



Western Montana RPCV News

SEPTEMBER 2011

VOLUME 20 NUMBER 3

Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER POTLUCK

Saturday, Sept. 17
Potluck at Russ and Shannon's, 236 Dixon
6 PM

OCTOBER POTLUCK/ HALLOWEEN PARTY

Saturday, Oct. 29 at
Mary's. 100 Erika Ct.
6 PM

JUNE 8, 9 & 10!!!!
2012!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Goat
Chase Retreat Flathead
Lake!!!!



Dennis, Otto, Lynne and Jim enjoying Jackie's patio at the August potluck

From the President

Dennis C. Bangs (Ecuador 70-72)

Another fall is approaching for the Western Montana RPCVs and a number activities and events loom on the horizon for us, but first I want to thank the gracious hosts of this summer's potluck. Tony Hoyt (Liberia & Guatemala 67-69/74-75) and Michelle once again hosted a great barbecue on the banks of the Jocko River in July. A good time was had by all even though the river was a little high and cold to frolic in for long. In August Jackie Johnson (Nicaragua 2000-02) shared her colorful, flower-filled back yard with another good turnout of folks. A couple of photos are included for those who didn't get a chance to attend. Thanks to you all.

September brings a new recruiter to campus again and the homecoming parade. The recruiter's name is Dana Foster and she just returned from El Salvador. Read more about Dana on the following page. The Homecoming parade takes place this year on October 1. We are registered for the parade and hope to have as much fun as we did last year.

Now is also the time to start getting your calendars to sell or give away for our fundraiser. The order form is on page 5. Also in this newsletter is a report on one of the recent programs that we supported through the calendar sales. Jeannie Sielger (Sierra Leone 68-70) reports on their trip to Sierra Leone this year and the teacher's workshop they conducted on pages 3 and 4.

Hope to see many of you at the parade and then at the Halloween Potluck in October.

Inside this issue:

President's Report	P1
New members	P2
Sierra Leone report	P3
2012 Calendars	P5
Membership Form	P6

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:

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<wmrpcv@yahoo.com>

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

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The Western Montana RPCVs welcome the following new members:

Christine Lee from California who was in Senegal.

Lucas Ulor from Nigeria.

Jeffrey and Yvonne Gritzner from Florence who were in Iran and Cameroon respectively.

B. Craig Hahn from Lincoln, NE who is in The Republic of Moldova.

From the Campus Peace Corps Rep.

Dana Foster is an RPCV from El Salvador serving from 2009 until 2011. In El Salvador, Dana worked as an environmental education volunteer helping her community and local school to create sustainable and healthy trash management and recycling practices. She also created and worked very closely with a women's cooperative, and together they learned how to bake artisanal sweat breads, as well as make natural shampoos and jewelry.

Upon her recent return, she is now working on campus as The University of Montana campus Representative for Peace Corps. She works closely with students and community members, providing them with information on Peace Corps service, application help, and tips on how to become a more competitive applicant. Dana also visits classes of every major to give short talks motivating students to learn more about Peace Corps service and the benefits of volunteering.

The WMRPCV's can help her by participating in RPCV panels held on campus and within the community to show interested parties as well as current applicants the variety of lifestyles that Peace Corps volunteers lead. She can be contacted at 243-2839 or <peacecoprs@umontana.edu>.



Teresa and Jeannie enjoying Jackie's flower-filled back yard



Scott and Chris enjoying a beer and Jackie's sun-filled back yard



A group photo at the July teacher's workshop in Sierra Leone attended by Jeannie and Chris Siegler sponsored by the Friends of Sierra Leone and WMRPCV

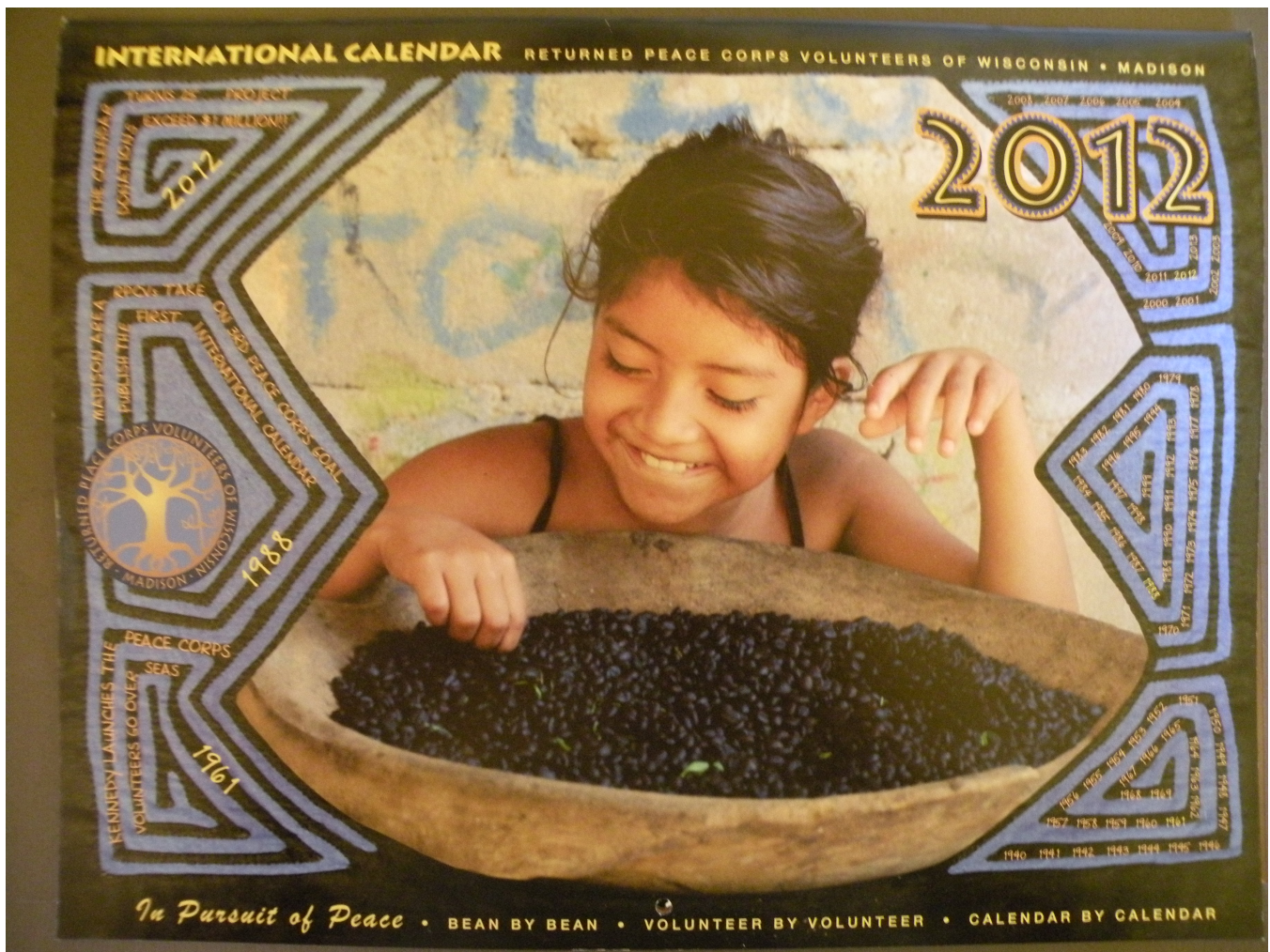
Even though Bo is in Sierra Leone, every morning the July teachers' workshop started with the song *SORIDA*, from Zimbabwe. Waving and clapping our hands was a great way to start each morning's activities during this year's workshop. Ninety seven Sierra Leonean lower and upper level primary teachers from Bo and southern district rural schools came to build on "child-centered" teaching techniques.



Over the next five days each group facilitated by a team of Sierra Leonean and stateside teachers produced lesson plans in the Child Centered Teaching Technique model using science and math and local resources. The theme of *MOTION* produced experiments with water displacement, scale weights, tools, local toys and a variety of measureable moving objects. The purpose of the lessons was to experiment with the concept of motion by including stories, visuals, and most of all, objects built with local, familiar materials at ultimately no cost.

A child rolling an old wheel rim with a stick, swinging a pendulum out of raffia, or pushing a small mobile vehicle out of wire, wood or metal scraps is a common sight not only in most villages in Africa but in the larger cities as well. Many of you may be familiar with the story of Galimoto, a young East African boy who has an adventure not only finding the materials to build his dream vehicle but actually making a useful car toy out of found objects. The sixty local primary students from Bo who tried out the lessons on the last day of the workshop were eager to participate in the relatively new (to Sierra Leone classrooms) and engaging way of teaching science and math concepts.

The donation from the WMRPCV (Western Montana Returned Peace Corps Volunteer) group enabled the workshop leaders to support the transportation and participation of the local students on the last day of the workshop. The workshop was fun, engaging, and produced a handbook of lesson plans from over a dozen different groups. Thank you WMRPCV! Jeannie Siegler/Sierra Leone 1968



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 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