



Western Montana RPCV News

September 2010

VOLUME 19 NUMBER 3

Upcoming Events

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 30
Potluck/Halloween
Party, 100 Erika Ct.
6:00 PM**

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

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



The Western Montana RPCVs in the University of Montana Homecoming parade

From the President

Dennis C. Bangs (Ecuador 70-72)

Summer is coming to an end once again and with school starting and a new Peace Corps Representative on campus we have a lot to look forward to. But first I want to thank the hosts of the summer gatherings. Once again Tony Hoyt (Liberia/Guatemala 67-69/74-75) and Mchelle had a great July gathering on the banks of the Jocko River. In August Steve Torcoletti and Heidi Halverson (Jamaica 84-86) broke out the Jamaican Rum Bar once again for a festive event.

At the August potluck we decided to do a photo history project for the 50th anniversary of Peace Corps next year. Kat Barry (Ecuador 00-03) has volunteered to put it together, but in order for it to be a complete and comprehensive project she will need input and help from everyone. Check out page 2 for more details.

Our annual fundraiser is under way now. We have the international calendars from the Wisconsin group so make sure you get yours soon. For more details and how to get them see page 5. Don't forget that this is the way we generate funds to support the many projects that we encourage.

Once again the new Peace Corps representative on the U of M campus is enthusiastic about getting to know many of you and get you involved in recruiting events on campus. Her name is Tenly Snow (Senegal 2007-09) and she introduces herself on page 3.

A big thanks to all who participated in the Homecoming parade. Your colorful, artistic signs, clothes and enthusiastic cheering assured a positive and noticeable presence of the Western Montana RPCVs.

Have a good fall and keep in touch through the website. Hopefully we will see many of you at the next gathering.

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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.
Jonathan Decker from Seattle who was in the Philippines



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.



The African contingent

Award winning Homecoming Parade entry

Thanks to the efforts of Tenly Snow (Senegal 07-09)) we were able to get a spot in the U of M Homecoming Parade and thanks to all of the talented sign-making WMRPCV members we had a good turnout and a good time. We also were honored with the first place trophy in the non-profit division. And like all RPCV gatherings there was a lot of cheering and dancing. We were lucky enough to be marching right behind a string band that we sang along with.

From the new Peace Corps Representative on the U of M Campus.

I believe we've already been in touch once or twice through RPCV Tony Hoyt, but I wanted to write and officially make contact with you and the Western Montana Returned Peace Corps Volunteers group as the new University of Montana Peace Corps Representative/Recruiter. Former rep Amy Quandt spoke very highly of the group and suggested that I contact you right away to get the ball rolling!

To tell you a little about myself, I am very nearly 26 and graduated in 2006 from Whitman College with a B.A. in English Literature. After approximately a year in the Peace Corps application process, I embarked for Senegal, West Africa, where I served from 2007-2009 as an Urban Agriculture volunteer. I took a COS trip after leaving country and traveled to France, Morocco, Thailand and England, working in organic farms, learning to scuba dive and becoming an expert wanderer along the way!

I returned to my hometown of Missoula in July 09' to spend some time at home, and will be starting a graduate program in International Conservation and Development at the School of Forestry at the end of August.

I hope you have had an enjoyable summer and that we may have a productive school year working in tandem to help guide any and all interested in the Peace Corps toward taking the first step! I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Best,

Tenly Snow
 UM Peace Corps Campus Representative
 Career Services
 Lommasson Center 154
 Missoula, MT 59812



Part of the Latin American contingent



Following are some of the key dates for the National celebration of the 50th anniversary of Peace Corps

October 13-14, 2010

The University of Michigan will honor the first voicing of the vision that would become the Peace Corps, and those students who helped carry it forward, in a multi-day series of events. As part of this, the NPCA, Brookings Institute, and the University of Michigan are co-sponsoring a national symposium on the future of international service. Visit The University of Michigan website for more event details.

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

We're helping you to host House "Birthday" Parties around the world. Invite your friends, host country nationals, diaspora members, family, and anyone else who wants to come share a moment in Peace Corps time with you in your village, town, state, or country. This is a great activity for groups or individuals to host. Stay tuned for more details and to register your party and receive a special tool kit.

Saturday, September 24, 2011

The day will begin with NPCA's Board of Director's Meeting, Annual General Meeting and Group Leaders Forum. At these meetings you can learn about NPCA's processes and how the staff and volunteer leadership work to meet the organization's goals.

These meetings will be followed by an interactive forum on development issues. Help NPCA select its first Global Community Project grant recipient. A select group of pre-screened projects will be presented to the audience for review and questions. The audience will vote for the most deserving project and that project will be awarded with a grant that day. More information on the proposal process will be available and announced during the March 1st House Parties.

The presentation will be followed by break-out sessions allowing others to find creative solutions to the challenges that the Peace Corps community will combat in the next 50 years.

Saturday will culminate with a formal Gala to celebrate the past 50 years of the Peace Corps and energize the community for the next 50 years.

Information regarding the Gala location, special guests, and tickets will be announced soon. Find out general and sponsorship information by contacting Khalisa Jacobs.



From WMRPCV member and buddy, Gerry Blackman

I think most of you know that this past year I made the decision to change residences...so, I sold my home in Lolo, and shortly after school bus driving work ended in June, I left Montana with the help of my daughter, Marcie, and drove to the Bay Area, where both she and my other daughter, Christie, are living. Since arriving, I have been busy organizing things, paperwork, and information and finally received approval for my travel visa to Uzbekistan. The plan is to stay in the village where I lived previously, until such time as I can establish residency, and obtain a place of my own, in a lovely old city called Samarkand. But, I have to take it one step at a time and hope to be able to have my visa renewed a month at a time. I have no definite plans and am affiliated with no group (NGO or other), but know there are many areas where a little assistance is needed and welcomed. The culture there is much to my liking, and I have spent a lot of time learning history, customs, economics, and general circumstances there at present. If my stay there doesn't work out for whatever reason, I'll let you know Plan B!! Although I appear to be homeless and vehicle less at present, I still have shoes, a bicycle, and lots of friends wishing me well.

Please do stay in touch with me if you want to be included in this group list, as I will have some access to internet and hope to keep you informed of the happenings. As the travel itinerary is confirmed, I will leave with probably six (6) large duffels of baggage via Amtrak from San Francisco on Sept. 8th, arrive in Los Angeles early afternoon, then leave on Aeroflot from LAX to Moscow and then to Tashkent, the capitol of Uz., arriving there on Sept. 12th.

That's about it. If all works as planned, I will return to the U.S. every year for 3 to 4 mos. to visit family and friends...starting in 2012. If I cannot establish residency there, I'll be back a whole lot sooner than that!

Gerry <gerryb406@yahoo.com>



**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”.



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 _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

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