



Western Montana RPCV News

December 2012

VOLUME 21 NUMBER 4

Upcoming Events

DECEMBER 15

**Christmas Party/
potluck 6 PM at
Jim and Melissa's
525 Fairview**

JANUARY 26

**January potluck at
Russ and Shannon's.
236 Dixon, 6 PM**

**JUNE 14, 15 & 16!!!!
2013!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Goat
Chase Retreat
Flathead Lake!!!!**

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Part of the African contingent at Julie's September potluck . From right to left. Chris Siegler (Sierra Leone 68-70), Jeff Shryer (Botswana 88-90), Don Gisselbeck (Sierra Leone 78-81) and Pat Sweeney (Lesotho 86-88)

From the President

Dennis C. Bangs (Ecuador 70-72)

As the end of the year approaches it is time for the WMRPCV community to recognize our recent activities and look forward to the upcoming events. The homecoming parade was held earlier this year so we had good weather for it and had a good turnout. October saw the Halloween Party/potluck at Mary Younger's (Cameroon 74-76). Thanks Mary for a great party, as always.

We decided not to have a potluck in November because of Thanksgiving but are all looking forward to the Christmas party at Jim and Melissa's on the 15th.

Thanks to Brad Haas, the representative for Peace Corps on campus, for arranging a meeting with Erin Erickson the recruiter from the Seattle office in September. It was a short meeting but gave me the opportunity to connect with her.

Also thanks to the people who spoke at the C.S. Porter middle school about living in a third world country.

Finally, don't forget we still have some calendars to sell and we hope to see many of you at the Christmas Party at Jim and Melissa's on the 15th.

The Western Montana RPCVs welcome the following new members:

Teresa Schnur From Lewiston who was in Senegal

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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Peace Corps Family Album

For those of you who were at Tony and Michelle's potluck this July you might want to know the progress of Ernie Zaremba's project. For those of you who weren't there, Ernie and his wife have been traveling the country collecting video interviews of former Peace Corps Volunteers to put up on YouTube. It is called 'Peace Corps Family Album'.

As of now he has over 150 videos categorized by country. You can just go to YouTube and write in Ernie Zaremba in the search window and scroll through the country you are interested in. You might even find yourself. but even more importantly you might find someone who you haven't seen for years. Happy viewing.

NPCA member group letter to President Obama

I am sharing with everyone the text of a letter that the advocacy branch of the NPCA drafted and asked member organizations to sign on to. As of the first week of December more than 100 affiliated groups had signed on.

December 1, 2012
Dear Mr. President,

As representatives of _____ member groups of the Peace Corps community, we congratulate you on your re-election and offer our best wishes to you and Vice President Biden in leading our nation forward.

As you begin your second term, we respectfully request the following:

- Provide the highest level of funding possible for the Peace Corps in your Fiscal Year 2014 budget request.
- Nominate a new Peace Corps Director who will continue to build upon recent progress within the agency.

We firmly believe our nation leads best when we pursue a foreign policy that prioritizes a peaceful resolution of potential conflicts built on a foundation of collaboration, friendship and understanding. These ideals are central to the spirit and mission of Peace Corps service.

On Peace Corps Funding: We proudly and passionately urge you to provide the highest level of funding possible for the Peace Corps in your Fiscal Year 2014 budget. While our nation faces significant fiscal challenges, we believe recent progress within the Peace Corps must be sustained and advanced.

- As you know, under your leadership, Peace Corps volunteers and trainees in the field climbed to 9,000, while minority placement reached 20% for the first time.
 - As you also know, a Peace Corps Volunteer overseas is an American citizen with a cost-effective job, obtaining tremendous skills that benefit our nation. We need look no further than the impact Peace Corps played in the life of Ambassador Chris Stevens to understand the long term benefits Peace Corps service provides to our nation.
- *The supply of Peace Corps applicants and the many unmet requests for more volunteers remains high, further demonstrating the value of and desire for the Peace Corps. Moving our nation forward must include a robust Peace Corps program.

At a time of enormous change in the world, it is ever more crucial that peoples across the globe understand our nation. There is no better or more enduring way to communicate American values and ideals than through the engagement of our citizens in common endeavors to combat poverty, promote understanding and contribute to development than the Peace Corps.

(continued on page 3)

Responding to the unmet requests of many countries for new or expanded numbers of Peace Corps Volunteers may be the best foreign policy investment this country can make.

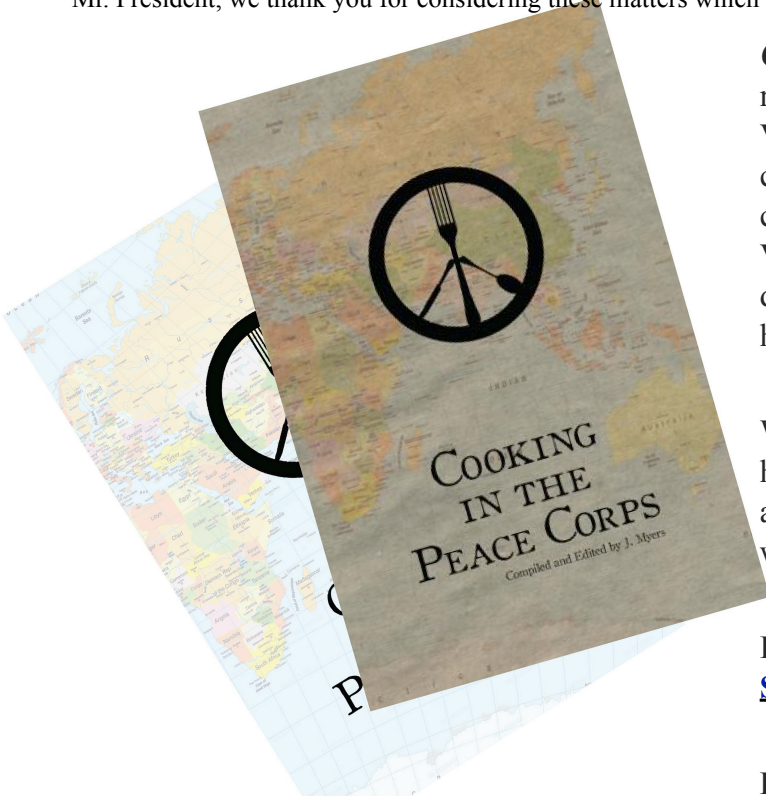
On Nominating the Next Peace Corps Director: We applaud the accomplishments of departed Director Aaron Williams and his team. As you consider your next nomination to lead the Peace Corps, we ask the following:

*Give your strongest consideration (as you did with Director Williams) to nominate a Director who served as a Peace Corps Volunteer. A Director who has served is much better positioned to fully understand the wide array of challenges and opportunities that our Peace Corps volunteers will face in the field.

•Nominate a Director who is committed to continued advancement of key objectives of Peace Corps' June 2010 strategic plan, including an annual review and prioritization of Peace Corps countries of service, advancing minority recruitment and committing to best in class training and program development.

•Nominate a Director who is committed to fulfilling the promise to strengthen services and support to current and returned volunteers who are subjected to violence (including and especially sexual assault), injury and illness incurred during and/or resulting from Peace Corps service.

Mr. President, we thank you for considering these matters which are vitally important to the Peace Corps community.



Cooking in the Peace Corps is a collection of local recipes and stories collected from Peace Corps Volunteers around the world. Inside you will learn the customs and traditions behind popular dishes from 50 countries where the Peace Corps currently serve. Volunteers also share their favorite stories about the dishes and offer a step by step guide to replicate them at home.

Whether you are a past Volunteer, know somebody who has served, or want to learn more about the Peace Corps and foreign cuisine, this book will give you a taste of what it's like to live, work, and eat overseas.

Find it in print on Amazon.com or in the [Kindle Store!](http://Kindle Store)

Don't forget to visit our [Online Bookstore](#) for more [Print and Cover Options!](#)

The books on this and the next page came to my attention through our status as an affiliated member of the NPCA. I am not necessarily recommending either of them, just letting you know about them. The editor.



Jonathan Myers is a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer living in Ohio. While serving 3 years in Cape Verde and St. Lucia he developed personal relationships with their national dishes. After returning home in 2011 he realized he knew little about what other Volunteers eat and set forth to find out.



Dear RPCVs,

I would be so honored if you could purchase a copy of my new book, [*THE SPRINGS OF NAMJE: A Ten Year Journey from the Hills of Nepal to the Halls of Congress*](#) (Hardcover, Beacon Press, Fall 2012). It tells the inside story of our historic [campaign](#) in Washington, which led to the largest one-year gain in Peace Corps history. Featuring a forward by New Yorker writer [Peter Hessler \(China 96-98\)](#), the 232-page memoir details my journey through Nepal over the last ten years, building a unique water project in the midst of a Maoist war. I compare the politics of rural Nepal and Washington.

[The book](#) also outlines the formula for a bold new Peace Corps for the 21st century, bringing together architects and designers, environmentalists and farmers to revitalize the agency and make it more relevant to the complex environmental problems of the developing world. I hope you can get a copy! If you can help with a book review, or scheduling book talks, please do get in touch with me. Thank you for your continued advocacy on behalf of improving and expanding the Peace Corps.

Thank you and Happy Thanksgiving!



Rajeev Goyal

Nepal 01-03

rajeevkumargoyal@gmail.com

A portion of all proceeds will go towards environmental initiatives in eastern Nepal.

INTERNATIONAL
RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS OF WISCONSIN • MADISON

2013
CALENDAR



**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 'WMRPCV' to:

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

2012 International Calendar Order

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please send me _____ calendars @ \$12 each (shipping included)

Included is my check for \$ _____, payable to 'WMRPCVs'



Western Montana RPCV News

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**