



# Western Montana RPCV News

DECEMBER 2013

VOLUME 22 NUMBER 4

## Upcoming Events:

**DECEMBER  
POTLUCK  
SATURDAY, DEC. 14  
6:00 PM  
525 Fairview**

**JANUARY  
POTLUCK!  
TBA**

**PEACE CORPS  
WEEK  
March 3-7**

**2014 GOAT CHASE  
JUNE 13, 14 & 15!!!!  
2014!!!!!!!!!!!!!!  
Flathead Lake!!!!**

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*The panel of RPCVs at the U of M. From left, Amber Gladney, Dennis Bangs, Miriam Morgan, Grant Copenhaver and Peter Baker.*

### From the President

**Dennis C. Bangs (Ecuador 70-72)**

With the onset of the winter season the RPCVs of western Montana have a few things to celebrate and more activities to look forward to in the upcoming months. To begin with I would like to thank Tish Herries (Sierra Leone 64-66) and her husband Dave for hosting the September potluck. Not only did we get to enjoy great food and fellowship, we were introduced to the new Peace Corps Representative on campus. Amber Gladney (Mali 08-11) introduces herself to the rest of you on the following page.

Thanks also to all of the people who showed up at the October potluck, which I hosted. A special thanks goes out to Otto and Lynne Koester (Ethiopia 68-70) who presented a very lively and informative power point presentation of their recent trip to Ethiopia, where they had served as volunteers in the 60's. Their impressive presentation not only gave those of us who didn't know much about Ethiopia a lot of eye-opening information but created some great dialogues amongst the group about the past, present and future of the Peace Corps in many of the countries in which we served.

A final thanks to Amber for organizing a panel on the Peace Corps experience and to all of those who participated. The panel took place on the U of M campus and was part of a week of activities that focused on international activities and educational opportunities. In addition to myself the other panelists were Miriam Morgan (Micronesia 68-70), Grant Copenhaver (Namibia 10 -12) and Peter Baker. Thanks to everyone for participating. I think we did a pretty good job of putting a personal face on the Peace Corps experience.

Now that the year is winding up we need to wrap up our calendar sales. As you know the money we raise from the sales goes to the local Food Bank, Poverello Center and other local charities as well as a few international programs. We usually are able to help some Peace Corps volunteer who we know and needs a little additional funding for some project or another. So don't forget to get your calendars. The order form is on page 5, but if you are in Missoula you can contact me directly and I will get them to you.

And finally don't forget the Christmas Party/Potluck and Jim and Melissa's on Saturday, December 14th. It is always a great time. I hope to see you there.

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## The Western Montana RPCVs welcome the following new members:

Alliya Koroma from Germantown, Maryland who served in Angola, Bolivia and Austria.  
Charles Rugira from Kigali City who served in The Dominican Republic, Costa Rica and Rwanda.

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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](mailto:wmrpcv@yahoo.com)>

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

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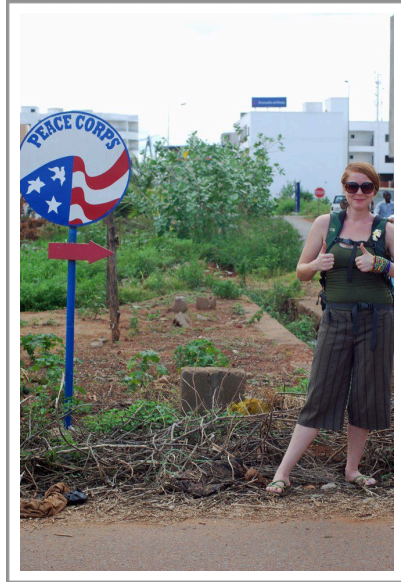
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Hello Western Montana RPCVs,

For those of you who I haven't had the pleasure of meeting yet, let me introduce myself: My name is Amber Gladney but some people call me Fatimata Traore. I served in Mali, West Africa '08-'11 as a Health Extension Agent. I spent two years Monzombala- a farming village of 500 people- working in a clinic where I assisted with prenatal consultations, infant growth monitoring, and the development of programs to incentivize utilization of the clinic. By the time my two years were up I just wasn't ready to leave the magical land of Mali. So I extended for a third year and moved to Bamako, the country's bustling capitol, and worked with Project Muso Ladamunen (The Project for the Empowered Woman: <http://projectmuso.org/>). Along with my primary projects I founded, coordinated, and later provided support to Peace Corps Mali's Gender and Development Committee, a volunteer-run program that designed and provided technical

and financial support for gender empowerment projects in communities where volunteers lived. Some of the projects I am most proud of came out of these experiences, including country-wide Take Our Daughters to Work weeklong camps, International Women's Day celebrations and educational events, and girls' sports and hobby clubs.

During my time in Mali I was able to travel extensively in the country (though I never made it to Timbuktu!) and West Africa. I traveled to Ghana, Senegal, The Gambia, and Burkina Faso, and during my Close of Service trip I spent two months rambling through Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, and Spain. I took a two week transatlantic cruise home and would do it again in a heartbeat! These experiences awakened my wanderlust-along with returning to Mali and Morocco, I now have my eyes on Thailand, Turkey, and Peru.

I am currently working as the University of Montana's Peace Corps Campus Representative, pursuing my Master's in Social Work at the University of Montana, and completing my educational internship at the Poverello Center. Mere days away from finishing my first semester, I am grateful for these experiences and look forward to continuing work and school through the Spring of 2015.

My office is located on campus in the Career Services Office-if anyone else is working on campus I would love to hear from you! I understand there are quite a few! And for anyone interested in bringing that third goal home there will be a number of tabling and speaking opportunities both on campus and in the community this Spring (mostly February-April). Please send me an e-mail at [peacecorps@umontana.edu](mailto:peacecorps@umontana.edu) or call me at (406)243-2839 for more information.

Thank you for the opportunity to introduce myself, and I look forward to seeing everyone at the potluck in December!

All the best,

Amber Gladney



# National Peace Corps Association

*The following articles are taken from the NPCA website.*

By [Jonathan Pearson](#) on Wednesday, December 4th, 2013

The United States Congress is one step away from giving final approval to Peace Corps Commemorative legislation. Wednesday morning, the House Natural Resources Committee gave unanimous approval to the legislation ([H.R. 915](#)), which would allow the use of space near the National Mall to mark the lasting historical significance of the founding of the Peace Corps in 1961, and the ideals Peace Corps service represents.

The legislation now heads to the full House for consideration. Back in June, [the Senate](#) gave unanimous approval to commemorative legislation ([S. 230](#)).

The Natural Resources Committee actually voted unanimously to pass both the House and Senate versions of the bill. While substantively the same, the two bills have slight differences in language that would have to be reconciled if each chamber passed their own version. By passing both H.R. 915 and S. 230, the House now has the opportunity to approve the Senate version of the bill (and complete congressional approval), without having to go through extra steps to reconcile language.

**If you are a constituent of House Natural Resources Committee Chairman [Doc Hastings](#) (R-WA) or Ranking Member [Peter DeFazio](#) (D-OR), please thank them for their leadership in passing the Peace Corps commemorative legislation and ask them to help swiftly bring the legislation to the full House for a final vote. Send a similar thank you message **if you are a constituent of Public Lands Subcommittee Chairman [Rob Bishop](#) (R-UT) or Ranking Member [Raul Grijalva](#) (D-AZ).****

*The WMRPCV is one of the 103 groups to sign the letter.*

103 RPCV Groups Sign Funding Letter

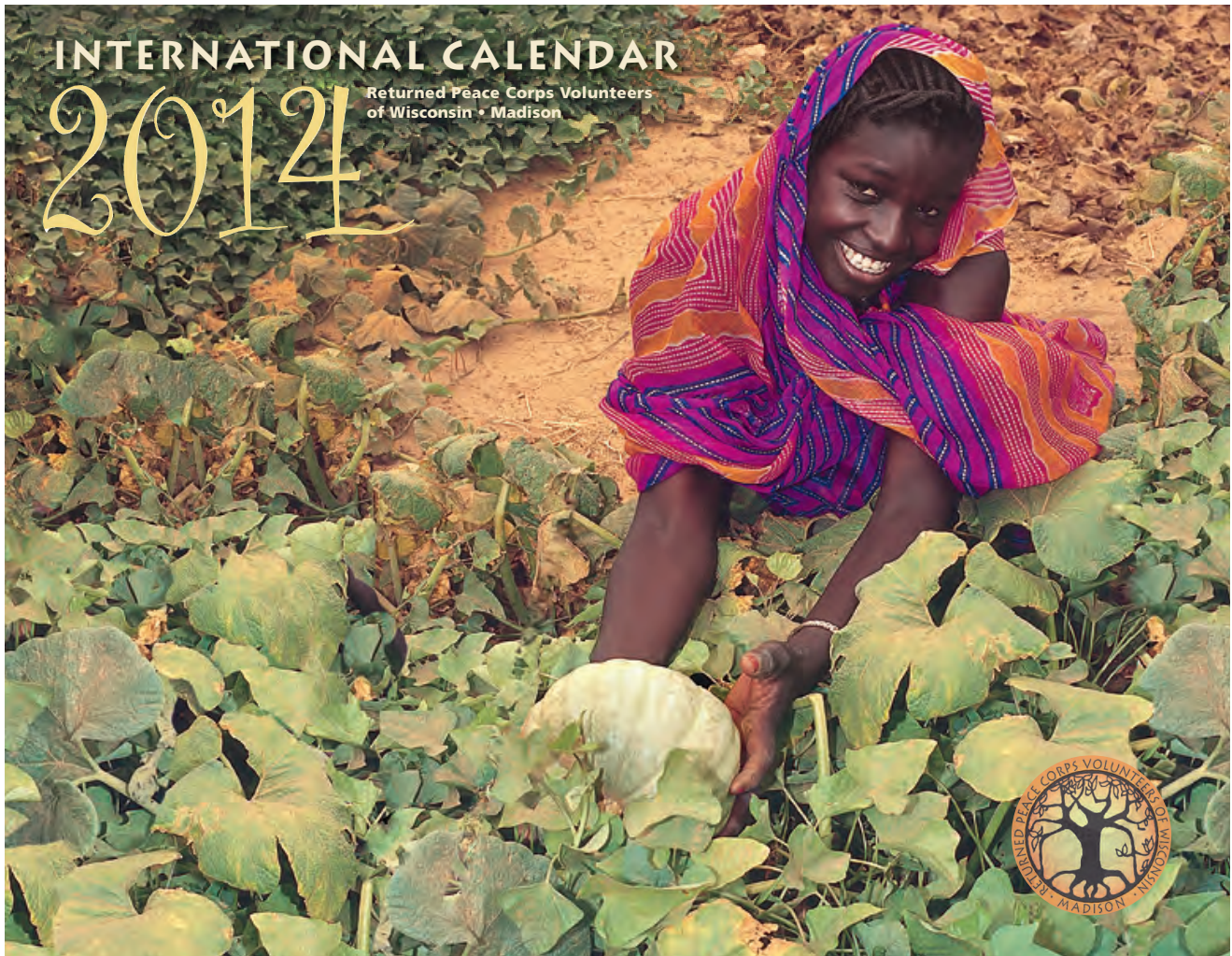
Congress continues to struggle to reach an overall budget agreement that will determine funding levels for the Peace Corps and other federal agencies for the current fiscal year.

As this is happening, RPCV member groups around the country ---- took their first step in making the case for robust Peace Corps funding in the next fiscal year.

"We firmly believe that one tangible way you can advance your national service agenda is to request a significant increase in Peace Corps funding..." That's part of a letter signed by 103 NPCA member groups to President Obama, urging him to bring the Peace Corps back towards its high water funding mark when he submits his Fiscal Year 2015 budget to Congress early next year.

Here is your special invitation to the amazing Christmas Party at Jim and Melissa's, Saturday, December 14th at 525 Fairview, 6 PM. Don't forget about the "White Elephant Gift" exchange.





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## 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 \$13 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

2014 International Calendar Order

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ calendars @ \$13 each (shipping included)  
Included is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_, payable to 'WMRPCVs'

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# 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**