



Western Montana RPCV News

September 2012

VOLUME 21 NUMBER 3

Upcoming Events

**SAT. OCTOBER 27,
6 PM. POTLUCK
AND HALLOWEEN
PARTY AT MARY'S,
100 ERIKA CT.**

**NOVEMBER
POTLUCK
TBA**

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



WMRPCV'S ENTRY IN THE U OF M HOMECOMING PARADE

From the President

Dennis C. Bangs (Ecuador 70-72)

Fall is upon us in Western Montana and that means time to thank the hosts of the summer potlucks and get on with the business of fall for WMRPCV. Thanks to Tony (Liberia 67-69/Guatemala 74-75) and Michelle Hoyt for once again hosting a great potluck on the banks of the Jocko River in July. And as you can see by the picture on the following page Steve Torcoletti and Heidi Halverson (Jamaica 84-86) enjoyed hosting the August potluck in their Jamaican Rum Shack almost as much as all of the guests enjoyed attending.

This fall we will be welcoming the new representative for Peace Corps to the U of M campus. Brad Hass served in the Dominican Republic and is already involved in WMRPCV activities and recruiting events on campus.

In addition to potlucks in October, November and December now is the time for members and interested parties to start selling the International Calendars. As you know, this is our one and only fundraiser for the year and it is quite successful if everyone pitches in. Order information can be found on page 3.

Once again we had good participation and good weather for the homecoming parade in Missoula on September 22. Thanks to everyone who participated and to Julie Brown (Benin 91-93) who hosted the September potluck that evening.

Inside this issue:

- President's Report P1**
- New Campus Rep. P2**
- Int. Calendar P3**
- Ambass. Stevens P4**

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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Brad Hass 243-2839
peacecorps@umontana.edu

The Western Montana RPCVs welcome the following new members:

Rebecca Mangold from Whitefish who served in Ghana.
Iyiah Martin from New Jersey who is serving in Ethiopia.
Nisha Grimes from Missouri, who is serving in Costa Rica
Larry and Ellie Raffety from Livingston who served in Ukraine.



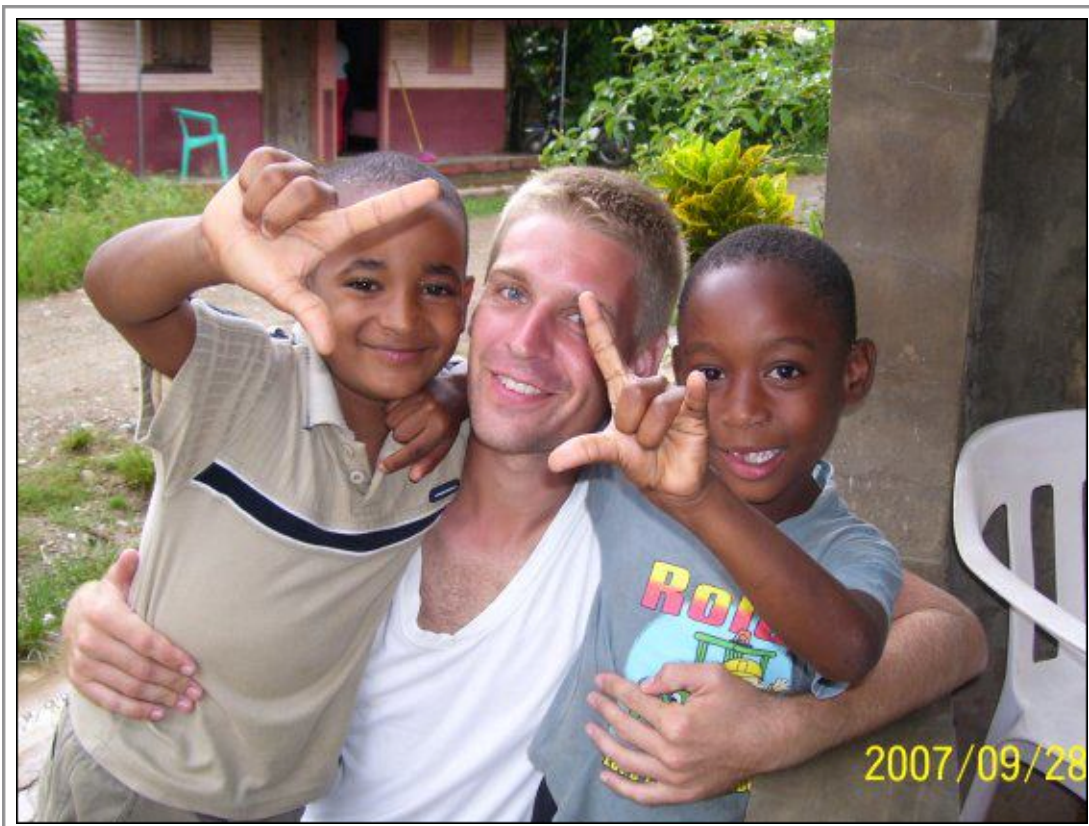
The happy hosts of the August potluck, Steve and Heidi in the Jamaican Rum Bar

New Campus Recruiter

Greetings from the University of Montana! My name is Brad Haas and I am the new Peace Corps Campus Representative for UM. I'm originally from Austin, Texas but arrived to Missoula by way of Washington, D.C. Despite growing up in the South I love Montana, aside from the absence of Mexican food. In addition to working as the UM Peace Corps Campus Rep. I am completing my MBA at the Business School.

I served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Dominican Republic from 2005 – 2007 and focused primarily on youth and family development. During my Peace Corps service I formed several youth sports teams, initiated a literacy campaign and renovated a community center. While in the Caribbean I developed a love of merengue, coconuts and afternoon rainstorms. Since completing my service I've had an opportunity to travel back to the village several times and, through the wonders of social media, am able to stay connected with the Dominicans I lived and worked with.

As the UM Peace Corps Campus Rep. I try to raise the overall visibility of Peace Corps on campus and assist interested students with the application process. The university has a very rich tradition of Peace Corps service- last year it was ranked 14th nationally in terms of the number of Peace Corps Volunteers it produced- so I'm hopeful we can build on this strong connection. I also work with interested candidates in the broader Missoula community. Per capita, Missoula is NUMBER ONE in terms of Peace Corps Volunteers produced! I'm happy to chat with anyone about Peace Corps so please contact me at peacecorps@umontana.edu or 406-243-2839 if you have any questions or comments!



Brad and Buddies in the Dominican Republic

The following is taken from the NPCA website

Peace Corps Community Mourns the Loss of Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens
By Sarah Kana on Thursday, September 13th, 2012

On September 11, 2012, the world was shocked to learn that Ambassador to Libya, J. Christopher Stevens, who was also a TEFL Peace Corps Volunteer in Ouaouzahrt, Morocco from 1983-85, had been killed in attacks on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Libya. Upon hearing the news, the National Peace Corps Association conveyed the condolences of the entire Peace Corps family and then shared the emerging news with the Peace Corps community via Facebook and Twitter.

Remembering Ambassador Chris Stevens

In an address from White House lawn the next morning, President Obama praised Stevens, noting that both he and Secretary of State Hilary Clinton had come to rely on the Ambassador's expertise on Libya and the region. Earlier Secretary Clinton stated, "Chris Stevens fell in love with the Middle East as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Morocco...the world needs more Chris Stevens'."

In a statement from the Peace Corps, Director Aaron Williams said, "The entire Peace Corps community is deeply saddened by the death of U.S. Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens.... Like so many Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, he chose to continue his career in the international community by becoming a public servant. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends and colleagues in the U.S. and in Libya."

Tim Resch, President of the NPCA member group Friends of Morocco said "We hope that governments and people can act to make better sense of these senseless actions." Ambassador Stevens was a longtime member and supporter of the group. Valerie Staats (RPCV Morocco '83-'85 and PC Country Director for Sierra Leone) was attending the worldwide Peace Corps Country Director Conference in Washington, and gave a very brief eulogy there, saying "In our 1983 TEFL stage in Morocco, there was a tall, blond kid who was known, among other things, as the one with the unflinching old-school courtesy toward all. Chris always said he wanted to be an ambassador, and we didn't doubt him," remembers Staats. "Thanks to the Internet, we could keep in touch, and so we were all very proud when he was appointed Special Envoy to Libya, and later, the U.S. Ambassador. And we teased him, truthfully, that he hadn't changed one bit since our Peace Corps Volunteer days almost 30 years ago. Chris devoted his career, and life, to improving relations between the Arabic/Islamic world and the West."

Joel Rubin (Costa Rica 94-96) and former NPCA Board Member, who knew and worked with Stevens, was interviewed by MSNBC and he remembered Stevens in a post to his blog, titled "What Chris Stevens Taught Us". Not surprisingly, Peace Corps is well represented in the Foreign Service. The NPCA member group, RPCVs@State is comprised primarily of former Peace Corps Volunteers and staff. Founded in September 2008, it now has over 400 members in Washington, D.C. and around the world. Chris Stevens' untimely death is a reminder of all the Americans around the globe — Peace Corps, Foreign Service, armed forces, journalists and aid workers — who are serving our country and the cause of peace in a variety of ways.

The entire Peace Corps community mourns the loss of Ambassador Stevens and his three State Department colleagues, and extends its deepest sympathies to their families, friends and colleagues.



The family of U.S. Ambassador Christopher Stevens (Returned Peace Corps Volunteer, Morocco 83-85) has created a website, <http://www.rememberingchrisstevens.com/>, “to capture the memories of people touched by Chris, far and near.”

The preceding story and the following comments can be seen on the NPCA website

<http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/>. There you can also see videos about Ambassador Stevens' life and work.

Comments

Robert O'Keefe

I am almost speechless on how to react to the events in Benghazi Libya and the death of Ambassador Stevens. It is almost like the death of a lifelong dream of peace and prosperity for this region. I served in Libya as a PCV almost 44 years ago, and taught school in a village just outside of Benghazi – and I am taking this disaster in the most intimate of ways. My deepest sympathy to the Ambassador's family and all of the Americans and Libyans that died in this terrible attack.

Gary J Gonya said

Ambassador Stevens (Returned Peace Corps Volunteer), you dedicated your life in serving for Peace, may you now Rest In Peace (RIP for RPCV) !

Gary J Gonya said

PS We all (former Peace Corps Volunteers), will remember the supreme sacrifice that you gave for USA !

Gary J Gonya, RPCV for Colombia '66-'68

Quentin Gershon Paawillee said

The U.S. Ambassador to Libya J. Christopher Stevens Oh no..!!! Why this time Christopher, I Served in Peace Corps with him for only 4 months, He was a man who love his job,and always like to talk to me about life, do what you can at your youth age..Oh..Christopher am be looking for all this yrs...It's So Hard To Believe That You're Really Gone....And To Know That I Will No Longer See Your Smiling Face,Or Hear The Sound Of Your Laughter You Left So Many Memories, Which Will Never Part You Will Always Live Deep Inside my Hearts...I Am Thankful That I also work With Someone As Special As You...It's Just Too Hard To Believe Your Days On Earth Is Really Through....

May Your Soul Rest In Perfect Peace,From Me Your Quentin Gershon Paawillee...

Gary J Gonya said.

What a great fitting tribute to memory of Ambassador Stevens (RPCV) made by President Obama yesterday in his speech yesterday at the United Nations. The President appealed for PEACE around the world by giving the example of Ambassador Stevens both in his opening as well as in his closing part of his address to all the delegates from around the world !

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**