

RPCV

West Michigan Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

Winter, 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.



2002 CALENDAR

International Potluck - *See Back Page for Details*

February 2, 5:30 P.M. Marsh Ridge Apts. Virginia Pearce

International Dinner

April 12, 7 P.M. Guatemalan Rest. Greg Pohlad

National Conference

June 21 - 23rd Washington DC NPCA

Picnic

July 20, 4 P.M. Johnson Park Priscilla & Charlotte

International Dinner

October 4, 7 P.M. to be determined Carolyn Peacock

Holiday Party

December 7, 7 P.M. Sue's House Sue Celadilla

ARTIST NEEDED

If you have any creative juices or artistic abilities, our group could use your talents. We want a logo specific to the RPCV's of West Michigan. Feel free to submit any ideas or artwork to any board member or bring them to our February meeting for consideration by the group.

The artwork would be used on our newsletter, letterhead, website, etc. It should copy well in black and white as well as in color. Discuss this via the website and the discussion group. Look at other groups and what they have done as a logo.

RPCV Group Web Site

We Want You to Connect
and to Share.

Stay in touch via our website.
Contribute - News, Links, Fotos

<http://rpcvwestmichigan.org>

RPCV's
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West Michigan

President's Corner

The board of RPCV's of West Michigan would like to wish all a great 2002!

Last February, since our last newsletter, 44 of 850 on our database have paid their dues and 45 new returnees have been added. Many of the returnees have their home address here in West or Northern Michigan but have moved on to jobs or schools somewhere else in the USA. If so, please advise us. Due to the cost of printing and postage, we are sending it to all members (those who have paid dues in the last 5 years) and those living near Grand Rapids. Please send an e-mail to sceladil@altelco.net or a note to the address on the newsletter or \$15 dues to be in great standing and keep contact with us. And of course you could pay the \$40 national dues of which \$15 does come back to us.

We post our newsletter on our website, but your small financial support helps more than just our newsletter. **Jason** and **Kathleen** have volunteered to head our advocacy committee here in West Michigan. That is something all can do no matter how far you are from Grand Rapids.

Besides our contact, your dues pay for projects like the medical clinic in Togo, (see enclosed article).

We invited the **Sudanese boy refugees** to our Pot Luck last February and will invite them again this year. The community room at **Virginia's Pearce's** complex at Marsh Ridge on Lake Michigan Dr. is perfect for our gathering. Please come February 2 and enjoy a great meal and friendship. This year the **Craigs** will talk about their Peace Corps experience in Afghanistan. Did you see Brian's article in the Grand Rapids Press?

We were disappointed with the low turnout at our work days at the Well House but we also saw how well the House is running now and how it is getting support from several sources for its homeless people.

In May we enjoyed a Cinco de Mayo party at **Coleman's** (Mark is a great cook!) and in October met at the popular Sam's Oasis Restaurant in Boston Square. Few turned out on the hottest day in the summer for our annual picnic. From these meetings, did go ahead on some bumper stickers and a need for fund-raising was really expressed.

Due to our busy schedules, we meet only 4-6 times a year, every other month and almost all meetings are open to spouses and families. Us "old-timers" would really like to see some new faces and hopefully get some more service projects going locally and internationally. Our group has been meeting for 12 years! Since a conference in Delton sponsored by Peace Corps Chicago and a recruiting meeting at the Ford Museum.

Hope to see you soon,
Sue Celadilla
(Dominican Republic 76-78)

We have received an idea to have a recycling or **Environmental Corner**. If you have something to share about how we can better the environment or would like to write this section every newsletter (once or twice a year), please contact Mark at mcoleman@rpcvwestmichigan.org

Sorry to hear that **Jerry Watcher** has moved to Virginia. We have to go where our jobs take us! Jerry enjoyed being our liaison for World Affairs Council activities. If you would enjoy some of the talks and business meetings, please contact Sue and she will make the connection with the World Affairs Council.

Remember March 1, 2002 is **Peace Corps Day**. Please talk to a class or group somewhere about Peace Corps and tell us how it went. Spread the word.

Thanks for Paying your Dues!

Ben Bricker	87-89 Tanzania	Glen Arbor
Stephen English	90-93 Swaziland	Kentwood
Mary Kavanaugh-Frank	74-77 Guatemala	
Traverse City		
Patricia Williams	68-70 Thailand	Ada
Eric & Bette Mallen	76-79 Niger	Stevensville
Mark Sigfrids	75-78 Swaziland	Kalamazoo
Bonnie Brush		
Greg Pohlada	89-91 Jamaica	Grand Rapids
James Hall	95-97 Cameroon	Holland
Clinton Bolton	62-64 Cyprus	
	91-94 Sierra Leone	East Leroy
James Dimairo	73-76 Niger	Cadillac
Chris Miller	80-81 Fiji & Chile	Grand Rapids
Nancy Phillips	65-67 Nigeria	Belmont
Paul Garriepy	71-74 Zaire	Charlotte
Judy Herriff	64-66 Indonesia & Thailand	
Eaton Rapids		
Sharon Horton	64-66 Tanzania	Grand Rapids
Brian Peterson	66-68 Bolivia	Petosky
Patrick Reardon	64-66 Afghanistan	Climax
Greg Janoch	71-73 Ghana	Midland
Richard Joyce	62-64 Philippines	Kalamazoo
Frances Mlynarchek	64-66 Brazil	Wayland
Elizabeth Murrel	77-79 Zaire	Houghton
Ken & Yvonne Schilling	63-65 Liberia	Grand Rapids
Diane Sexton	81-82 Costa Rica	Mt. Pleasant
Shirley Wietnik	77-79 Colombia	Hastings
Brian & Vickie Craig	74-77 Afghanistan	Grand Rapids
Marjorie Olson	83-85 Jamaica	Mt. Pleasant
Richard & Angela Smith	97-99 Papua New Guinea	
Guinea	East Lansing	
Steve Fryholm	65-67 Nigeria	Belmont
Carleen Hubbell	87-89 Papua New Guinea	
Williamsburg		
Brian Peceny	86-88 Morocco	Grand Rapids
Joseph Willsey	91-95 Ghana	Arcadia
Joan Wright	74-77 Philippines	Lansing
Dennis & Ida DeVinney	67-70 Sierra Leone	South Haven
Patti Jahn	90-92 Mauritania	Ironwood
Jerry Watcher	71-72 Korea	Virginia
Richard Thrams	65-67 India	Jackson
Carolyn Peacock	87-89 Benin	Grand Rapids
William Stevenson	63-65 Colombia	Grand Rapids
Jim Garofalo	62-64 Nigeria	Lowell
David Knaggs	64-66 Honduras	East Lansing

HEALTH CARE CENTER, MASSOUHOIN, TOGO, WEST AFRICA

The RPCVs of West Michigan approved a donation request for medical equipment and medication for a grass roots medical center near the coast of Togo at our July picnic meeting. Minus wire transfer fees, \$275 was received in Togo on August 28th. The money was used to buy a hospital bed, instruments for minor surgery, medications, vaccinations, and a megaphone for communications with the village population. The center was opened for public use September 24, 2001. Photos of the rudimentary center and of the equipment purchased have been received.

Komlan Kondo Dodzi, President of the Village Association, would like to express his sympathy on behalf of the village regarding the tragedies of September 11th. Loosely translated, he says, "Our association sends our sympathy regarding the criminal attacks on your country. In this regard, we wish you courage and our condolences to all your friends who have lost their loved ones in this accident."

Welcome new Returnees!

Jennifer Yeomans	98-99	Cameroon
Lansing		
Michael Amey	96-00 Niger	Lansing
James Beck	97-00 Gabon	Kalamazoo
Caryn Chachulski	98-00 Cameroon	Shelbyville
Matthew Cowall	98-00 Cameroon	Shelbyville
Stacy DeRuiter	00-	Haiti Grand Rapids
Michael Decenso	99-00 Macedonia	Perry
Joseph Heflin	98-00 Kenya	Mendon
Shaun Kellogg	99-00 Romania	Lansing
Elyce Koon	00	Togo Conklin
Brian LaFave	99-00 Namibia	Saginaw
David Lee	99-00 Kyrgystan	East Lansing
Carol Levack	99-00	Nicaragua Bay
City		
Emerson Mohr	97-00 Morocco	Hillsdale
Gemma O'Keefe	99-00 Dominican Republic	
Lansing		
Mary Pohanka	98-00 Nepal	Midland
Ralph Rance	98-00 Dominican Republic	
Spring Lake		
Kristin Randolph	00	Dominican Republic
Jenison		
Janet Robson	98-00 Namibia	Holt
Elizabeth Walden	00	Bolivia Battle Creek
David Asselin	00-01 Tonga	Kentwood
Ella Buss	00-01	Lesotho East Lansing
Jonathan Colman	99-00 Burkina Faso	Techumseh
Molly McCracken	99-01 Panama	East Lansing
Kevin Parr	99-01 Guatemala	Mt. Pleasant
Bobbi Roberson	99-01 Malawi	Mayville
Christopher Shay	00	Guyana Shepard
Debbie Barnum	99-00 Romania	Ada
Adam Beh	99-01 Niger	Rockford
Paul Booth	99-01 Niger	East Lansing
Jessica Burns	99-01 Coted'Ivoire	Lansing
Sandra Caveney	99-01 Kenya	Clinton
Thomas Goddard	99-01 China	Mt. Pleasant
Mary Gunderson	99-01 China	Mt. Pleasant
Alec Jarvis	01	El Salvador
Petoskey		
Carrie Knowlton	99-01 Senegal	Kalamazoo
Caryla Lessard	00-01 Honduras	Mt. Pleasant
Jeremy Martin	00-01 Romania	East Lansing
Sheila Middaugh	99-01 Jamaica	Lansing
Dana Mitchell	99-01 Gambia	Evart
Jason Sharp	99-01 Haiti	Bay City
Charles Smoot	99-01 Moldova	Kingsford
Thomas Sweeney	99-01 Mongolia	Lansing



INTERNATIONAL POTLUCK DINNER ON SATURDAY FEBRUARY 2ND AT 5:30 PM

Our annual international potluck dinner will again be held in the community room of Marsh Ridge Apartments at 470 Marsh Ridge NW. This is off Lake Michigan Drive. Call Virginia Pearce at 791-6346 for more information on the location. See map on the web site.

Our entertainment program this year will center on Afghanistan. If you'd like to contribute in any way toward the program, contact Vickie and Brian Craig who both served in Afghanistan. Their phone is: 247-6536.

In addition, one of the Sudanese "Lost Boys" will give a short speech this year regarding how they are adjusting to life in the United States. **PLEASE BRING EXTRA FOOD TO THE POTLUCK AS OUR 50 YOUNG GUESTS HAVE HEALTHY APPETITES.**

We would like to encourage RPCV's to bring white elephants as gifts for the refugees. They have friends spread out throughout the United States and would also appreciate phone cards. Other appreciated items are city bus tickets. Turn in any phone cards or tickets to Sue Celadilla for fair distribution through Bethany Christian Services. If you can part with any item from Africa, they would dearly love something to remind them of home. Feel free to step forward to these young people as a friend, mentor, or tutor as they can use help adjusting to American life. Laurie Tibble from Bethany Christian Services can be reached at 224-7544.



2002 Conference

The rescheduled conference will be held June 20-23, 2002
in Washington, DC.

The theme for the 2002 conference is

"The Peace Corps Family: Bringing the World Together".

A tentative conference schedule will be posted on the NPCA site.

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