



Western Montana RPCV News

SEPTEMBER 2016

VOLUME 25 #3

Upcoming Events:

**SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER, 24
6 PM
Potluck at 3918
Lincoln Rd.,
Missoula**

**SUNDAY, OCT. 16
Jeannette Rankin
Peace Center Peace
Party**

**JUNE 9,10,11
2017 Goat Chase**



A collection of memorabilia from the 25th Annual Goat Chase

From the President

Dennis C. Bangs (Ecuador 70-72)

Fall is in the air, so it is time to thank those folks who hosted the summer potlucks and get ready for the fall activities. Thanks to Tony Hoyt (Liberia 67-69, Guatemala 74-75) and Michelle for hosting the July potluck on the banks of the Jocko again. We had a great time, but it wasn't hot enough to jump in the river. And thanks to Jackie Johnson (Nicaragua 2000-01) for hosting the August potluck. The weather really blessed us with lots of sunshine and warm weather for the nice gathering in her flower-filled back yard.

Now it is time to jump into the fall activities with a new Peace Corps Representative on campus. Terri Nichols introduces herself on the following page and is already holding events on campus and the community that she could use help with. So make sure you contact her if you can help out.

Also Tobie Weist (South Africa 2001-03) and a number of other RPCVs are helping with the new African refugees arriving in Missoula. In addition to Tobie, the main contact organization is "Soft Landing Missoula". So if you can help out in any way or just have questions you can contact them at www.softlandingmissoula.org

It looks like the WMRPCV group is going to have a table at the Jeannette Rankin Peace Party again this year. The date this year is Sunday, October 16. We still have a couple of seats available, so contact me as soon as possible if you can attend.

Finally, don't forget about our annual fundraiser. On page 5 you will find the order form and information about the International Calendars from the Wisconsin RPCV group.

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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:

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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243-2839
peacecorps@umontana.edu

WMRPCV Welcomes the following new members:
Kyle Roberts from Kalispell who was in Armenia



New Peace Corps Rep. on campus

Terri Nichols served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Zambia from 2013 to 2015. While there she worked on agriculture and environment projects as a LIFE (Linking Income, Food, and Environment) volunteer, ate lots

of nshima with her neighbors, and cycled across large swaths of northern Zambia. Terri is now working on her master's degree in Environmental Studies, with plans to focus on the human, ethical, and social justice dimensions of conservation.

Terri is originally from suburban Detroit but lived in the Flathead Valley for six years prior to her Peace Corps service. She's looking forward to connecting with Western Montana RPCVs, and to working together on Peace Corps outreach and events. She also hopes to be attending lots of RPCV potlucks soon!

Terri is available during office hours at the Peace Corps Campus Representative Office, listed on the UM Peace Corps Web site, <http://www.umt.edu/peace-corps/default.php>, or other times by appointment. She can be reached at:

UM Office of Career Services
Lommasson Center 154
Missoula, MT 59812-2088
406.243.2839
E-mail: peacecorps@umontana.edu
Web: www.umt.edu/PeaceCorps

Hello Western Montana RPCVs,

I'd like to invite you all to join me and Erin Erickson, the Peace Corps Regional Recruiter, at Zootown Brew on October 3. Erin will be visiting from the Seattle office and wants to meet some of our great Missoula RPCVs. We'll be at Zootown from 6 – 7:30 pm. We're also opening up the event to folks interested in serving in the Peace Corps, since we hope to have a good group of us RPCVs there to answer questions.

Hope to see you all there!

Terri Nichols
Returned Volunteer, Zambia '13 – '15
Peace Corps Campus Representative
University of Montana
Lommasson Center 154
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Liberia's President to be one of the featured speakers at the NPCA conference in Washington DC, September 21-25.

President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is one of the many speakers who will address the conference. For more details about the gathering you can check out the NPCA's website. <www.peacecorpsconnect.org>

Eloise Thompsen (Tanzania 64-66) from Missoula will be attending and will be looking forward to sharing her reflections on her return.

MFA DEGREE IN CREATIVE WRITING

Do you want to earn your Master's Degree in Creative Writing while working full time or serving in the Peace Corps? You can enroll as a student and not have to step onto a college campus. Write your memoir or book about your Peace Corps experience while working full time.

Here's your chance to do it all.

NPCA is pleased to announce partnership with National University to offer a TOTALLY ONLINE Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree for Peace Corps Writers.

The inaugural program is slated to begin in Fall 2016. The initial coursework will focus on the Peace Corps experience and how students might develop that material into a memoir or non-fiction book.

TUITION IS APPROXIMATELY 20K

FINANCIAL AID IS AVAILABLE

All classes are online. There are no classes on campus. The student controls his or her agency of time spent at the computer. Classes are one at a time for one-month or two-months in duration.

Peace Corps Writers

Because of NPCA's partnership in the Creative Writing program, applicants could receive a tuition discount for the degree if they are a NPCA Member, as well as a:

§ Current Peace Corps Volunteer

§ Returned Peace Corps Volunteer

§ Current or former Peace Corps staff member

What Is An MFA?

The MFA is considered a terminal degree. It qualifies you to teach creative writing classes at the college level. At many universities it will also qualify you to teach basic writing classes like composition. It depends on the university. It is much easier to get your foot in the door teaching composition classes.

The MFA Degree

The MFA is a flexible program. Students can complete the degree within two years, progressing at their own pace. As all courses are online, students can live anywhere in the world while enrolled. Consequently, the degree in Creative Writing at National University is rare among other MFA programs: It is one of very few with no residency requirement. Courses are taught by established writers in the field who share their perspective and expertise in the craft.

This program is excellent preparation for a professional career in writing, working in the areas of publishing or filmmaking, and is the minimal academic qualification appropriate for those who desire to teach creative writing at the college or university level.

National University

National University is the second-largest private, nonprofit institution of higher education in California and the 12th largest in the United States. It is one of the very few universities that offer a totally online MFA Creative Writing degree.

Learn More

If you are interested in learning more about the MFA program for Peace Corps Writers, contact the instructor, John Coyne (RPCV Ethiopia), directly at jcoyneone@gmail.com.

John is the editor of <http://peacecorpsworldwide.org> and author of 26 novels and non-fiction books, five of them on the Peace Corps. He will teach the first classes of the Peace Corps class.

For more information on National University's general MFA program, visit [Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing](#).



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.

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

2017 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 OR NPCA

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 only, \$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**