his strategy of surviving the difficult days or awkward moments of life in a foreign country: pretend you are the star of your own comedy TV show. It wasn't an extremely difficult day, but last Monday would have made for a classic episode.

I was sitting in the office of my NGO trying to plan for the first meeting of my volunteer youth group which would take place later that afternoon when I walked Profesoara Ana. (If you remember, Profesoara Ana is a good friend of my very first host mother and the woman who found my new host family.) She was excited that I had found a new host family, but she also wanted me to meet another potential host family before I moved. Without a moment for me to think, Profesoara Ana grabbed my jacket and motioned for me to meet a young girl standing in the hallway. The girl took my arm, led me outside, and stated we were going to her house to eat lunch. It was all quite random.

We arrived at the house after a 15 minute walk through the village, and the young girl's mother opened the door dressed all in black. The mother explained that there had recently been a death in the family. (Can you see where this is going???) Apparently, the grandmother had been living with the family for many years in a paralyzed state and had just passed away within the week. I was informed that I would have the grandmother's room which hadn't been changed since her death. (Of course, though, the grandmother was no longer there.) The room had the feeling and smell of sickness. It was all a little much to take in.

We sat down to eat and lit candles to honor the grandmother's presence in the house. After a few minutes of small talk, there was a knock on the door and two older women entered to pay their respects to the mourning family. One of the older women started yelling my name and came over to give me a big hug. As she hugged me quite gregariously, she spilt some of the food bowls from the table unto my lap including my cup of tea. (Enter laugh track) I didn't recognize her at first in the dark room, but it turned out to be one of the librarians in the village who I visit quite often. She saw the wet stains on my pants from the cup of tea and asked in a serious voice if I had gone "pee-pee". I finally felt it was appropriate to break out a smile as she started laughing at her own joke. The librarian then spent the next 30 minutes explaining how the deceased woman was one of her best friends and how perfect it would be if I took over the room and slept in her friend's old bed because she (the librarian) considered me her friend as well.

I had planned to spend the afternoon in the office planning a meeting NOT eating lunch with a mourning family I had not met before or being offered the bedroom of their late grandmother. The "Where am I" thought crossed my mind, and a part of me wanted to look around for the hidden camera of my television show as if it were all just a big joke.

I finally managed to leave the mourning/lunch and mumbled something about Peace Corps not being able to approve housing situations with recent family deaths. With 15 minutes to go before my first volunteer youth group was to start, I ran/jogged through the village and made it just in time for the meeting. As I started to introduce myself to the group of students, I looked down and saw the food stains still on my clothing..... (Camera zooms in on my amused/confused facial expression and screen goes black).

Don't forget!! This is our only fundraiser of the year and we still have quite a few left to sell. Get yours for your family and friends now!!!



**Western Montana Returned Peace Corps Volunteers
Help plant the seeds for peace 365 days a year...**

The funds raised from the sale of the International Calendars developed by the Madison, Wisconsin RPCV group are directly donated to a variety of local and International humanitarian endeavors. If you have a project you would like considered, please contact us at wmrpcv.com. Cost is \$12 per calendar – shipping and handling included. Please complete the order form below and send it with your check payable to “WMRPCVs” to:

Mary Younger, WMRPCV treasurer
100 Erika Court
Missoula, MT 59803

2011 International Calendar Order

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ email _____

Please send me ____ calendar(s) @ \$12 each (shipping included)

Enclosed is my check for \$_____, payable to “WMRPCVs”.



1729 North Avenue West
Missoula, MT 59801

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN WMRPCV OR NPCA

Name: _____
Address: _____ City _____ Zip _____
Phone: _____ E-mail _____
Peace Corps country of service _____ Years _____
Peace Corps job title _____

*****Membership dues expire in June of each year unless you are an NPCA member through the Western MT RPCVs.*****

WMRPCV only, \$15.00 _____
National Peace Corps Association, includes WMRPCV \$50.00 _____
WMRPCV Student/Low Income \$7.50 _____
Free membership to all serving Peace Corps Volunteers – This membership, good for service term plus one year after COS, can be activated online by PCVs in the field. _____
First time free - Any RPCV who has never been a member before may join for one year for free. _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE WESTERN MONTANA RPCVs and send to:
Mary Younger, 100 Erika Court, Missoula, MT 59803**