



## *Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of West Michigan*

Summer, 2002

The RPCVs of West Michigan is established to help returned volunteers network locally and nationally, to continue volunteering with local and international service projects, and to promote global education and understanding in West Michigan.

### **Summer Update**

July 27, 2002

4:00 p.m.

Annual RPCV Picnic  
Johnson Park, Grandville

Saturday, September 28, Garage Sale  
9a.m. to 2 p.m. 2228 Madison SE,  
(beside Garfield Park) in Grand Rapids  
at Ken & Yvonne Schilling's )

October 4th

Gojo Ethiopian Cuisine, 7pm  
located at 85 Monroe Center in downtown Grand Rapids

December, 7th

Winter Party at Sue's House in Byron Center



40 + 1 CONFERENCE - Carolyn Peacock

Hosted by the National Peace Corps Association, Washington, D.C.

It was a long wait for the national conference due to the postponement from wake of the 9-11 uncertainty in Washington, D. C., but it was a great conference from beginning to end. There were 1700 RPCVs present. Volunteers flooded into the Congressional Reception at the Library of Congress Thursday evening. Friday morning President Toledo was unable to attend the opening ceremony due to unrest in his country, but he spoke to us live via audio from Peru.

I attended a workshop on peace and gleaned leads to many web sites addressing the ideal. Contact me for more information. At the President's forum on Saturday, group officers

voted 2/3 to 1/3 to increase NPCA dues by \$10 annually. We enjoyed live music at the zoo just as well as at the evening dance. The march to Arlington cemetery past the gravesite of JFK's was a moving experience. Our representatives lined the amphitheater with our Country of Service flags. Volunteers who died in service were recognized. The conference ended with a picnic near the Lincoln Memorial.

It was exhausting but wonderful and provided a real sense of belonging to the RPCV movement as a whole. I was able to link up to several different interests and causes that suit my taste. There is something for everyone. See Sue Celadilla for reference books on worldwide AIDS issues and RPCVs with expertise in different professional areas. I will share more with the group later.

## President's Corner - Sue Celadilla

Wow! What a turnout at a Guatemalan Restaurant and what good food. Carolyn had copies of the minutes and Karen reported \$1146.74 in the treasury as of April.

The week before we were invited to a recruiting dinner in East Lansing and a reception on the starting of a fellows program for RPCV's at Western Michigan University. We e-mailed a few in those areas about these activities but we had very little lead time. If you would like to participate in those kinds of activities or advocacy issues, please e-mail me at [sceladil@altelco.net](mailto:sceladil@altelco.net) or visit our easier. As any organization we will want to make more money and some good ideas came up. We might try to expand the Wisconsin calendar sales, even to stores. (We can get them for \$4.00 and sell them for \$8.00 or \$10.) any suggestions? Barb Stanford suggested we explore an African Cookbook. Ken Schilling offered his place again for a garage sale for an easy and immediate source of revenue. So, please start saving things for the garage sale the last Saturday of September.

Want to do a good house cleaning but didn't know where to take the stuff? Donate to our garage sale September 27.

The more variety the better. Ken's house is a very busy spot near Burton on Madison Street when we have good weather! Drop things off the week of the sale or especially Friday night before at his house or bring it Saturday morning and you might find your treasure too! Leftovers will be donated to In the Image or Goodwill afterwards.

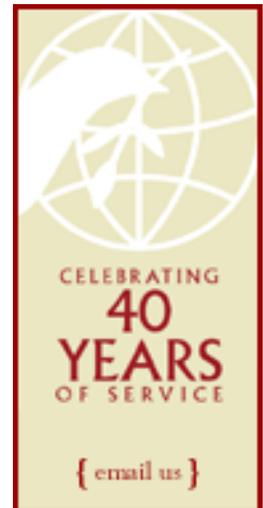
Most of our treasury is used for printing and mailing newsletters, hopefully twice a year, and service projects like the medical clinic in Togo, a quilt project for Afghan women and books at the Sparta Well Baby Health Clinic.

An interest was expressed to look into helping the African orphans of AIDS in some way.

Would you like to Share?

Everyone enjoyed Brian and Vicki Craig's slide show at the International Dinner in February so much we would like to have someone share their Peace Corps or travel experience each year. So, if you are willing, contact Virginia Pearce at 791-6346 or Sue Celadilla.

Sue is a grandma!



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