

Columbia River Peace Corps Association

Serving our community. Engaging the world.



NEWSLETTER

October 2010



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www.crpca.org

50th Anniversary Events of October 16, 2010

The Peace Corps idea was first floated to the public by Presidential candidate John F. Kennedy at 2am on 10/14/1960. It was met with such a rapturous applause that 50 years later, we are still carrying the torch for service and cultural understanding. The Columbia River Peace Corps Association, in partnership with Portland State University, the Oregon Historical Society, and a host of sponsors, invite you to two major events on Saturday, October 16, 2010 to kickoff the Portland area's yearlong celebration of Peace Corps' 50th anniversary.

A Call to Service Continues: Celebrating 50 Years of Peace Corps, 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.



This daylong conference is a free service to our community, and we couldn't do it without valuable assistance from Portland State University. We'll convene at 10:00 am in PSU's Multicultural Center for a welcome address and a diverse panel of RPCVs. After lunch at the Portland Farmers Market or nearby restaurants, there will be three sets of breakout sessions between 1pm and 4pm, including informational workshops on interviewing and résumé-writing techniques, how to write and talk about your Peace Corps experience, ways to volunteer again locally or overseas, etc. The event will culminate with a workshop led by the President of Idaho RPCVs, Kevin Laughlin: "Who Moved My Cheese: Tools for Living with Unwanted Change" (4pm to 5pm). This gathering will take place at Portland State University's Multicultural Center, room 228 in the Smith Memorial Student Union, 1825 SW Broadway in Portland. PSU is accessible by MAX (Green and Yellow lines), Portland Streetcar, and a dozen TriMet bus lines. There's also ample bicycle parking. If you choose to drive, Saturday parking in PSU garages is \$5/day.



Fundraiser for 50th Anniversary of Peace Corps Exhibit, 5:30- 7:30 p.m.

The Oregon Historical Society's exhibit, Peace Corps: 50 Years of Service, will open March 1, 2011 (on the 50th anniversary of JFK's executive order establishing the Peace Corps) and will run at least three months. OHS wants this exhibit to have a significant audio-visual element, and CRPCA aims to replenish our grant fund, so we're jointly planning a fundraiser for the evening of October 16.

We'll move eight blocks down the Park Blocks from PSU to OHS (1200 SW Park Ave) at 5:30 pm. Proceeds from our \$15 donations (\$20 at the door) will be split equally between OHS' exhibit



and CRPCA's grant fund.

We'll sample artisan cheeses and local microbrews and wines. We'll also tour the current exhibits, preview the Peace Corps exhibit, and enjoy belly dancing from Origin and Mediterranean music from Negara

CONTENTS

50th Anniversary Events of October 16, p. 1
Building a Legacy of Peace Corps Conferences, p. 2
2011 International Calendars for Sale, p. 2
Calendar of CRPCA Events, p. 3
Zambia Night in Salem on October 22, p. 5
Ukimwi (AIDS), p. 5
Are you eligible for free NPCA membership?, p. 7
Peace Corps Speakers Match Program, p. 7
Invitation to the CRPCA Board, p. 8
CRPCA/NPCA Membership Form, p.9



CRPCA has joined Facebook. "Like" our Facebook Page and get information on upcoming events in your news feed! Search for Columbia River Peace Corps Association, or go to <http://tiny.cc/hs4sb>

Building on a Legacy of Peace Corps Conferences

by Bill Stein, CRPCA President

Ever been to a Peace Corps conference? If not, take it from me: They're a blast!

Just in case you haven't heard, we're planning a big shindig for October 16. While the immediate impetus for the event was the offer of space at Portland State University (big thanks to Professor Martha Hickey), a lot of the event planners' inspiration came from other such events we've planned and/or attended (see my personal recollections below). We're also excited about the synergy that evening with our joint fundraiser with the Oregon Historical Society.

The first Peace Corps conference I'll remark on was my training group's close-of-service (COS) conference at our original training site. It was notable that in the two years since we first arrived in Niger, they'd added air conditioning to the site, so Peace Corps would no longer have to pay for conferences in capital hotels. The most useful thing I got out of this gathering was one-on-one help I still value with how to describe your experiences in résumés and cover letters. The evenings devolved into drunken debauchery, as there was no training staff to watch our every move.

Our 10/16 event will be in a climate-controlled room (PSU's Multicultural Center). We'll offer help with résumé-writing and interviewing, for those who missed their COS conferences or just need a refresher on how to represent oneself in this challenging economic climate. If you come out for the evening's fundraising event, there will be excellent Oregon beer and wine, but drunkenness will not be encouraged.

When I arrived in Atlanta for graduate school, the local RPCV group was immersed in planning the 1994 National Peace Corps conference. They assigned this newly returned volunteer to arrange audio-visual equipment for the meeting rooms and order the conference t-shirts. As I had not landed in one of those

meccas for recent RPCVs, it was awesome when the Peace Corps network came to my community! Three of my PC-Niger friends came (and we had a very coincidental reunion with two others with whom we had served: they were just making a connection at the airport!). I glimpsed the awesome power of connection among RPCVs when I began decades-long acquaintances with folks in the cohesive Northwest RPCV community. And the entertainment was stellar; incredible acts from Senegal and South Africa stick out.

Our 10/16 events will also foster connections between people. For entertainment at the OHS fundraiser, we'll have belly dancing from Origin and Mediterranean music from Negara.

In the late 1990s, the National Peace Corps Association made the short-sighted decision to stop having national conferences in cities other than Washington, D.C. I stewed about this for a few years then went to the "40+1" conference in 2002 that was delayed by 9/11. A couple things stick out from that conference. The "So you want to be an RPCV author" session was standing room only, and the evening fundraiser was absurdly expensive (\$200 per plate), in part because it was one of the last public appearances of Sargent Shriver.

"A Call to Service Continues: Celebrating 50 Years of Peace Corps" will also offer a "how to write about your Peace Corps experience" session (with local author Peter Chilson), plus storytelling training from local Toastmasters. Our guest of honor is Kevin Laughlin, President of Idaho RPCVs, who will deliver his "Who Moved My Cheese: Tools for Living with Unwanted Change" workshop. And our fundraiser will only set you back \$15 if you pay in advance at <http://www.crPCA.org/oct16.html>.

Make your own Peace Corps conference memories, on the very weekend the Peace Corps idea was first publicly floated by JFK 50 years ago. Plan to join us October 16 at Portland State University (10am to 5pm) and at the Oregon Historical Society (5:30 pm to 7:30 pm).



2011 International Calendars for Sale

Each year CRPCA sells the beautiful wall calendars produced by the RPCVs of Madison, Wisconsin to help fund our Grant Program. The 2011 edition is extra special. In honor of Peace Corps' 50th anniversary, the 13 original Peace Corps countries are featured. As always, there's a lot of information (even art) from every featured country, plus holidays from all 139 Peace Corps countries (and the USA). Yet we're still just charging **\$10**, so get yours today (hint: they make great holiday gifts!). You can purchase them at any CRPCA event this fall or through the mail for a nominal shipping charge. CRPCA's contact for our 2011 calendar sale is Phyllis Shelton, treasurer@crPCA.org or 503-704-6298.

Calendar of CRPCA Events

Our busy season resumes! We have an unprecedented eleven events on ten dates in October, including a jam-packed kickoff to Peace Corps' 50th anniversary year on October 16. We so far have six planned events in both November and December.

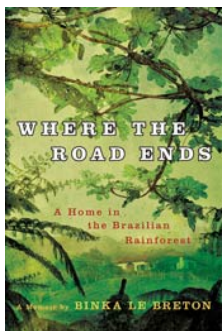
For those looking ahead to the first half of 2011: Our Potlucks will be on 2/13, 3/13, 4/10, 5/15, and 6/12. Our Soirées will be on 1/24, 2/28, 3/28, 4/25, 5/23, and 6/27. Note that not all are on last Mondays. Also, the January and April Soirées will be joint happy hours with Global Sistergoods and the Portland Global AIDS Coalition (location TBA).

October 2010

Saturday, 10/02, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm - Group Tour of Portland's Bull Run Watershed on Mt Hood. **Update: There may be more seats available on the bus!** Please e-mail president@crpca.org if you would like to join us. All we need is your name and the number of seats you need, then see our [Bull Run Tour page](#) for more information.

Monday, 10/04, 6:00 pm - Movie and Food Cart Night. Let's meet at the [Living Room Theater](#), located downtown at [341 SW 10th Ave](#) in Portland, just a block or so away from Powell's Bookstore. It's \$5 movie night! The theater offers artsy films, a trendy/eclectic atmosphere, and the option to purchase wine/beer and light dishes with the movie. We'll meet at the Living Room Theater at 6:00 pm, decide on a film to see, buy our tickets, and then proceed to one of the nearby food carts, where we can choose from over 30 types of food....all priced low, low, low, but with the food quality generally pretty high, and certainly interesting. Please bring cash since the food carts don't accept credit cards. If you have trouble finding the CRPCA folks, call Mitch at 503-505-2160.

Wednesday, 10/06, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm - Book Club. Location at the home of Carol McCormac Wild, [7865 SW Parrway Dr](#) in Portland. The book to read is ***Where the Road Ends: A Home in the Brazilian Rainforest*** by Binka Le Breton (2010). See our [Book Club page](#) for more information. Feel free to bring snacks to share.



Sunday, 10/10, 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm - Potluck Gathering. Location at the home of Jenny Tsai, [2646 NW Overton St](#) in Portland. All are welcome to the 5pm CRPCA

business meeting (where we will determine which grants to award for the autumn grant cycle), 6pm dinner (please bring a dish to share), and 7pm program...

Will you be staying long? Notes from the Brazilian backwoods.

Special guest: Binka le Breton, author of *Where the Road Ends: A Home in the Brazilian Rainforest* (our 10/06 Book Club selection). From Binka: "I'd like to look at the questions of why we plunge into another culture. What do we envision? Bridges of understanding? Exchange of knowledge? Transfer of technology? Making the world a better place, one village/child/school/healthpost/agricultural project at a time? How do we cope with cultural differences, expectations met and unmet? Who benefits and how do we know it? How could we do it different? Better? 25 minutes max on a Midlife Alternative to the Peace Corps, and then open it up for discussion. Should be fun!"

Thursday, 10/14, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm - Service Activity at the Oregon Food Bank, [7900 NE 33rd Drive](#) in Portland. Please see our [Service page](#) for additional details.



RSVP to Tom DeMeo (service@crpca.org, 503-267-3943) by Monday, 10/11.

Saturday, 10/16, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm - A Call to Service Continues: Celebrating 50 Years of Peace Corps.

This daylong conference on the Portland State University campus is a free service to our community. See our [October 16 50th Anniversary Events page](#) for all the details.

Saturday, 10/16, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm - Fundraiser for 50th Anniversary of Peace Corps Exhibit at the Oregon Historical Society. Proceeds from our \$15 donations (\$20 at the door) will be split equally between OHS' exhibit and CRPCA's grant fund. We'll sample artisan cheeses and local microbrews and wines. We'll also tour the current exhibits, preview the Peace Corps exhibit, and enjoy belly dancing from Origin and Mediterranean music from Negara. See our [October 16 50th Anniversary Events page](#) for all the details--and for advance tickets.

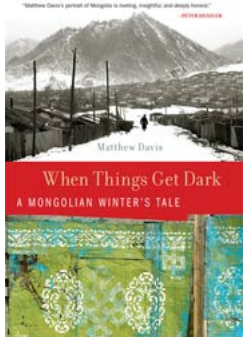
Monday, 10/18, 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm - Joint quarterly Happy Hour with Global Sistergoods and the Portland Area Global AIDS Coalition. Share a pint with RPCVs and other folks with international interests at a pub run by RPCVs: Migration Brewing, [2828 NE Glisan St](#) in Portland.

Thursday, 10/21, 6:00 pm - Movie and Tex Mex Night. Let's meet at 6pm sharp at Esparza's Tex Mex Café, [2725 SE Ankeny St](#) in Portland. After dinner we'll walk one block north to [Laurelhurst Theater](#), [2735 E Burnside St](#) and choose a \$3 film. Note that this venue is 21+ only. **Dinner RSVP required** (max group size 10) to Mitch Auerbach, social@crpca.org or 503-505-2160. If you have trouble finding the CRPCA folks, please call Mitch.

Saturday, 10/23, 11:00 am - Family Activity: Oxbow Park Salmon Viewing. We will meet for the walk that starts at 11am. Inquire at the entry booth for starting location of the salmon-viewing station then follow the signs to the salmon! Last year, it rained but was still well attended and fun! If the weather is nice, we will find a picnic spot afterward, so bring a bag lunch. Naturalists are on hand at the river's edge to help spot spawning salmon and interpret their behavior and life cycle. Special salmon-viewing glasses are available on loan. Salmon viewing station proceeds rain or shine; dress for the weather. The trail is unpaved and fairly level; wear good walking shoes. Suitable for all ages. There is also an optional Mushroom walk for ages 12 and older starting in at 2:15 at group picnic area A (Alder). Programs are free with a \$5 per vehicle entry fee to the park. Leave pets at home. It takes about an hour to drive from Portland to Oxbow: 45 minutes to the park boundary at 3010 SE Oxbow Pkwy, then you'll crawl along the last several miles to the meeting place. But once you're there it's a magical place! RSVP not required, but questions can be referred to Karen Cellarius, family@crpca.org or 503-998-5572. Note that Oxbow is outside of cell phone range

Monday, 10/25, 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm - Peace Corps Around the World. Speak informally with Peace Corps nominees (there will also be a brief panel discussion) while in host-country attire at the Portland REI, 1405 NW Johnson St. After the event, folks will peel off to Bridgeport BrewPub, 1313 NW Marshall St, to continue the conversations. Peace Corps wants a huge turnout for this event, so bring your friends! Park free on the 2nd or 3rd floor of the REI garage (accessible from NW Johnson St between 14th and 15th) until 9:00 pm.

November 2010



Wednesday, 11/03, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm - Book Club. Location at the home of Mitch Auerbach, 2746 NE 52nd Ave in Portland. The book to read is *When Things Get Dark: A Mongolian Winter's Tale* by Mongolia RPCV Matthew Davis (2010). See our [Book Club page](#) for more information. Feel free to bring snacks to

share.

Friday, 11/05, 6:00 pm - Restaurant Gathering at Dwaraka Indian Cuisine, 3962 SE Hawthorne Blvd in Portland. **RSVP required** to Mitch Auerbach, social@crpca.org or 503-505-2160.

Tuesday, 11/09, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm - Service Activity working in the Portland Fruit Tree Project office, 1912 NE Killingworth St in Portland. Kids welcome! RSVP to Tom DeMeo (service@crpca.org, 503-267-3943) by Friday, 11/05.

Sunday, 11/14, 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm - Potluck Gathering. Location at the home of Tom DeMeo,

301 NE 67th Ave (tan bungalow 1.5 blocks south of Glisan) in Portland. All are welcome to the 5pm CRPCA business meeting (where we will decide on our priorities for future grant decisions), 6pm dinner (please bring a dish to share), and 7pm program (Institute for Intercultural Communication).

Tuesday, 11/16, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm - Service Activity at the Oregon Food Bank, 7900 NE 33rd Drive in Portland. Please see our [Service page](#) for additional details. RSVP to Tom DeMeo (service@crpca.org, 503-267-3943) by Friday, 11/12.

Monday, 11/29, 6:30 pm - Soirée. An informal gathering at the Lucky Labrador Brew Pub, 915 SE Hawthorne Blvd in Portland. This is a great way to link up with other RPCVs, hear interesting stories from around the world, and grab a beer and a bite to eat among good company. You can usually find us in the front room. Kids welcome until 9pm.

December 2010

Friday, 12/03, 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm - Game Night. Location at the home of Bill Stein, 4308 SE Lexington St in Portland. RSVP to president@crpca.org or 503-830-0817 if you want to go in on a group pizza order. After we eat, pick a game and find folks to play it with. Games on hand include Blokus, Eurorails, Monopoly, Scrabble, Settlers of Catan, and Ticket to Ride. Or you're welcome to bring your own. Fun for the whole family!

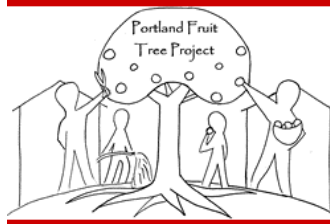
Monday, 12/06, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm - Book Club. Location at the home of Irene Tinker, 3030 SW Moody Ave, Apt 1508 in Portland (free guest parking is available at the Mirabella Portland). The book to read is *Crossing Centuries: A Road Trip Through Colonial Africa* by Irene Tinker (2010). Prepare to discuss this long-ago voyage with the memoir's author, in whose home we'll be gathering! See our [Book Club page](#) for more information. Feel free to bring wine/cheese to share.

Thursday, 12/09, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm - Service Activity at the Oregon Food Bank, 7900 NE 33rd Drive in Portland. Please see our [Service page](#) for additional details. RSVP to Tom DeMeo (service@crpca.org, 503-267-3943) by Monday, 12/06.

Sunday, 12/12, 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm - Potluck Gathering. Location at the home of Cate Wilcox, 4609 SE Mitchell St in Portland. All are welcome to the 5pm CRPCA business meeting, 6pm dinner (please bring a dish to share), and 7pm program (TBA).

Tuesday, 12/14, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm - Service Activity working in the Portland Fruit Tree Project office, 1912 NE Killingworth St in Portland. Kids welcome! RSVP to Tom DeMeo (service@crpca.org, 503-267-3943) by Friday, 12/10.

Monday, 12/20, 6:30 pm - Soirée. An informal gathering at the Lucky Labrador Brew Pub, 915 SE Hawthorne Blvd in Portland. You can usually find us in the front room. Note that this one will be a week earlier than usual; take a break from your holiday preparations!



Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund Hosts 5th Annual Zambia Night Event

Salem, OR –September 13, 2010 - The fifth annual Zambia Night event will be a celebration of the recently completed Light and Literacy project at the Memorial Library and Learning Center in Lumwana West, a village in the Northwest Province of Zambia, Africa. The event will raise money for future projects with a focus on the "Education of Beth's Girls: Grades 8-12 & Beyond" as more and more girls are asking to continue their education.

The Zambia Night event will feature "Baskets for Beth" Silent Auction, belly dancing by the Artemis Tribal Belly Dance Troupe, Mark Powers' African Drummers—The Kola Nuts, a Zambian Market (arts and crafts), music, children's activities, program booths and displays, a video/slide presentation on the "Light and Literacy" program, food, a no-host bar with Eola Hills wines, and more.

The event and projects are sponsored by the local Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund (EBZEF). One hundred percent of all contributions go to EBZEF, which is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt, non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible.

When: Friday, October 22, 5:30-9:00P.M.

Where: Clockworks Café and Cultural Center (old Blue Pepper Café) at 241 Commercial St. Salem, Oregon, with free street and lot parking.

The Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund (EBZEF) is a local, non-profit organization which provides educational opportunities and scholarships to Zambian girls and women in Lumwana West, a village in the Northwest Province of Zambia, Africa. It was founded in memory of Elizabeth Bowers, a Sprague High School and Earlham College alumna, who died during her time as a Peace Corps volunteer in Zambia.

CONTACT: Linda Bowers, EBZEF Executive Director
lbowers@willamette.edu
Phone: 503-585-4605
www.bethsgirls.org



Book Club seeks Latin American Literature

We are compiling a list of books to consider for CRPCA's 2011 Book Club survey, and it's been pointed out to us that we need more works about Latin

America. If you know of any good English language reads set in Latin America or penned by Latin Americans, please submit the titles/authors to books@crpca.org by 10/16. A sampling of these will be included in the forthcoming survey.

Ukimwi (AIDS) by Kristen Grauer-Gray (PCV in Tanzania 2008-2010)

Editor's note: The author studied biochemistry at Reed College. She's been teaching chemistry and biology at a secondary school in northern Tanzania since 2008. She's COS-ing this month and may visit Portland in the near future. Note that names have been changed in this stirring story that encapsulates so well some of the conundrums faced by PCVs.

Karatu district, Tanzania, 29 August 2010

When I go to town, I usually stay with my friend Rebecca. I arrived in town last weekend to find that Rebecca had gone to Uganda. "When will she be back?" I asked one of her employees.

Next weekend, was the answer. But Amanda is around, and she can give you the keys. So I went to Rebecca's housekeeper to ask for the keys to the house.

Amanda wasn't home. I followed one of her relatives along a narrow dirt path between houses, and found her sitting with friends outside a neighbor's house.

"Habari za Endamararielik?" she greeted me. "How are things in your village?"

They're good, I told her, but busy. "How is your health?" I asked. The last time I'd seen her, she'd been throwing up in a car on the way to the hospital.

"It's a bit better," she said briefly. "Come on, I'll open the door to the house for you."

We walked to the house, and the two dogs followed us inside. Amanda sat down on a chair and began to play with them. She was uncharacteristically quiet. In all the time I've known her, I've never seen her just sit down. She's always busy: cleaning the house, feeding the dogs, washing clothes. And despite all that work she's always cheerful, always in a good mood. But now she just sat, solemn and sad.

"Are you feeling better?" I asked her again. "You were really sick that day."

"It's true, I was," she said. "They put me on a drip with medicine."

"What was it?" I asked. "Malaria?"

"Yes," she said briefly. Then, "Rebecca didn't tell you?"

I haven't seen Rebecca in over two weeks, I told her. It's been busy at school.

"I was still feeling sick, so I went to the hospital again to have my blood tested. Nina ugonjwa wa kisasa."

Ugonjwa wa kisasa. The modern disease. It took a minute for that to click.

Then it did. What disease do people talk around, instead of saying its name? What disease is in the news all the time, in every African country? Ugonjwa wa kisasa is AIDS.

"Pole sana," I told her. "I'm very sorry. Did you get medicine?"

Yes, she said, she had. But she still sat there, gazing into space, and it was clear she wanted to talk more.

Here I was, exhausted from a week of teaching practicals, sick of the problems of village life, and desperate for a break from Tanzania in general. A part of me really didn't want to have this conversation. I don't know if I can do this, I thought. I don't know if I can help. People never ask me for advice, not about emotions, not about life. My students ask me how to balance equations and study for exams and hold a flask during titration. My friends ask me how to prepare a Tanzanian laboratory and deal with large classes and when do I expect to pass through their town or village in my travels. Somehow I manage to keep my own mental equilibrium and sanity, but that doesn't mean I know

how I do it, it doesn't mean I can pass that equilibrium onto others. Yet here's this middle-aged Tanzanian woman, clearly wanting to talk. She can't talk to her relatives for fear of the stigma against people with AIDS. She can't talk to Rebecca because Rebecca is out of town and doesn't speak Swahili anyway. And then I come to town, a neutral and non-judgmental party, speaking fluent Swahili and understanding Tanzanian culture. I guess that makes me the perfect person to talk to.

So here goes.

I tell her that the medicine can help her live for a long time, but that she needs to take care of herself as well. I tell her to eat well: lots of fruits and vegetables, not just starches. I tell her the medicine may bother her stomach or make her feel nauseous, but she needs to keep taking it.

Is there a cure for AIDS in America? she asks. Don't they have a cure?

No, there's no cure, not even in America. There are just medicines to keep the virus from getting too strong, like they have here. Think of it as an unwanted guest in your body, I say. It will always be there, but you can keep it from doing too much damage too fast.

So the end is always death? she asks.

Mwisho wa maisha ni kifo. The end of life is always death. For you, for me, for everyone. And we can never know when that day is coming. I had a friend, young like me, in perfectly good health, who died suddenly in an accident. He'd been teaching in Tanzania for almost two years and was supposed to be going home soon. You can be young and strong and die unexpectedly, or you can have AIDS and take care of yourself and live for many years.

Don't spend all your time thinking about death. Enjoy the days as they come. Enjoy spending time with your children. Enjoy sitting in the sunlight. Just enjoy life and don't spend all your time thinking about the end.

We agree that spending long periods of time sitting alone is a bad plan, and spending time with others can help. She tells me that she likes to come sit and play with Rebecca's dogs, and that playing with them makes her feel better.

We keep talking, but she still looks worried and depressed. This is new to me. I've never, ever seen a Tanzanian look depressed. I know people who have lived incredibly hard lives, their parents died when they were young, their crops failed, their children are sick, they don't have money for school fees. Yet even the people with the most depressing life stories always manage to appear happy on the outside.

I'm worried about my children, Amanda tells me. My husband left me many years ago, and he's not going to come back and help them. He hasn't even visited them in years. That's just how it works in Africa. The children are the mother's, and my husband and his relatives will do nothing to help them.

Start planning early, I tell her. Do you have any relatives who will be willing to take care of them? Can you start putting aside money to pay for their education? You know, there are organizations out there that help that children of people with AIDS, and I'm sure Rebecca will help you to find them.

She's a good person, I add, and she'll do what she can to help you.

I said what I could, and I hope it helped, and I tried to swallow my own problems and be cheerful

whenever I saw Amanda that weekend. I went back to my village a few days later, but I saw Amanda again the next time I was in town. Rebecca was still in Uganda, and Amanda really did look sick. She sent her relatives to the gate of Rebecca's house around eight at night, to tell me she was sick and to come to her house. I felt way out of my depth and wished that Rebecca were home from Uganda. But she wasn't, so I followed Amanda's relatives along narrow dirt paths in the dark, and found her lying in bed with her eyes closed. She had ulcers, or another stomach problem brought on by the anti-retroviral drugs, and she'd gone to the hospital to ask about medicine. She handed me a piece of paper with the name of a medicine written down on it.

Magnesium, I read. But I don't understand what the problem is. Is it that the pharmacies are closed for the night? Is it money to buy the medicine?

Money, she whispers. I gave her five thousand shillings. In the morning she showed up at the house, looking slightly better but still very sick. She fed the dogs and turned off the outside lights and grabbed the pot for cooking more food for the animals, all while telling me she was too still sick to go to church. And then she told me she would do her best to return the money to me.



Really, I told her, don't worry about it. And I added to myself, you have enough to worry about already.

According to UNICEF, Tanzania has a 6.2 percent HIV rate. About 1,400,000 people are estimated to be living with HIV. I've lived in this country for three years, and Amanda is the only person I've ever met who told me she has HIV. But I doubt that HIV is uncommon in my town. I've only recently realized this, but Karatu is a transit town, on a recently paved road, with lots of truckers and other travelers passing through. Some of these travelers have a lot of money. If that's not a recipe for the spread of HIV, I don't know what is.

A lot is being done to prevent that spread. HIV prevention is in the school curriculum, government clinics offer free testing, and there are lots of NGOs teaching people about HIV. But many factors are also working against prevention, from economic problems that lead to prostitution, to a traditional culture that leads women to be passive and lack confidence, to the fact that it's often normal and accepted to have many lovers. HIV is in the villages, of course, but it's often a larger problem in towns, where there are so many travelers passing through, and people without farms and crops are a bit more desperate to acquire money.

Like many young Tanzanians, my students want to move to town the first chance they have. I just hope they'll be careful.

When you join NPCA, you'll start receiving WorldView magazine and stay current on events and accomplishments happening in the Peace Corps community. You'll also be connected to and a part of the largest group of RPCVs in the world.

Peace Corps Speakers Match Program

Bring the world into schools and classrooms - register as an RPCV speaker! The Peace Corps' Speakers Match program provides a fascinating way to introduce students to other cultures and to share your inspiring stories of service through photographs, artifacts, music, language and stories. To help you effectively share your work, Peace Corps developed the Speakers Match Handbook, rich with resources for RPCV speakers. The handbook provides teaching suggestions to connect your activity with Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, Math, World Languages, or other subjects. It also includes suggestions for communication with the teacher and ideas for pre- and post-visit activities to extend the learning beyond your visit. Learn more at <http://www.peacecorps.gov/www/speakersmatch>.

To participate as a speaker, or to update your contact information with Speakers Match, simply send an email to wwsinfo@peacecorps.gov. Please include your:

- name
- address
- best phone number
- best email address
- country and years of Peace Corps service
- primary volunteer assignment.

Note from CRPCA: Don't forget about our local Speakers Bureau, which you can join anytime at <http://www.crpa.org/speakers.html>.

Are you eligible for free NPCA membership?

NPCA has finally discovered the wisdom of offering a free first year to all RPCVs regardless of COS date (CRPCA did so back in 2006). If you've never previously been a member of NPCA but would like to join (for



free!), please let us know when you join or renew your CRPCA membership. The updated CRPCA/NPCA membership form is at the back of this newsletter. Here is some more info recently supplied by NPCA...

Founded in 1979 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., the National Peace Corps Association is the nation's leading 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization supporting Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and the Peace Corps community through networking and mentoring to help guide former volunteers through their continued service back home. The organization encompasses a network of over 30,000 individuals and more than 140 member groups. It is also the longest-standing advocate for an independent and robust Peace Corps and its values. It is not a part of the United States Peace Corps, which is a federal agency. To learn more, visit www.PeaceCorpsConnect.org.

NPCA's Advocacy Coordinator, Jonathan Pearson reports that "Congressmen Peter DeFazio and Earl Blumenauer were among the 51 co-sponsors who helped provide the necessary momentum" for the House of Representatives' passage of H.R. 4195, "legislation that authorizes a commemorative near the National Mall that would mark the lasting historical significance of the Peace Corps and the ideals and values that it represents."

Invitation to the CRPCA Board

A big welcome to **Mitch Auerbach**, who was elected CRPCA's Social Coordinator at our 9/19 annual meeting. Mitch is excited to plan more movie nights, outdoor activities, restaurant gatherings, etc.

We will be accepting nominations for and hope to elect members to the following board positions at our 10/10 5pm business meeting. Filling both positions with energetic and engaged people will bring us a long way toward making Peace Corps' 50th year the best yet for CRPCA!

Education Coordinator: We seek someone who is eager to organize RPCV speaker programs at the spring 2011 Peace Corps exhibit at the Oregon Historical Society. Ideally this would be someone who knows how to tell a good story, as we'd like to build on our progress in this area.

Fundraising Coordinator: While this position has been open, other members have stepped in to plan the annual calendar sale and our 10/16 fundraiser. But we're hoping to raise approximately \$3,000 more in the fiscal year that starts this month, in order to boost our grant fund for next year. Filling this position will be key to this effort.

Both positions run through April 2011, at which point you could be elected to a full year's term if you wish. During this time period we'll have at least four business meetings (5-6 pm on 10/10, 11/14, 2/13, and 4/10) and possibly up to two more (5-6 pm on 12/12 and/or 3/13) where board attendance is requested.

Full information on CRPCA board positions is available at <http://www.crpca.org/govern.html#BR1>. To express your interest in or ask questions about a position, please contact Bill Stein at president@crpca.org or 503-830-0817.

2010-2011 Board Members

Office	Name	Country & Years of PC Service	Phone	Email
President	Bill Stein	<u>Niger</u> 1990-1993	503-830-0817	president@crpca.org
Secretary	Brenda Michel	Sierra Leone 1986-1988	503-408-6933	secretary@crpca.org
Treasurer	Phyllis Shelton	Honduras 1986-1988	503-704-6298	treasurer@crpca.org
Newsletter Editor	Katie Masferrer	Peru 2004-2006	503-946-8567	newsletter@crpca.org
Newsletter Editor	Alanna Randall	Belize 2001-2003	971-340-9763	newsletter@crpca.org
Webmaster	Scott Eckert	St. Vincent & the Grenadines 1987-1989	971-832-9695	webmaster@crpca.org
Education Coordinator & Membership Coordinator	Marta Wicke	Mozambique 2001-2003	480-747-3875	membership@crpca.org
Events Coordinator	Amy Evans	Jamaica 2000-2002	503-890-2731	events@crpca.org
Events Coordinator	Erin Gettling	Ukraine 2003-2005	971-404-4308	events@crpca.org
Fundraising Coordinator	Your name here?! Nominations to president@crpca.org			
Grants Coordinator	Richard Rystrom	Ukraine 2007-2009	360-993-5365	grants@crpca.org
Networking Coordinator & Program Coordinator	Madeleine Mader	Cameroon 1984-1986	--	networking@crpca.org
Service Coordinator	Tom DeMeo	Ghana 1980-1982, Botswana 1982-1984	503-267-3943	service@crpca.org
Social Coordinator	Mitch Auerbach	Guatemala 1980-1982	503-505-2160	social@crpca.org



Columbia River Peace Corps Association & National Peace Corps Association

MEMBERSHIP - ADDRESS CHANGE - RENEWAL FORM

CRPCA's \$20 dues confer full membership on one or two named adults sharing an address. NPCA's \$35 dues are per individual. CRPCA urges you to support both organizations. Membership is open to all, and your contributions are tax-deductible.

	Member #1	Member #2
Name	_____	_____
Address	_____	
City, State, & Zip	_____	
Home Phone	_____	
Work Phone	_____	_____
Cell Phone	_____	_____
E-mail Address	_____	_____
Peace Corps Country & Years of Service	_____	_____
Peace Corps Job/Sector	_____	_____
Current Occupation	_____	_____

CRPCA Annual Dues: \$20 per household

or check here **for FREE membership in CRPCA.** One free year is offered to all Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) residing in our geographic area who were never previously members of CRPCA. Currently-serving Peace Corps Volunteers from our geographic area are also welcome to free membership for the duration of their service.

NPCA Annual Dues: \$35 for Member #1 \$35 for Member #2

or check here **for FREE membership in NPCA.** One free year is offered to all RPCVs who were never previously members of NPCA. Currently-serving Peace Corps Volunteers are also welcome to free membership for the duration of their service.

Please mail this form with a check to CRPCA for the total of the boxes you checked.

CRPCA, PO Box 802, Portland OR 97207