



Western Montana RPCV News

SEPTEMBER 2014

VOLUME 23 NUMBER 3

Upcoming Events:

SEPTEMBER POTLUCK

Saturday, Sept. 20,
6 PM, 445 Livingston

OCTOBER POTLUCK TBA

**2015 GOAT CHASE
JUNE 12, 13 & 14!!!!
2015!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Flathead Lake!!!!**

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Western Montana RPCVs and family enjoying the July Potluck at Tony and Michelle's

President's message:

Dennis C. Bangs (Ecuador 70 -72)

The summer is coming to an end and the fall activities are about to begin, but I first want to thank the hosts of the summer gatherings. Once again Tony Hoyt (Liberia/Guatemala, 67-69/74-75) and Michelle hosted a potluck on a sunny July afternoon. It wasn't quite hot enough for swimming but the sunshine enhanced the gathering.

In August Lynne and Otto Koester (Ethiopia-Eritrea/Ghana, 68-70/69-70) hosted a special potluck at short notice in honor of a visiting dignitary from NPCA. Unfortunately, because of a personal situation, she was not able to attend but we had a nice gathering anyway.

Finally I want to thank Amber Gladney, the Peace Corps representative on campus for spending some of her summer weekends at the Farmer's Market in Missoula getting the word out about Peace Corps and the Western Montana RPCV's. With the fall semester on us Amber will once again be the Representative on campus and will be looking for RPCVs to help out at information sessions and round tables, so pay attention to the emails from her and help her out when you can.

And finally don't forget about the upcoming fall potlucks and the calendar sales. The information about the calendars is on page 5. The website will have updated information about the potlucks and other events. See you soon.

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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The Western Montana RPCVs welcome the following new members:

Leah Fitch from Missoula who was in Namibia.



From the NPCA newsletter.

106 RPCV Groups Urge President to Increase Peace Corps Funding

As Congress gets back to work to address [spending bills](#) for Fiscal Year 2015 (which begins October 1st), advocates for the Peace Corps began their work on Fiscal Year 2016 spending.

The National Peace Corps Association sent President Obama [this letter](#) - signed by representatives of 106 RPCV member groups - urging the President to request increased funding for the Peace Corps when he submits his FY 2016 budget to Congress early next year.

NPCA leadership will also deliver this letter to officials of the Office of Management and Budget during a scheduled meeting on September 17th.

And, we want everyone involved on Monday, September 22nd. Mark your calendars and be on the lookout for an action alert in which you will be asked to contact the White House and ask President Obama for leadership to increase support for the Peace Corps.

Stay tuned.

Torres Nominated to be Next Peace Corps Deputy Director

President Obama has nominated Carlos Torres to be the next Deputy Director of the Peace Corps.

Torres has served in senior leadership at the agency since 2010. Currently the Associate Director for Global Operations, he previously served as Regional Director for the Inter-American and Pacific Region.

Torres' nomination is subject to confirmation by the U.S. Senate.

Marni sent this to me in August and asked if I would put it in the newsletter. The editor.

Marni Goodman
Admissions and Sponsorship Officer

The Experiment in International Living

The Experiment in International Living (www.experimentinternational.org) provides summer abroad programs for high school students who want to connect deeply and engage meaningfully with the richness and complexities of another country. The Experiment in International Living has been offering immersive experiential learning programs abroad since 1932. Sargent Shriver, the architect of the Peace Corps, had a life-changing experience as a participant on one of the first Experiment in International Living programs. Two years after his program, he returned to serve as an Experiment group leader to Germany and Austria, and he later served as a group leader to France. These experiences helped Sargent Shriver craft the founding principles of the Peace Corps. He ultimately invited Experiment president Gordon Boyce to help train the first Peace Corps volunteers to Gabon and Pakistan, which was the start of a deep, [decades-long partnership between the Peace Corps, The Experiment in International Living, and World Learning, the parent organization of The Experiment.](#)

Today, The Experiment offers summer programs for high school students in Europe, the Americas, Africa, and Asia. Participants explore the host country through hands-on experiences in local communities and through the lens of a specific theme. Programs are designed to equip students not only with essential cultural and, in many cases, language skills, but also with a deeper awareness of and sensitivity to global issues shaping the diverse communities and regions we visit.

Each year, hundreds of Experimenters come away from their summer abroad with invaluable new skills, connections, awareness, and knowledge that helps them to thrive—and lead—in diverse, intercultural environments.

The Experiment Difference

- A distinguished 80-plus year history of innovative leadership in international, cross-cultural programs for youth
- A thematic focus—on the environment; sustainability and food systems; cultural discovery; peace, politics, and human rights; or the arts
- Homestays and/or other immersive community experiences designed to provide meaningful and firsthand experience living in another culture
- A strong focus on health, safety, and security. Programs follow a comprehensive structure designed to maximize the wellbeing of all participants while they engage with the host culture and local communities.
- Small and diverse participant groups—typically composed of 15 students from very different geographic, racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds

Apply online for summer 2015 programs at www.experimentinternational.org. Apply before December 1st to receive an early bird discount! Need-based financial aid is also available, up to 50 percent of the program fee.

Should you have any questions, please contact The Experiment at 1-800-345-2929 or at experiment@worldlearning.org.

Group Leaders for The Experiment in International Living

The Experiment in International Living is hiring exceptional professionals to serve as International Group Leaders for our immersive high school summer study abroad programs in 2015. Group Leaders guide 3, 4, & 5 week programs with groups of about 15 students on programs in over 20 countries worldwide. Ideal leader candidates have in-depth experience working with young people and living abroad, are passionate about intercultural and experiential learning, and have foreign language proficiency. Leaders are tasked with helping their students integrate into local cultures and host families, conducting group excursions and guiding discussions, and ensuring students' safety and wellbeing. More information about our 2015 International Group Leader positions, including the application and hiring timeline, will be available online at <http://www.experimentinternational.org> starting in mid-autumn. Questions can be directed to Maura Walsh, Group Leadership Manager, at leadership@worldlearning.org.

SIT Graduate Institute

SIT Graduate Institute began as a training center for early Peace Corps volunteers, and has maintained a close partnership with Peace Corps for more than 50 years. Today, SIT Graduate Institute's interculturally-focused master's degrees and certificate programs help students pursue meaningful careers in sustainable development, international education, peacebuilding and conflict transformation, and teaching English to speakers of other languages (TESOL).

RPCVs and students interested in pursuing a master's degree at SIT are eligible for the following benefits:

- **Paul D. Coverdell Fellows Program:** SIT students who are selected to be Paul D. Coverdell Fellows receive a \$5,000 tuition scholarship plus room and board at the SIT campus in Vermont during the first academic year.
- **Master's International Program:** Students who wish to complete Peace Corps service to fulfill SIT's practicum requirement are eligible for a 50 percent scholarship applicable to this portion of the program through Master's International.
- **National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) Scholarship:** SIT's partnership with NPCA was established to recognize the longstanding ties between SIT and the Peace Corps. Members of the NPCA who have one year or more of significant Peace Corps-related experience are eligible to apply; this includes Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and NPCA staff. Several competitive awards of \$10,000 are made each year.

For more information about SIT Graduate Institute, our programs, and how we partner with Peace Corps, please visit our website at <http://graduate.sit.edu>

LOOKING FOR INPUT!!

September 15, 2014

Hello out there....

I have been noticing our Peace Corps potlucks are lessening in attendance over the past 3-4 years. I am asking for feedback on how we might continue wonderful potlucks and incorporate more interest. I know I would like more Volunteer presentations.

First of all...those of you who haven't been attending regularly, would you be more interested in coming if we had a program each time? The programs could be varied, and if not a specific presentation each time, a facilitated discussion on topics/countries of interest.

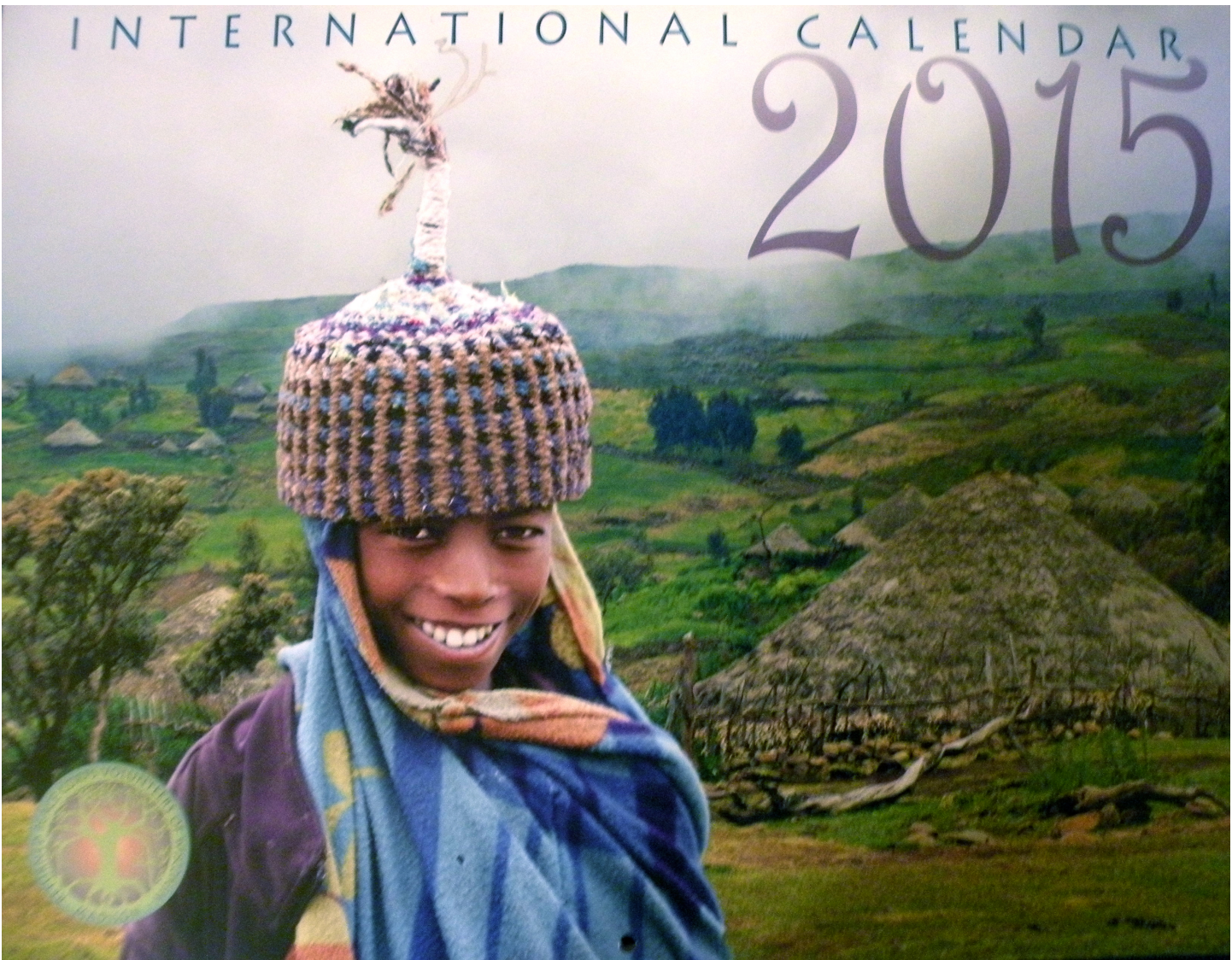
If we have a positive response, would one of two volunteers volunteer to organize the programs, invite a presenter/s, ? You could send out emails to line up those who would love to present!

Any other ideas?

Please respond to this, and add your ideas!

Thank you,

Jackie... Nicaragua 2000-2001



**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

2015 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'



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**