

News from “A-Brodd” ...by Tom Brodd, The Gambia

Night in a Village

On my most recent trek upcountry, a 2-week affair of business planning workshops throughout the entire country, I had several occasions to overnight in villages. We were fortunate the moon was entering its full phase. This gave us plenty of light for getting around at night and even if the moon is quarter size or less, you still receive enough light to get around. One does not appreciate the amount of light the moon gives until you are away from all sources of electric lighting. As we say around here, the moon is “free” electricity.

Other sources of light, aside from the moon, are candles and kerosene lamps. Each gives off a different hue of light. The moon gives a soft grayish-blue, almost ghostly light; candles give yellow-white light and kerosene lamps emulate a dark, pumpkin-orange light. All these do not defuse their light around objects, but instead leave well-defined, sharp edged shadows around objects, so when you carry a candle or kerosene lamp, the movement of them makes the shadows jump and dance. It's as if the objects reflecting the light have come to life, which can make walking to your neighbor's house an adventure. Needless to say, spending nights with these sources of light, one can see how our ancestors could have imagined they saw ghosts and goblins at night.

Unlike how we live with each family in its own house or apartment, compound houses have more than one family living in them. Most of the people are related to each other; think of living with all your aunts, uncles and their families. The houses themselves could either be a couple of buildings with a number of individual rooms or a number of small single room buildings. This is because the weather here is always warm, so people do most of their socializing, cooking, eating, etc, outside and only go inside to sleep or get out of the rain. As most people have to entertain themselves at night, living this way also allows people to easily visit with their friends and neighbors, just as we used to do when people would sit outside on their porches, not hiding inside to watch television or look at the internet.

The main activity at night is the evening meal. Visitors are always invited to someone's compound house for dinner. Since the main foods, rice and millet, along with some vegetables and meat, are cooked in one large pot over a wood fire a large number of people have supper at the same time. Food here is served in what we would call oversized mixing bowls; 4 to 6 people will eat out of the same bowl, depending on its size. This communal eating lets people interact and discuss the day's events in a leisurely way, which more often than not continues long after the meal is finished.

Later on, when the conversations die down, it is best just to sit back, enjoy the relative coolness of the night breeze, watch the stars and listen to the sounds of the crickets and other creatures of the night.

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ELECTED OFFICERS/CONTACT INFO:

President	Laura Buchs		llbuchs@hotmail.com
Vice Pres.	Dan Rosenthal	204-9513	daniel.rosenthal@dnr.state.wi
Secretary	Kristine Torres	698-3872	ProudHondurans@aol.com
Treasurer	Tom Kenney	271-9613	tkenney@fpm.wisc.edu
Deadwood/ Social Coord.	Steve Elmore	242-9573	sbelmore@usa.net

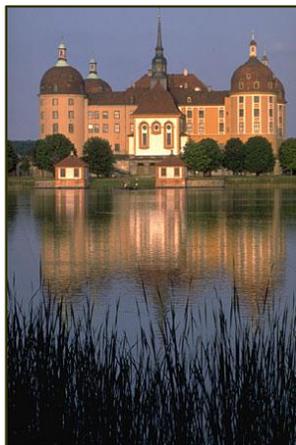
**EVENT CHAIRS:**

Family Brunch	Heather Hempel	843-3973	hlhempel@yahoo.com
Freeze for Food	Rick Lackey	213-8878 345-7878	meisa@terracom.net

“Who needs therapy
when you have
Chocolate?”

**OTHER
CONTACTS:**

Calendar Coord.	Rochelle Goedken	243-0298	rgoedken@students.wisc.edu
Calendar Customer Service	Ken Coffeen	224-1164	kcoffeen@tds.net
Business Manager	Rose Ann Scott	241-0485	roseannscott@yahoo.com
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PC Recruiter	Greg Pepping	262-1121	peacecorps@cals.wisc.edu
Registered Agent	Terry Stark	233-9140	terry.stark@dot.state.wi.us



CALENDAR NEWS

Thanks to your help, the RPCV'S of Madison, WI, have donated over \$600,000 mainly to international development projects. This year \$80,000 from the 2006 calendar is being donated with \$65,000 going to PC partnerships.

The format of this year's calendar is returning to the smaller size of 2 years ago. It will fit into a regular 10x13 manila envelope. There was a huge demand for a return to the smaller size, especially by groups that are shipping them.

Job Announcement:

We need someone to send out calendars from Alan Weiner's warehouse, located in Middleton. The time commitment would be 1-2x/week, approximately 1-2 hrs/week, per visit. We will pay \$15.00/hr. for this week.

Someone is needed to actively pursue new calendar markets. Commission is .50 per calendar.

Someone is also needed to manage our current, local sales. It could be done from your own computer, manage the existing stocks and re-stock as needed where a store is currently selling and re-stocking if needed. This would be a volunteer position. [NOTE: This position is no longer open as John Capuano agreed to take on this task at our October meeting!]

Miscellaneous tasks: preparing for calendar packing, mailing out brochures, sending calendars to photographers. This is a short-duration task and very seasonal. Any questions? Please call Rose Ann Scott at 241-0845.



GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance is looking for a volunteer to occupy their information stand at the Farmers' Market on Saturday mornings. The mission of the organization is to support conservation and ecological restoration of the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant lands and the greater Sauk Prairie landscape through education, research, ecological restoration, and community participation. The Alliance was formed from a broad community coalition of individuals and organizations who were concerned about the future of Badger following the Army's departure. More information about our work and history may be found on our website:

<http://www.saukprairievision.org>

The reason we are looking for volunteers for our Farmers' Market booth is that we have found it is a great way to inform the public about Badger, and to find people interested in volunteering for our restoration work. If you are interesting in learning more about this opportunity or the Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance, you may also contact the Alliance coordinator, Alison Duff, at alison@saukprairievision.org or (608) 442-6677.

APOLOGIES

THE NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION CREW (WALT AND BRAD) WANT TO APOLOGIZE TO ALL MEMBERS FOR THE DELAY IN SENDING THE HARD COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER. THE DELAY WAS NOT THE FAULT OF THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR, WHO HAS BEEN WONDERING ALONG WITH EVERYONE ELSE JUST WHAT HAPPENED TO THIS NEWSLETTER. THE DELAY OCCURRED BECAUSE BRAD NEEDED SOME TIME TO UPDATE THE MEMBERSHIP DATABASE TO INCLUDE INFORMATION RECEIVED AS A RESULT OF THE DUES REMINDER THAT WAS SENT TO ALL MEMBERS, EXPIRED MEMBERS, AND POTENTIAL MEMBERS IN EARLY SEPTEMBER. WE EXPECT THAT THIS DELAY WILL BE A ONE-TIME OCCURRENCE AND APPRECIATE YOUR UNDERSTANDING IN THIS MATTER. YOU SHOULD RECEIVE THE NEXT NEWSLETTER IN LATE DECEMBER OR EARLY JANUARY (OR CHECK ON-LINE).

“Half of the American people have never read a newspaper. Half have never voted for president. One hopes it is the same half.”

Gore Vidal

UPCOMING EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

“When you travel, remember that a foreign country is not designed to make you comfortable. It’s designed to make its own people comfortable.”

OCTOBER						
2 nd Friday	Oct. 13, 2006	Happy Hour	Memorial Union	7 PM	Greg Pepping	
Second Wednesday	Oct. 11, 2006	General Meeting	Red Gym	7 PM	Laura Buchs	
Fourth Tuesday	Oct. 24, 2006	Calendar committee meeting	1050 Jenifer	7 PM	R. Goedken	243
Last Saturday	TBA	Halloween Party				
NOVEMBER						
2 nd Friday	Nov. 10, 2006	Happy Hour	Rathskeller	7 PM	Greg Pepping 262-1121	
Second Wednesday	Nov. 8, 2006	General Meeting	Red Gym	7 PM	Laura Buchs	
Fourth Tuesday	Nov. 28, 2006	Calendar committee meeting	1050 Jenifer	7 PM	R. Goedken 243-0298	
DECEMBER						
First Saturday	Dec. 2, 2006	Fair Trade Holiday Festival	MATC	All day	Troy Rutter 245-9964	245
First/Second Sat	TBA	Holiday Party			Laura Buchs	
JANUARY						
Jan. 1	Jan. 1, 2007	Sheboygan Polar Bear Plunge - an old tradition to be revived?	Sheboygan Lakefront	1 PM		

All dates and locations are tentative. Please check latest newsletter or website for updates.

AUGUST FINANCIAL STATEMENT (provided by Tom Kenney, Treasurer)

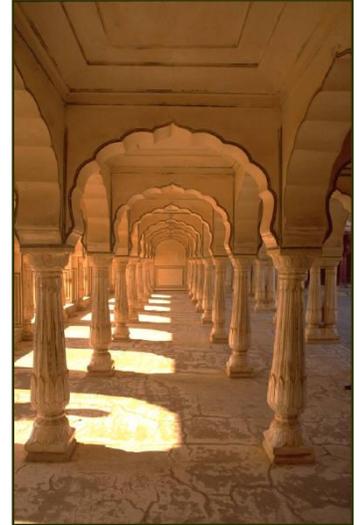
Ending Calendar Balance	\$27,283.65
Ending Group Balance	\$ 2,300.02
Global Education Fund Ending. Balance	\$ 1,200.00
PC Partnership Ending Balance	\$ 0.00
NPCA Fund Ending Balance	\$ 7,400.00
FFF Ending Balance	\$ 793.17
Checking Balance (-outstanding checks)	\$17,278.93
Savings Balance	\$24,003.75
Bank Account Balances	\$41,282.68

**“God help me to be the person my dog thinks I am!”
-Bumper Sticker**

ANNOUNCEMENTS(CONT'D.)**Travel to Cuba to Witness a REAL Green Revolution!**

The Center for Agro ecology & Sustainable Food Systems at the University of California-Santa Cruz, the Organic Consumers Association, and Global Exchange invite you to join us on a 10-day research delegation to Havana to learn about how Cuba has become a leader in organic and urban agriculture.

When the Soviet Union collapsed, the island nation of Cuba found itself cut off from the chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides on which its farms had long depended. To feed its people, the Cuban government undertook an unprecedented conversion to organic and local food production. Today, much of the country's fertilizer comes from some 175 vermi-compost centers that produce more than 90,000 tons of compost annually. Thousands of urban gardens across the country help feed the island's population, and an estimated one-third of Havana's arable land is under cultivation. As other countries pursue conversions to more local and organic agricultural systems, many are looking toward Cuba as a model. During the 10-day delegation you will get the chance to talk with Cubans you would otherwise never meet - agronomists, government officials, community leaders, and ordinary Havana residents who are growing their own food. This is a unique opportunity to see for yourself an internationally recognized example of how to grow closer connections to our food. Contact Zach at 800-497-2994 ext.226 or zach@globalexchange.org or visit www.globalexchange.org



Greetings,

I'm interested in collecting the words for "baby", "child", "boy", "girl", "man", "woman" and "peace" in as many Peace Corps host country languages as possible. Please send your replies to me at news@rpcv.org and let me know what language it's in. Thanks, Erica T. Burman (The Gambia '87-'89) News Director National Peace Corps Association 1900 L Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036

NPCA News:

Thank you to groups who are sending copies of their newsletters(print and/or electronic) to NPCA! We enjoy reading all of your activities/news. It is very helpful to know what you are doing so we can respond to inquiries we receive and report on the impact we are all having on the 3rd goal. Printed newsletters should be mailed to NPCA Membership, 1900 L Street NW, Suite 205, Washington, D.C. 20036. Anne Baker

Please pass my greetings to all the friends I wish I could see. I'm now working as the Business Manager of a non-profit ski area in New Mexico. I know, I know, let the jokes begin. Of course, it's non-profit. How much snow is there in New Mexico? Etc, etc. Life takes a lot of strange turns and I am in Los Alamos NM now. Yes, THAT Los Alamos, home of the Bomb. Go figure. I'm really looking forward to the 2007 Calendar. I've already ordered 25 of them through the local RPCV group here in New Mexico. I do that every year. Best wishes to all! I hope to have the opportunity to come and visit you all again some time. On the other side, if anyone is traveling through New Mexico and/or would like to ski the Southern Rockies you have a friend in the business here. Call, write or email me.

Personal and Organizational Best Wishes to you all,
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"My definition of a free society is a society where it's safe to be unpopular."

--Adlai Stevenson

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See us at:
www.rpcvmadison.org



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All RPCV's of Wisconsin – Madison members receive a monthly newsletter, World Roots News, on payment of annual dues shown below. To avoid record-keeping hassles, we prefer members pay through September of the year joining, then pay for a full year membership in September. Members renewing or joining between September and December should pay \$15; members renewing or joining between January and April should pay \$10; members renewing or joining between May and August should pay \$5. Reduced rates are available for those in extreme financial circumstances. You can also join the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) through us by paying an additional \$35. We encourage you to join the NPCA, which provides us a way to affect national issues.

Please note that these overseas rates do not include NPCA membership

- Individual - \$15 for one year
- Overseas Individual - \$24
- Joint - \$20 (Two people receiving one newsletter)
- Overseas Joint - \$29
- I am also enclosing \$35 for NPCA membership
- (\$45 for joint membership – two people with the same address)
- I do not want to join but would like to receive World Roots and am enclosing \$7 (\$15 for overseas) to cover costs.
- I'm Moving! Please change my mailing address.

\$_____ TOTAL ENCLOSED

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone #s (H): _____ (W): _____
 email _____
 Country of Service: _____ Service Dates: _____
 PC Job: _____
 Birth Date: (Optional – M/D/Y) _____

The RPCVs of Wisconsin are an active group, and there's always a need for helpful hands. If you are willing to lend a hand, please let us know:

I am interested in doing something – Call me.

Send completed form and check to: RPCVs of Wisconsin – Madison, P.O. Box 1012, Madison, WI 53701.