



# Western Montana RPCV News

Volume 6 #3

September 2017

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

SATURDAY, OCT.OBER  
28, 6 PM  
Halloween Party/Potluck  
19380 Conifer Dr., Huson

Christmas Potluck TBA.

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



*Meeting and greeting the new campus recruiter at the Imagine Nation Brewery*

## From the President!!

*Dennis C. Bangs (Ecuador 70-72)*

Fall has arrived to Western Montana and the Western Montana RPCVs, along with the welcome rain and cooler temperatures. Before mentioning the upcoming events and fall activities I want to thank the hosts for the last months potlucks.

Tony Hoyt (Liberia 67-69/Guatemala 74-75) and Michelle once again hosted a great July potluck on the banks of the Jocko River. The weather really cooperated as well. Allowing folks to plunge into the cool waters. In August the weather also cooperated for the potluck Jackie Johnson (Nicaragua 2000-01) hosted in her flower-filled back yard in Missoula. And finally in September Diann Stewart (Uzbekistan 2004-05) played hostess for the first time and everyone appreciated her hospitality with a nice turnout. Thanks to you all.

At the end of August we welcomed the new Campus representative for Peace Corps with a gathering at the Imagine Nation Brewery, picture above. Alexandria Smith, from Atlanta who just returned from Ghana will appreciate any involvement you would like to offer her for any of the recruiting events she organizes. You can contact her at, 243-2839 [peacecorps@umontana.edu](mailto:peacecorps@umontana.edu).

The rest of the fall will bring more activities on campus and the selling of the International Calendars. Remember this is our only fundraiser. You can order the calendars from the information on page 5. Also Mike Lee (Liberia 74-77) has a new book just out on Amazon about Liberia. The details are on Page 2.

Future potlucks will include a Halloween potluck just out of Frenchtown at the home of Bruce and Bunny Sims (Philippines 73-76) and a Christmas potluck in December. I hope to see many of you at these events and others.

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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](mailto:wmrpcv@yahoo.com)>

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

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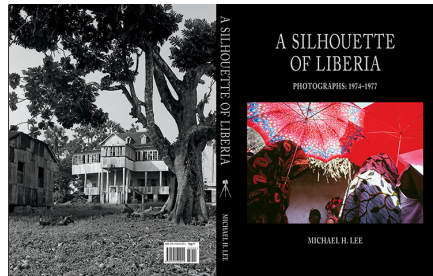
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Montana NPCA advocate, Jim Burchfield <[burchfieldjamesa@gmail.com](mailto:burchfieldjamesa@gmail.com)>

**The Western Montana RPCVs welcome the following new members:**  
Dan Rose from Libby, who was in Ecuador.



## A Silhouette of Liberia Photographs: 1974-1977 Hardcover – 2017

By Mike Lee (Liberia 74-77)

*Now available on Amazon!! The following description comes from the Amazon page promoting the book*

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.



**At the September Potluck, the Koesters introduced Hana Shewamoltot from Ethiopia; Hana is just starting her graduate studies in Counselor Education at UM. Some of you may recall that in 2015, when Lynne and Otto spent some time back in Gondar where they met Hana, she took them on several visits to one of the few schools in that city with a classroom for children with disabilities. The conditions were quite minimal, but the 2 teachers were incredibly dedicated and resourceful. Our WMRPCV group then sent a donation to help cover the cost of making and purchasing school uniforms for the children in this grade school classroom – something they had never before been privileged to have, despite the fact that all others in their school wore uniforms. This is an example of the commitment of someone like Hana, as well as the generosity of our WMRPCV friends. Thank you all!**

Thanks much,  
Lynne

Lynne and Otto Koester attended the PC-Connect Conference held in Denver this year, August 4-6, 2017. The following are a few highlights of sessions that might be of interest to others in our WMRPCV group:

**I. Peace Corps and Rotary Partnership Meeting (Otto):**

- a. Discussed shared commitments of these two groups to volunteerism, sustainable development, international peace, and an appreciation of other cultures.
- b. This has resulted in a formal Memorandum of Understanding signed between Rotary International and Peace Corps in 2015.
- c. The session covered ideas about types of projects and partnerships that might flourish at the local level between Rotary clubs and RPCVs.
- d. There seems to be potential for collaboration and funding of efforts involving WMRPCV and Rotary clubs in Missoula.
- e. Otto is willing to explore this further with local Rotary clubs, and would welcome feedback or project ideas.

**II. Peace Corps Response (Lynne):**

- a. Presenters were two RPCV's who provided Community Health Worker Training in Panama through Peace Corps Response, as well as a Response recruiter from the Washington office.
- b. Emphasis of Response program is on "short-term, high-impact projects", not necessarily crisis intervention. The initiatives come from host countries, which identify a particular need and contact PC with a request.
- c. This is open to professionals who can go into the field without needing further training, and typically language training is either minimal or not needed (this is indicated on website listings for each assignment).

Approximately 1/4<sup>th</sup> are NOT former Peace Corps Volunteers.

- d. Largest sectors for Response projects are Health and Education. Some efforts serve as "pilot projects" that may then lead to actual Peace Corps assignments for incoming volunteers.
- e. Applications are for specific assignments and countries, and usually take about 4 months to be processed; often, several applications are necessary before the right match is found for an individual applicant and a specific project.
- f. Accommodating spouses is more complicated due to the few positions available, so it was recommended that interested partners talk to a PC-Response recruiter first.
- g. Website can be found at [www/peacecorps.gov/response](http://www/peacecorps.gov/response), and one can sign up there for a monthly newsletter. To contact them directly, email [pcresponse@peacecorps.gov](mailto:pcresponse@peacecorps.gov), or call (202) 692-2250.

*Continued on page 4*

**III. Collaboration for Global Education (Lynne):**

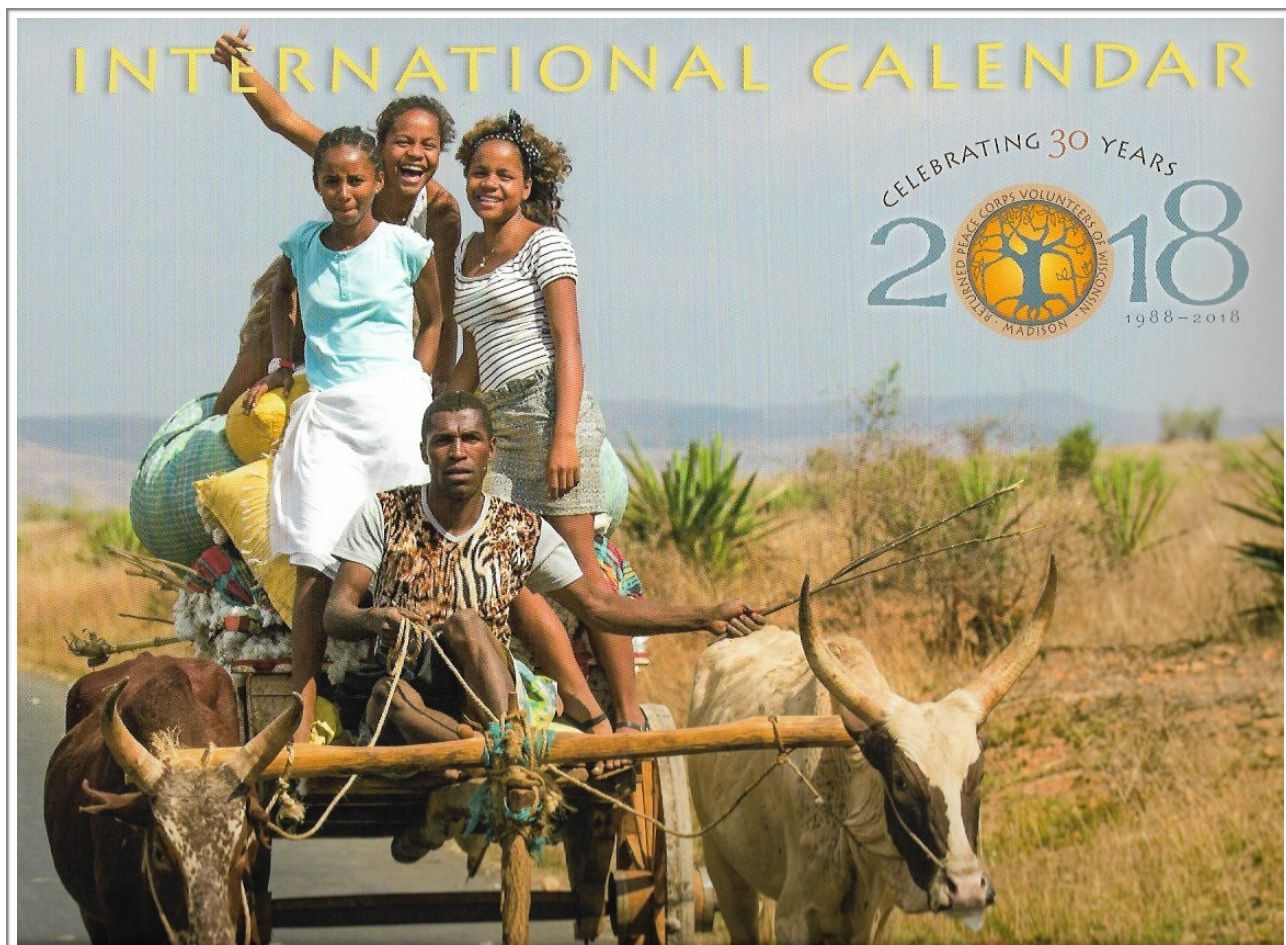
- a. Presented by staff of the Center for Diversity at the University of North Carolina-Asheville and the Western North Carolina RPCV group.
- b. These two groups have joined together to train "global presenters", such as RPCVs who talk to school children about their host countries, their experiences, etc.
- c. The university center has partnered with RPCVs to provide a training manual (widely available through Dropbox) with ideas about how to tailor presentations to different age and interest groups. They are happy to share resources with others.
- d. The WNCRPCV group now has expanded beyond schools and also makes presentations for seniors, assisted living facilities, scout groups, and other community organizations.
- e. One RPCV is responsible for collecting requests, determining needs, scheduling speakers, and tracking the activities; he/she then reports these periodically to the PC "Third Goal" office.
- f. The University of North Carolina-Asheville website also advertises the availability of these "global presenters".
- g. For further information, contact the conveners of this session:
  - i. Margaret Davis: [margaretwd@charter.net](mailto:margaretwd@charter.net)
  - ii. Barbara Stickle: [barbarastickle@me.com](mailto:barbarastickle@me.com)

***The following is a description of the project that Micah Marshall, from Missoula is doing and the calendar sales from WMRPCV are supporting***

Project C.L.I.M.B's goal is to create a sustainable core network of 22 local counterparts and youth from the local region, and to specifically empower the 18 youth from these communities in order to build and strengthen their leadership skills via the completion of a three-month environmental program that incorporates life skills, gender, physical activity, and health training.

Outdoor Activities will include games and songs (in both English and Arabic) while hiking, as well as lessons on first aid and CPR, public speaking, environmental awareness, and sexual health throughout. Project CLIMB features four treks to nearby landmarks in the mid-Atlas and community regions, as well as a final four-day trip to a summit Mt. Community contributions include a space for meeting and preparation, as well as the considerable amount of time that our counterparts will donate to help plan, translate, and facilitate all lessons and trips. Additionally, participants will also be expected to provide their own meals for each of the day-trips, and to pay for transportation costs on the first two trips in April and May. These commitments and fees will help incentivize participants and counterparts to remain committed for the duration of the program.

Given that this project works first and foremost to create a network that connects multiple communities to each other, and directly impacts the lives of youth in each, there is a significant potential and sustainable impact for the communities involved. Upon the programs completion, all participants will be able to keep in touch and coordinate additional projects and opportunities for years to come. While creating a sustainable network between the collaborators and youth of these three communities, we also hope to impress upon the visibility and prevalence of women in leadership positions via some of our counterparts, especially over young men, to inspire younger girls to seek these roles and participate in sports and outdoor activities without fear of judgment.



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**