



# Western Montana RPCV News

Volume 6 #2

June 2017

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**SATURDAY, JULY 22**  
3PM, Potluck on the Jocko, call 360-9938 for directions

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 26**  
Potluck at 445 Livingston, Missoula, 6 PM

**JUNE 8, 9, 10 2018 !!!!!!!**  
**THE GOAT CHASE ON FLATHEAD LAKE**



**2017 Goat Chase Retreat.**

We had another great weekend on the shores of Flathead Lake, rekindling long time friendships and making new ones. Even though the weather prognosticators called for a cold and wet weekend we had pretty clear skies most of the weekend, including two nights of a full moon rising over the Mission Mountains flooding the lake and the bonfire in a glorious moon glow.

In addition to reconnecting with long term friends and meeting new ones, one of the highlights was watching all of the kids enjoy the amazing setting of the church camp and enjoying each other. About 7 or 8 kids under the age of 10 kept at it full bore, throwing rocks in the lake, playing with the bunnies, chasing each other around the camp and capping it off with smores around the bonfire and dancing late into the night to the amazing music Dylan the DJ provided.

A couple of other highlights included the return of Jeri Titus (Morocco 92-94) all the way from Buffalo New York. Kari Dahle-Huff (Republic of Georgia 04-06) came all the way from Billings with her husband and two kids. Lois Harris (Liberia 63-65) invited a special guest from Helena who was born in Cameroon and found a lot of folks to share stories of home with. Finally, long time participant Peter Stoll from Kalispell, who was a volunteer in Bolivia from 67-69 brought along Susanne Torres who was in his training group and her friend, Richard Stricker. They were welcomed into the group and had a lot of fun stories to share with everyone. *(Continued on page 2)*

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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 its creation by sending comments, articles or other submissions to:

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<[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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**The Western Montana RPCVs welcome the following new members:**

Kyle and Megan Robets from Polson, who were in Albania.  
Kari Dahl-Huff from Billings who was in The Republic of Georgia.

*Continued from page one.*

So, even though the temperature never rose too high camaraderie, sharing and fun filled the weekend. The event, like always included amazing food and great music. We had two wonderful international potlucks and a bonfire by the lake each night as well as great music provided by Dylan Valley, a professional DJ.

A little business was tended to as well. The sitting slate of officers was approved by unanimous consent.

**From the President**

Dennis C. Bangs (Ecuador 70-72)

Summer is under way in Western Montana and the spring activities for the Western Montana RPCVs are behind us and the summer and fall events are ahead of us. I would like to thank Mary Younger (Cameroon 74-76) for hosting the 'send off' party in April. We had a nice turnout and Terri Nichols, the Peace Corps Representative on the U of M campus made her final appearance as campus representative.

On behalf of the Missoula RPCVs I want to express my gratitude to Terri for the fine job she did as representative on campus. Not only did she do a lot on campus for the Peace Corps recruiting office, but she really went out of her way to include our group in her efforts. Also, I want to thank all of the enthusiastic volunteers who helped her with her presentations, the story slams, the panel discussions and all the rest

Thanks to all the folks who came out to meet the new recruiter from the Seattle office. Tamorie Mayweather, took time out from her visit to the campus to meet with a group of us and we enjoyed getting to know her and look forward to seeing her in the future.

Speaking of the future, the July potluck will once again be on the banks of the Jocko River at Tony Hoyt (Liberia 67-69, Guatemala 74/75) and Michelle's place. Note that this potluck is at 3 in the afternoon so we can take advantage of the river. And if you haven't been there in the past make sure you call for directions. 360-9938

Have a good summer and see you in July.



**NPCA Advocate for Montana**

Jim Burchfield (Guatemala 73-77) has taken on the role of NPCA advocate for Montana. This means that he is in contact with the NPCA advocacy coordinator and when some action is requested of members of the RPCV community in Montana Jim will let us know. Whether it be to call our congressmen about supporting the Peace Corps budget or anything else.



ATLANTA – ... In May.. Former President Jimmy Carter was joined by Peace Corps Acting Director Sheila Crowley and Executive Director of the Atlanta Federal Executive Board Ron Stephens to present the 2017 [Lillian Carter Award](#) in the Cecil B. Day Chapel at the Carter Center in Atlanta, Georgia. The biennial ceremony recognizes an outstanding returned volunteer who served over the age of 50 and demonstrates commitment to the Peace Corps’ third goal: To help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

The Lillian Carter Award was established in 1986 in honor of former President Carter's mother, who served as a health volunteer in India in 1966 at age 68.

This year, Leita Kaldi Davis, 79, of Bradenton, Florida, received the award. “Rarely does one find an opportunity to change one’s life completely, become immersed in an unknown culture, live among people who are kind, wise, and beautiful,” Davis said. “For three years, as a Peace Corps volunteer, I found ways to help my neighbors with small economic advances, health problems, or education. And they helped me to understand what human dignity really means, and how closely connected we are to the earth.”

Leita Kaldi Davis

Born and raised near Syracuse, New York, Leita Kaldi Davis of Bradenton, Florida, began her Peace Corps service in Senegal at age 55 in 1993. Davis spent two years working as a small enterprise development volunteer, eventually extending her service for a third year. As a volunteer, she helped women in her community launch their own business of picking and selling mussels at local markets and taught them how to refine their bookkeeping and increase profits. In addition, she built a warehouse for their operations with the help of a small projects loan.

From 1997 to 2002, Davis continued her tenure with the Peace Corps by serving as an administrator of Hospital Albert Schweitzer in Haiti, where she cared for Peace Corps volunteers in the field. She later returned to Senegal in both 2001 and 2005 to volunteer at Africa Consultants International (ACI), for which she developed annual appeals and continues to coordinate fundraising efforts.

Prior to joining the Peace Corps, Davis pursued adult education courses in literature and music at Syracuse University, University of Cincinnati, New York University, Tufts University, Harvard University and Alliance Francaise in Paris. She worked as an administrative assistant for the United Nations; a program officer at the Law and Population Program, the International Social Studies Program, the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University and the Harvard Institute for International Development; a conference manager at various Florida hotels; an assistant manager of the International Executive Club at CenTrust Bank; and the director of the Foundlings Women’s Club in Miami Beach. After her service, Davis worked as a substitute teacher and a lecturer at the University of South Florida’s Lifelong Learning Academy. Davis retired in 2002.

Since completing her Peace Corps service, Davis has devoted much of her time to promoting the agency’s mission. She has published seven memoirs – two of which document her service overseas, “Roller Skating in the Desert” and “In the Valley of Atibon” – and 50 other articles and stories. In addition, she taught a course titled “Peace Corps at 50” at the Lifelong Learning Academy. Davis has also delivered presentations about the Peace Corps to various groups and organizations – including the U.S. National Committee for UN Women and the American Foreign Service Association – and facilitated discussions at major book clubs about President Carter’s book, “Call to Action: Women, Religion, Violence and Power.”

Davis has been an active member of returned Peace Corps volunteer groups in South Florida and Gulf Coast Florida since 1993 and 2006, respectively. She is also involved with UN Women and collaborates with the Haitian Women of Miami (FANM) to support their community programs for immigrants. Davis received FANM’s Marie Claire Heureuse Award in 2013 for “outstanding leadership on women's rights, and for being an ambassador for social justice and global peace.”



*The following is part of an obituary that appeared in the Billings Gazette. To see the whole obit, you can go to <[http://billingsgazette.com/lifestyles/announcements/obituaries/franklin-lee-arbuckle/article\\_f4beae7a-4eda-5886-84ee-c038b2645d1c.html](http://billingsgazette.com/lifestyles/announcements/obituaries/franklin-lee-arbuckle/article_f4beae7a-4eda-5886-84ee-c038b2645d1c.html)>*

*He was friends with Peter Stoll (Bolivia 67-69) and I had talked with him about getting a group of RPCVs in the Billing area. Editor:*

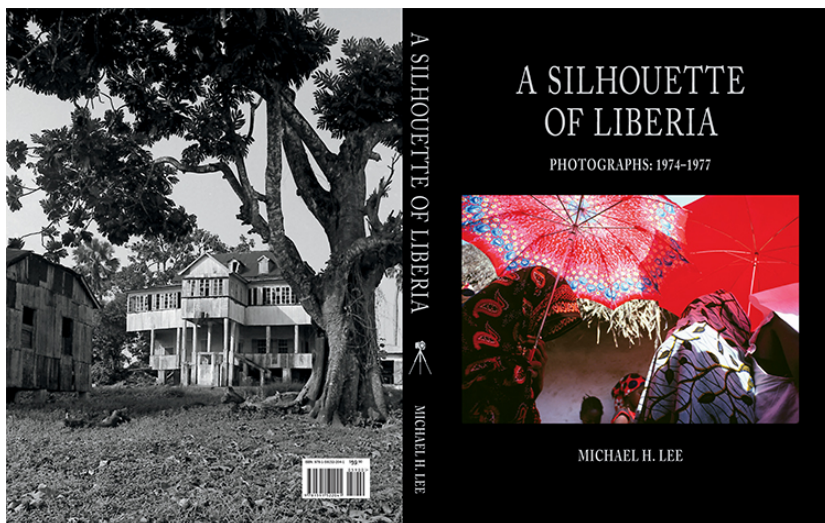
## Franklin Lee Arbuckle

.....After two years at Dartmouth, Lee's thirst for new experiences led him to join the Peace Corps during the third year of its existence. He was stationed in Colombia, where he spent two years setting up co-ops among local businesses. He showed an easy aptitude, both for learning Spanish, which he became fluent in, but also for absorbing a new culture, something that would serve him well during his entire career.

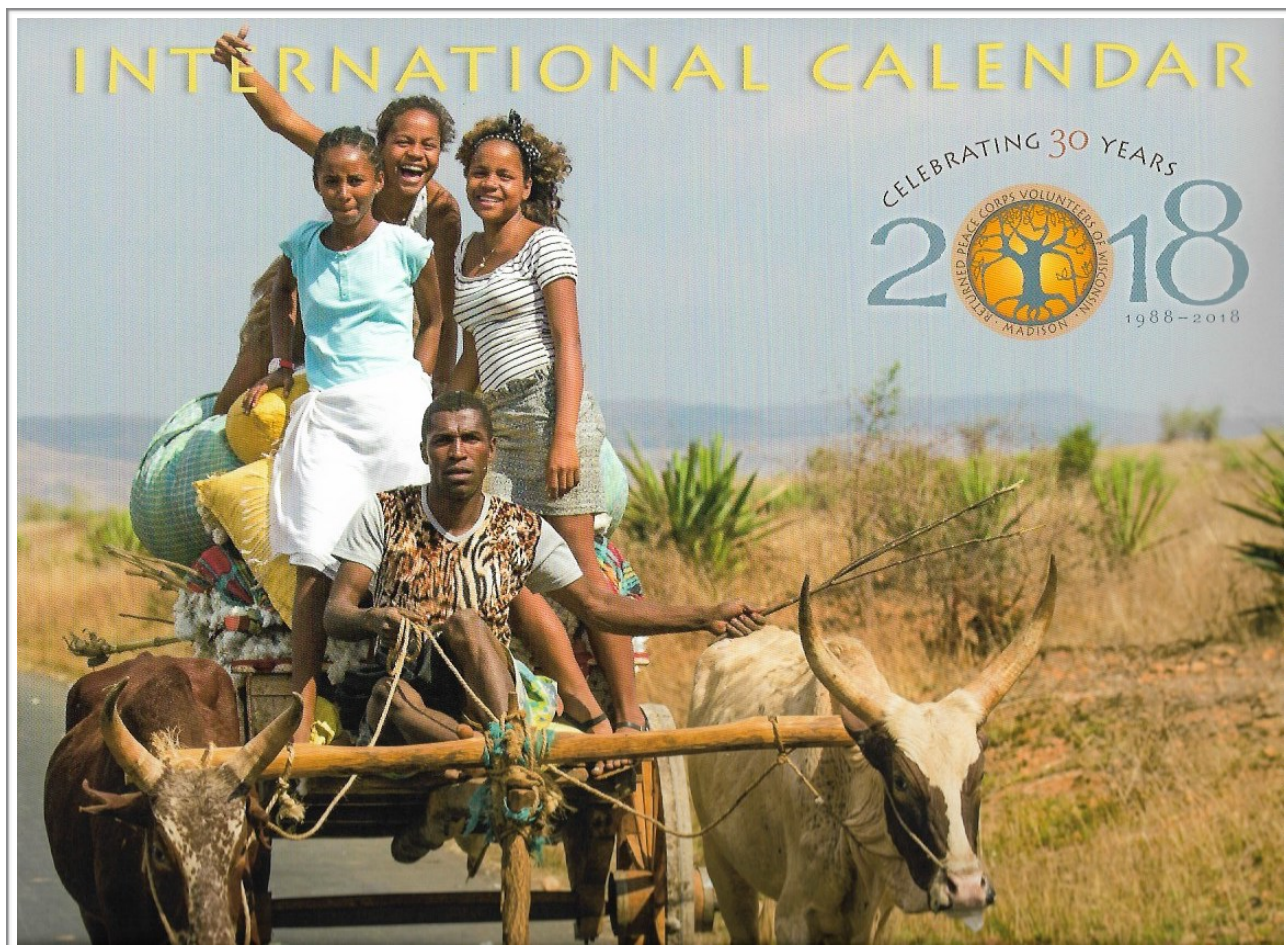
After the Peace Corps, he returned to Dartmouth to finish a degree in economics, and on a brief return to the ranch, was presented with the prospect of being drafted to go to Vietnam. Lee appeared before the draft board, told them he was not a conscientious objector but that he opposed this war, and he asked to be given an opportunity to serve his country in a different capacity, a request that was honored by the draft board in one of the most conservative counties in Montana. He got a job as Peace Corps Director in Cochabamba, Bolivia, where he met his wife Magda Carrasco "Maggie," a native Bolivian who worked in the Peace Corps offices. After many long discussions about how their relationship made little sense, they married anyway and formed a formidable pair for the next 46 years. Lee and Maggie returned to the ranch soon after they were married, but in 1976, Lee was diagnosed with MS, a disease he battled with good humor and determination for the rest of his life. He never lost his ability to walk or to function in any other physical capacity. He considered his main achievement the purchase of the other parcels to put Arbuckle Ranch back together.....

### **Upcoming book from WMRPCV member Mike Lee (Liberia 74-77)**

This book is a collection of photographs Michael Lee took in the mid-1970s in Liberia where he served with the Peace Corps. Lee's soulful and haunting photographs reveal the conditions under which Liberians lived. Lee surrounds these photographs with stories of his experiences. By joining this narrative to his photographs, Lee will stir your imagination and transport you back to a time when Liberians lived in relative peace, though omens of Liberia's violent future are subtext to many of his photographs. Lee enriches this story with uncommon photographs of secret society activities and of architecture. Due to Liberia's two decades of anarchy and civil war, Lee's photographs serve to historically preserve that time and place.



*When the book comes out in August WMRPCV members will be notified.*



The International Calendar Project began in 1987 as a way to share Peace Corps experiences with home communities and to raise money for grassroots projects in the countries where we served or in which we live. The Calendar pictures are windows into our memories and introduce you to the people who welcomed us so warmly into their communities. Nearly every day lists important festivals, birthdays, and holidays from around the world. Since 1961 more than 200,000 Americans have spent time serving in communities overseas. The International Calendar is designed as a teaching aid, introducing varied life styles, terrain, foods, occupations, and crafts from around the world. The Calendar always features countries in which the Peace Corps is currently active or has been hosted in the past.

**The Western MT Returned Peace Corps Volunteer** group is proud to be a part of this partnership and has supported humanitarian efforts in Montana as well as in other countries. If you have a project you would like considered for a donation, please contact us at [www.wmrpcv.com](http://www.wmrpcv.com).

Cost is \$12 per calendar plus \$3 shipping and handling. Please complete the order form below and send it with your check payable to "Western MT RPCVs" to:

Mary Younger, WMRPCV treasurer  
 100 Erika Court  
 Missoula, MT 59803

### 2018 International Calendar Order Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me \_\_\_\_ calendar(s) @ \$15 each (shipping included)

Enclosed is my check total for \$ \_\_\_\_\_.



Western Montana RPCV News

1729 North Avenue West  
Missoula, MT 59801

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN WMRPCV**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Peace Corps country of service \_\_\_\_\_ Years \_\_\_\_\_  
Peace Corps job title \_\_\_\_\_

*For NPCA membership options go to <<http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/membership/>>  
Membership in the NPCA is complimentary for everyone in the Peace Corps community —  
serving Peace Corps Volunteers, Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, current Peace Corps staff,  
former Peace Corps staff, host country nationals and anyone who shares Peace Corps ideals, so  
long as we have accurate service and contact information for you.*

\_\_\_\_\_ WMRPCV \$15.00  
\_\_\_\_\_ WMRPCV Student/Low Income \$7.50  
\_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL ENCLOSED:**

**\*\*Membership dues expire in June of each year.\*\***

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