

# 40th Anniversary Celebration

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March 1961-2001

## Peace Corps

*Please enjoy this supplement to the March 2001 Newsletter. A history of the Madison Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and a schedule of this month's celebration schedule.*

### Thursday, March 1, 2001 Memorial Union, Great Hall

#### 12 noon Roundtable Discussions **SERVICE, STORIES, AND CAREERS IN...**

Africa, biology, environment, education, sociology, business development, linguistics, Asia, agriculture, health, French, international development, and more!

**BRING YOUR LUNCH AND IDEAS.** UW faculty who served as Peace Corps Volunteers will talk about the Peace Corps and its impact on their own career and life decisions. Explore with them what this means for you and your own skills and interests. Stop in at any time between 12-2. 7:30 P.M. Public Forum

### A CALL TO SERVICE NOW!

Community leaders and former Peace Corps Volunteers will discuss the future of service.

Forum guests include:

**Linda Barrows**, Superintendent, Oregon School District, Volunteer - Sierra Leone

**Jessica Doyle**, Teacher, Madison School District, Volunteer - Tunisia

**Jim Doyle**, Wisconsin Attorney General, Volunteer - Tunisia

**Ken Hill**, Peace Corps Chief of Staff (Acting) and Chief of Operations for Europe, Mediterranean and Asia, Volunteer - Turkey

**Lucia Nunez**, Director of Centro Hispano, Volunteer - Honduras

**Vince O'Hern**, Publisher of Isthmus, Volunteer - Liberia

**Burt Preston**, Recently Returned Volunteer - Malawi (1998-2000)

Events are free and open to the public.

**UW-Madison and The Peace  
Corps Legacy - 40 years  
of service,  
volunteerism and development**

For more information contact the Peace Corps 800-424-8580, option 1 or [www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov)  
Peace Corps Volunteers have taught -- and learned -- one of the greatest lessons of the 20th century: to be citizens of the world. Join us for two days of celebration, stories, and reflections. You'll meet returned and future volunteers, and discuss the next generation of service, development, and the Peace Corps.

## **Thursday, March 1**

Forty years ago today, President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps, and set into motion a social movement of service and grass-roots development. After 40 years, what does "Peace Corps" mean? What will it mean 40 years from now?

Join us for thought-provoking and engaging events in celebration of 40 years of Peace Corps service.

Thursday's events will be held at the **Memorial Union's Great Hall**, and are free and open to the public.

**12:00 p.m.** Roundtable discussions and brown bag lunch. Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCV) will talk about the Peace Corps and its impact on their own career and life decisions. Participants will discuss Peace Corps programs, careers, and the value of service. Details on supplement page one.

**7:30 p.m.** Forum. Community leaders and Peace Corps representatives will discuss the future of service

## **Friday, March 2**

Nearly 2,500 UW-Madison graduates have served as Peace Corps Volunteers and 1,000 RPCV's live in the Madison area. Home to one of the country's most involved groups of RPCV, Madison has led the nation for more than a decade with the number of graduates that enter the Peace Corps each year.

On Friday, we celebrate that involvement. Join us to reminisce with fellow RPCV, listen to personal reflections on service, and meet soon-to-depart volunteers. Eat food from around the world and discuss the direction the Peace Corps is heading as it begins its fifth decade of service. Talk with old friends, new Volunteers, and Peace Corps staff. Come share your stories with us!

## **Red Gym**

**5:00 p.m.** Plaque presentation and flag procession to the Memorial Union Great Hall, Memorial Union.

**5:30 p.m.** Reception and cash bar.

**6:30 p.m.** International theme dinner, featuring food from Africa, Asia, and South America.

**7:30 p.m.** Program will include:

- \*Peace Corps representatives and other invited guests
- \*Highlights of archived Public Service Announcements and recruitment films
- \*New Volunteer send-off
- \*Letters from current Volunteers in service
- \*Dance party and reception with music from around the world
- \*RPCV reflections
- \*Signing of Master's International Program Agreement

## **Sponsored by:**

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences  
Morgridge Center for Public Service  
Minneapolis Peace Corps Office  
Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Wisconsin/Madison

**As always it is a  
pleasure to put this  
publication out to our  
readers and visitors -  
Theresa Editor**

The **Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Wisconsin/Madison** is a very active group of RPCV in Madison and southern Wisconsin, and with committed members throughout Wisconsin and the remainder of the World.

We were conceived on a Tuesday in February 1981 (we fondly imagine that this was on Valentine's Day). Doug Brown, then the campus recruiter for Peace Corps, responded to nudging from PC/DC that he celebrate Peace Corps' 20th anniversary by starting up a local group. He, Pat Crowley Brown, Ross Royster, and Brent McNabb (and maybe others) gathered in the Avenue Bar, and planned how to do this.

From the start, no one wanted to moon around telling war stories. But there was definite interest in: helping recently-returned Volunteers adjust to the (foreign) States; bringing our Peace Corps and overseas experience to bear on international problems and US policy; organizing to affect meta-political issues; educating our fellow-citizens about international affairs; being of companionable service to visiting foreigners, lonesome for home; and partying (very important). What no one expressed, but all subconsciously realized, was that our friends in Peace Corps had been the best we'd ever had in a bunch, and our PC work had had a lot to do with our pleasure. We wanted to continue that Peace Corps High: good friends doing many different, difficult, and worthwhile things together, in a beloved place lush with the Incarnation. ...Which is Wisconsin.

An ample history of our group would fill 45 pages (the History through 1989 is 21 pages long). But, herewith an overview:

Madison is an especially good place for such a group as ours. It is a very seductive place to live, and it has a world-class university. Thus, there is a steady influx of new people, including RPCV just back in-country, so new blood is always coming in to the group. Yet, because so many choose to settle here, there is an assured continuity of membership.

We engage in a rich mix of social, business, educational and charitable activities, enough to attract and satisfy almost anyone interested. And we have, over time, developed a yearly cycle of traditional activities (with customary honchas, gradually replaced).

- In January is the 10-km Freeze For Food Run, with proceeds donated to the Colombia Support Network (formerly to Oxfam). The day ends with a chili feast.
- In February we all select the slides for the next year's "International Calendar." A group of about a dozen people then works to create the Calendar, so it'll be printed by mid-June. We currently print about 35,000 calendars, sell most of them, give about 6,000 to schools, and make a profit of about \$45,000 (which we give away).
- We have a weekend Winter Retreat at the end of February, at a camp in the country. While there, we request a hexagram of advice from the Chinese "Book of Changes" (but we often forget to heed it).
- In March is Peace Corps Day, when we visit local schools to talk about Peace Corps. Also in March is Baron Bliss Day, when everyone comes, dressed for the beach, to a grossly overheated house, and

dream of Belize.

- Most years, we host a benefit supper at the Cardinal Bar; we bring lots of food cooked to a regional theme, and charge people \$5 to eat. The proceeds are donated, for hunger relief. (Some years, we host another Cardinal Bar benefit in the autumn.)

- In the spring is our Family Brunch, when we invite the families of serving PVC's, and anyone else, to come enjoy the morning with us in a banquet hall, and hear reassuring (or disquieting) stories of life in the boonies. People attend from all over Wisconsin, and beyond.

- At our May and June general meetings (and again, in September and January), we decide where to give Calendar donation monies.

- We go camping in the summer; and sometimes we take a canoe trip. And sometimes we go enjoy Shakespeare, near Spring Green.

- In August, there's a weekend Pig Roast on a member's farm.

- In September, we have a Harvest Moon Party in the country. We help the PC recruiter, especially during the University's fall and spring registration days.

- In the Autumn, we spend an evening stuffing gallons of calendars in envelopes, ready for posting when orders come in.

- We elect new officers at our October meeting.
- We have a table at the annual International Fair at the Civic Center, and hand out Peace Corps literature. We also have tables at various neighborhood block parties.

- We celebrate Christmas (with an elaborate gift exchange that exercises everyone's greed).

- We sometimes celebrate other holidays, or have other parties just to fill a passing yen.

- There's a bi-monthly TGIF happy hour, and a monthly poker party.

We have the usual 4 officers: President, VP, Treasurer and Secretary. A slate is offered each year for the October elections. (The Prez and VP are fresh each year; the Treasurer and Secretary have tended to serve for several years or more.) There are various committees, with their chairs.

Large-scale projects we've done include these: the annual Freeze for Food Run, to benefit hunger programs; a Somali Educational Benefit in our first year, hugely successful and very confidence-building; ditto for a Central American Sanctuary benefit the year after; 2 large regional conferences for Mid-West RPCV; hosting the '87 Annual General Meeting of the National Council of RPCV (now the "NPCA"); an evening of "Journals of Peace," in our beautiful State Capitol building; hand-stitching 3 scrumptious quilts, raffled off; an International Calendar (annually since the '88 edition); 4 panels for a Peace Ribbon; an annual Brunch for families of serving PVC's; the splendid party-night at the recent National RPCV Conference in St. Paul ('99); helping with the March '01 Peace Corps 40th Anniversary Celebration, here.

We've hosted many many benefits, (with international food, music and dancing, and more); put on displays in public libraries and elsewhere; done lots of work with refugees (sponsorship, literacy, gardening, sewing, outfitting, company, etc); been hosts to visiting foreigners; sponsored foreign visitors, here to learn more and return; arranged exposure for visiting Ashoka Fellows; dispatched lots of books to overseas libraries; talked about Peace Corps on public radio; and helped members' teenaged kids get to visit the countries of their parents. We've written letters, and dunned Congress and Peace Corps (which responded at one point, during Reagan's tenure, by forbidding the campus recruiter to associate with us). We've helped Public TV phone for money, published peace ads, and cosponsored teaching events with Oxfam, Ashoka,

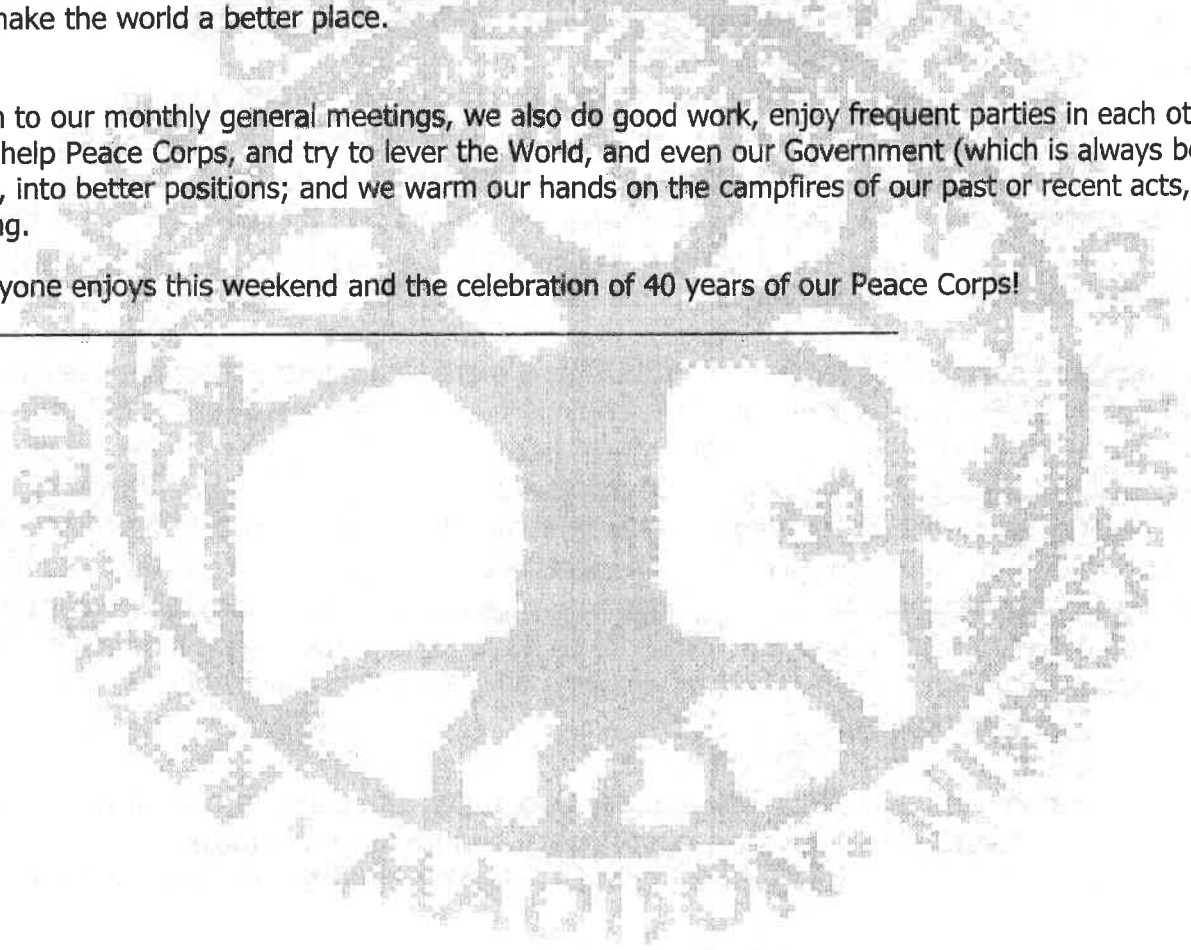
Now or in the past we have regularly supported the Ashoka Society, schoolroom construction in My Lai (Vietnam), Oxfam, the Colombia Support Network, Witness For Peace and other programs for Nicaragua and Central America, a school for Untouchables in India, a home for disabled kids in Mexico, the Monte Verde Cloud Forest in Costa Rica, a health clinic for foreign students in Madison, our local public radio station, and much else. (See the back cover of each year's Calendar for a report; we make 30-40 donations each year.)

We've had joint pleasures with the RPCV groups in Milwaukee, Minneapolis, and Chicago. Numbers of us have gone to the various national RPCV conferences.

Things we've failed to give birth to include: a Sister City relationship with some town in Belize; a cookbook; a book on our experiences in PC (though this failure led to our Slide Library and the Calendar). Our group is a joy to be part of. It's very healthy, and shows every sign of lasting as long as Peace Corps does. It may well be flourishing long after all present members have passed on to their next assignment: trying to make the world a better place.

In addition to our monthly general meetings, we also do good work, enjoy frequent parties in each others' company, help Peace Corps, and try to lever the World, and even our Government (which is always behind the curve), into better positions; and we warm our hands on the campfires of our past or recent acts, heroic or charming.

Hope everyone enjoys this weekend and the celebration of 40 years of our Peace Corps!



**40 Years of Service  
The Peace Corps!**

## RPCV Madison Contact Information

Here's Contact Information for various groups and institutions:

**RPCV's of WI** (our Group): POB 1012; Madison, WI 53701.  
phone (cyberspace answering machine): 608/829-2677.  
our current President: Tom Brodd, 280-8945.  
e-mail: for the Newsletter: [rpcveditor@jvl.net](mailto:rpcveditor@jvl.net)  
for the Calendar: [calendar@mail.yahoo.com](mailto:calendar@mail.yahoo.com)

### Peace Corps:

- : **UW/Madison Peace Corps Campus Recruiter:** 608/262-1121;  
1450 Linden Dr.; 240 Ag. Hall; Madison WI 53706.
- : **Minneapolis PC regional recruiting office:** 800/424-8580;  
330 2nd Ave. S.; Minneapolis MN 55401.
- : **PC/DC:** 800/424-8580; [www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov); 1111 20th St. NE; Washington DC 20526.
- : **National Peace Corps Association (NPCA);**  
1900 L St. NW, #205; Washington, DC 20036; ph. 202/293-7728; [www.rpcv.org](http://www.rpcv.org)

There are some other RPCV groups in Wisconsin, including these:

- : **Milwaukee Area RPCV:** POB 71031; Milwaukee, WI 53211; a contact person is Peter Lee,  
414/344-6907.
- : **Northwest Territories RPCV;** c/o Linnea Olesen; M4190 Oak Lake Dr.; Sarona WI 54870.

Anyone may join our group. Membership is \$15/yr; a mere Newsletter subscription is less, and there are other deals; write asking for a free copy of the NL. (The Newsletter is published monthly.) As of Dec. 1 '00, the RPCV of Wisconsin had about 175 paid-up members; but, counting the slackers, we imagine that we have c.300 members at any moment. General Meetings are in the first week of each month, rotating monthly from Monday through Friday/Saturday (weekend meetings include a potluck), so no one is permanently prevented from attending by some other regular nightly commitment. All but the Friday meetings are at Union South, UW-Madison, 227 North Randall Ave., Madison; at 7 P.M. (The March 2001 general meeting will be at Union South, on Wednesday, Mar. 7, at 7 P.M.; the April meeting will be on Thursday, Apr. 5.) Call 829-2677 if you have questions (or call Tom, 280-8945).

We're incorporated, we have a P.O. box and bank accounts, stationery, a banner and a sign, a slide library, a volleyball set (though we can't find it), and tax-exempt status with the IRS. We'd like to have a clubhouse. And a retirement home (perhaps in southern Arizona, with the other snowbirds).

**NOTE:** Nothing is forever. Thus, our meeting times, and our meeting location, may eventually change. Before attending your first meeting, phone for confirmation!