



CAPCA Newsletter

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A Publication of the Chicago Area Peace Corps Association

Janes (Morocco 91-93), NPCA Conference Chair, Voted 2005 CAPCA President

At its first meeting October 4, the Chicago Area Peace Corps Association's 2004-2005 Board of Directors unanimously elected Trina Janes (Morocco 91-93) president. Janes was chairperson of the National Peace Corps Association's 25th anniversary conference held in Chicago in August. She told the CAPCA Board that she will build on the success and momentum of that conference to take CAPCA to the next level. Janes said that with renewed energy and enthusiasm among the Board she wants to do things CAPCA has always wanted to do for its members.

Janes joined the CAPCA Board in September 2000 and was elected to a two-year term the following year. In January 2003, Janes and Stephanie Arnold, then CAPCA's president, went to Providence to present to the NPCA Board, CAPCA's proposal to host the 2004 conference. Janes was re-elected to the CAPCA Board in September 2003 and continued working on the conference with vice chairman Chuck Sheftel (India 69-72).

In stepping down, Wallace Goode (Central African Republic 80-81 and Solomon Islands 84-86) said he enjoyed being CAPCA president. He recounted the overseas projects CAPCA funded, the volunteer activities it completed, the monthly events it held, and the conference it hosted over the 12 months he was president. Goode is a long-time Board member who is just as much an advocate for CAPCA as he is for a really good time.

After being elected October 4, Janes appointed Goode vice president of internal affairs and Sheftel vice president of external affairs. They will work with the five Board members who were elected to two-year terms by CAPCA members September 22 at Andies Restaurant: Tara Leitzell (Jordan 01-02), Eva Lord (Honduras 94-96), Lee Losey (Tanzania 83-85), Mike Prokopeak (Papua New Guinea 94-96), and Scott Waguespack (Kenya 93-95).

Founder's Day Dinner had great food and speakers. Chris Matthews was entertaining, and Peter Yarrow was remarkable the way he got more than 75 people up on stage with him to sing. A wonderful evening and a great weekend! – Ogden "Clip" Kniffin (Liberia 65-67) recalling highlights of the 2004 NPCA conference in Chicago

Leitzell served on the NPCA conference's Founder's Day Committee. What better way to continue to serve the RPCV community, Leitzell said, than by getting involved with the CAPCA Board. Janes appointed her chair of CAPCA's Founder's Day Committee.

As CAPCA treasurer in 2003-2004, Lord initiated a reconciliation process that allows CAPCA to manage its finances better. – CAPCA Board, continued on p. 3

Challenging Careers with U.S. State Department

CAPCA has scheduled a special information session designed primarily for RPCVs interested in becoming Foreign Service Officers and Foreign Service Specialists.

On Monday, November 15, at 6 p.m., Margaret Dean, Director, Board of Examiners of the Foreign Service, will join Deborah R. Schwartz, Diplomat in Residence at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), to describe the Foreign Service's very involved application process and to answer your questions about the Foreign Service. This session will be held in the third floor White Oak Room at UIC's Chicago Circle Center, 750 S. Halsted St. Questions? Contact Ms. Schwartz at dschwar@uic.edu or at 312-996-5455.

If you can't make it November 15, the U.S. State Department's Office of Recruitment has a free subscription service that sends out emails when new information specifically of interest to you (e.g., job fairs or oral assessment prep sessions) is available. This saves you from returning to the State Department's website to check for changes. Go to www.careers.state.gov/informed.html to subscribe.

In addition, the State Department's website publishes a biweekly list of international vacancies with the United Nations and other international organizations. Go to www.state.gov, scroll down to Employment on the left, then click International Organizations.

NPCA's Job Center and Online Career Center

The National Peace Corps Association's Job Center is "a free service offered to RPCVs looking for new or expanding career opportunities." Found at www.vv-vv.com/npca/, the Job Center is not linked to NPCA's website. At least this casual job seeker didn't find one.

Registration is not required to search the Job Center's employment listings. A request on October 24 for all of the listings returned 31 jobs, including openings for a global village coordinator at Heifer International, a program manager for Population Services International, and a bilingual senior account manager for The Media Network. Unfortunately, new vacancies hadn't been posted since October 10.

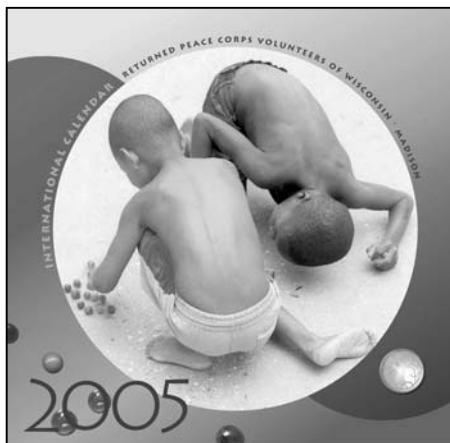
You can register at the Job Center, and, in return, you will be able to apply for a job listing with one click as well as store three résumés and three cover letters.

NPCA's new Online Career Center, different than although a compliment to the Job Center, will assist you with career-related activities. There's stuff to help you look for a job, find a little help with your résumé, get some tips for interviewing, locate useful career events near you, and connect you with other RPCVs and former staff. And, as an online community, you can put in your two cents (because, if you're looking for work, that's about all that you'll have).

Found at www.ectopico.com/npca/, the Online Career Center's registration is painless and may be necessary only if you want to post comments or event information.

Inside, the Job Listings link takes you, curiously, to the aforementioned Job Center. Forums encourage online discussions about being "fresh off the boat," the nuts and bolts of getting a job, and sundry resources of interest to RPCVs. Links under Resources included a series of career articles by RPCVs working for Chemonics, an international development contractor.

NPCA's Online Career Center is a work in progress. Check both sites out though. They will continue to get better as more RPCVs use them to connect with jobs and with one another.



These marble players from Ilha da Maré, on the cover of the 2005 calendar, convey the age-old concept of Yin and Yang – opposites that fit together perfectly to make a whole, a reminder that harmony comes not from being the same but from embracing differences.

RPCVs of Wisconsin - Madison 2005 International Calendar “Harmony in Play”

This many-faceted calendar with stories, recipes, designs, and pictures from RPCVs around the country will be on sale November 9 during CAPCA’s monthly event at The Map Room and December 8 at CAPCA’s holiday potluck at the Corinthian Yacht Club, *while supplies last*. The calendars are \$10 a piece.

If you would like a calendar mailed to you, send a check for \$10, plus \$4 for postage and handling (slightly more for orders of three or more calendars), to CAPCA at PO Box 1149, Chicago, IL 60690. Make checks payable to CAPCA. Questions? Contact Scott Waguespack at swaguesp@hotmail.com.

CAPCA Board, continued

Lord is a CPA and an accounting consultant at a litigation support firm. Janes re-appointed her CAPCA treasurer.

Losey has been on the CAPCA Board for a total of five years. His primary activity has been to organize community service events. With Losey’s interest in promoting CAPCA involvement in advocacy on U.S. foreign policy issues, Janes named him chair of the Advocacy Committee.

Prokopeak served as the CAPCA newsletter editor from 1997-98. He was appointed to the CAPCA Board in 2004 and served as chair of the Social Networking Committee. I believe RPCVs were given the rare privilege to live and work in another culture, Prokopeak said in announcing his candidacy for the Board, and that that experience brings with it a responsibility to educate people at home about other perspectives and use the skills and understanding we acquired overseas to lend a hand locally. Janes re-appointed Prokopeak to the Social Networking Committee.

Waguespack worked with CAPCA and NPCA on the August conference and found it a

fulfilling experience. Like Janes, he would like to follow up by bringing the world back home to Chicago. Janes appointed Waguespack to co-chair the Membership Committee with Christine Blair (Panama 95-98).

Vazquez Recognizes CAPCA as RPCV Group of the Month

Each month, Peace Corps recognizes an RPCV group for "outstanding efforts and achievements in furthering the Peace Corps mission." Jeri Titus (Morocco 92-94), Peace Corps recruiter and CAPCA liaison to the regional Peace Corps office, nominated CAPCA for this honor, because of the group’s hard work and dedication in planning and hosting the 2004 NPCA conference.

Gaddi Vazquez, Director of the Peace Corps, recognized CAPCA as the RPCV Group of the Month of September 2004! A certificate from Vasquez was presented to Trina Janes, the conference’s chair and newly elected CAPCA Board president, at the group’s recent monthly dinner at the To Pho Café. Congratulations to all the hard-working members of the conference planning committee!

CAPCA Proposes Mentoring for Recently Returned PCVs

In the mid-1990s, there was a project cooperatively funded through NPCA and the Peace Corps called The Reconnect Project. It sought to address the most pressing needs of recently returned PCVs by training RPCVs how to facilitate the re-entry process.

Jeri Titus (Morocco 92-94), CAPCA's liaison to the regional Peace Corps recruiting office, was trained in Reconnect and, more importantly, benefited from it. She has the training materials. At the September 7 meeting of CAPCA's Board, she proposed to update and tailor the material for a comparable CAPCA project. The CAPCA re-entry, welcome, and mentoring project would welcome recently returned PCVs and introduce them to CAPCA, Chicago, and RPCV benefits available at the Peace Corps office.

To organize this project, Titus will talk to RPCVs and determine their needs. Are they social, cultural, or economic needs? Or all three? Ultimately, the project's services and activities could include social events, grassroots support, mentoring relationships, job search workshops, and cultural re-entry discussions.

In return, new members to CAPCA would continuously revitalize the organization. Recently returned PCVs would assist in Peace Corps' local recruiting activities and would become mentors themselves to individuals in the Peace Corps application process.

For more information, or to share your comments and suggestions, contact Jeri Titus at jtitus@peacecorps.gov

I really liked the opening ceremony, because that is when I first realized just how fabulously things were coming together. It was an exciting kick-off event for what continued to be a great conference!

– Stephanie Arnold (Ghana 93-96) recalling highlights of the 2005 NPCA conference.

Valuing Diversity: Building Inclusion

Organized by Healthy DuPage, this will be a highly participatory workshop dealing with issues of diversity, including race, class, gender, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, age, personal ability, and job or life circumstance. Certified trainers from the National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI) will facilitate the workshop. Since its inception in 1995, NCBI Illinois has conducted over 210 workshops serving over 8,000 participants. Trainers include professionals from government, education, non-profit organizations, and the private sector familiar with the work and issues their colleagues face.

The workshop will be held Wednesday, November 17 at the Woodridge Public Library, 3 Plaza Drive in Woodridge. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. The workshop is from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. It costs \$65. To register and to get more information, call Healthy DuPage at 630-690-2998.

ISID Looks at Faith in Development

Join the Illinois Society for International Development (ISID) for two interesting events.

Faith Based Initiatives in International Development is November 9 at 6:00 p.m. Hear Jewish, Christian, Sikh, and Muslim organizations discuss their programs and how their faith effects the programs they implement in the developing world. In Room 11013 at DePaul University, 1 E. Jackson, Chicago.

Winter Networking Event is December 14 at 6:00 p.m. Network and socialize with folks in the international development community while enjoying delicious treats and coffee specialties. At Millennium Perk Cafe, 79 E. Madison, Chicago. Both events are free for members; \$5 each for everyone else.

CAPCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 7, 2004

Present: Wallace Goode, Trina Janes, Jeri Titus, Liz Thomas, Christine Blair, Carol Wilkerson, Kevin Hogan, Mike Prokopeak, Marie Erdman, Eva Lord

Not Present: Hannah Leiterman, Lee Losey, Kara Malenfant, Chuck Sheftel, Beth Versten, Lara Weber, Holly Denniston, Kori Scurlock

1. July 26 minutes (Blair): The minutes were presented and approved.
2. Treasurer's report (Lord): The balance as of 7/1 is \$9,026.18. CAPCA received two months of reimbursement from NPCA. Lord reported to board that CAPCA needs to get a state sales tax exemption number. Will work on this process. The treasurer's report was presented and approved.
3. Upcoming events (Prokopeak):

Sept. 22	Monthly Dinner/Annual CAPCA elections 6p.m. at Andies
Oct. 4	CAPCA Board Mtg. 6p.m. at Eva Lord's Office
21	Monthly Dinner 6p.m. at Topho's 19 N. Wabash ¡BYOB!
Nov. 2	Oak Park Council Dinner 6p.m.
2 nd wk.	CAPCA Happy Hour at Map Room 6p.m.
Dec. TBA	Holiday Potluck

Board elections: There are 5 open spots on CAPCA board with only 4 candidates running as of 9/7; the deadline to apply to run for a spot is 9/17; elections will be held on 9/22 after the dinner; people need to be a current (paying) CAPCA member and be present in order to vote.
4. NPCA conference update (Janes): There were 950 registered conference participants; Janes and committee heads are putting together a final report for NPCA; there will be a final evaluation meeting on 9/20 at Trina's office; Joseph Permetti will be leaving NPCA; Trina continues to work on the finances with NPCA; there were over 150 volunteers during the conference.
5. Communications (Wilkerson): The next newsletter deadline is Oct. 22 for articles. Wilkerson is working with Judy Ossello on updating the website.
6. Mentoring program (Titus): Titus wrote up and presented a reentry program that would be available to recently-returned volunteers in the Chicagoland area; the purpose would be to train RPCVs to help facilitate this program to these recent RPCVs; Titus will continue to work on this.
7. Calendar Sales Coordinator (Goode): This is a possible fundraising position; Issues to think about: Where would calendars be stored? Who will be the point person for this?
8. CAPCA mtg. Dates: Board discussed possibility of changing meeting days; will discuss at 10/4 meeting.

8:15p.m. Meeting adjourned

LAST TWO BOARD MEETINGS: OCTOBER 4 AND NOVEMBER 3. NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 7, 2004.

"Sudan: Ancient Treasures" is a major exhibition at the British Museum, created to foster a greater understanding of a nation in the midst of a major conflict. Objects from the Paleolithic Era to A.D. 1885, including stone and gold statues and objects from pyramids, are on loan from the National Museum in Khartoum. The British Museum is asking all visitors to make a donation towards the work of Oxfam and Save the Children in Sudan. That includes visitors to the museum's website, which has a taste of Sudan: past and present. Go to: www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Chicago Area Peace Corps Association National Peace Corps Association

Please make check payable to CAPCA.
Mail to Chicago Area Peace Corps Association, PO Box 1149, Chicago, IL., 60690

New Member

Renewal

New Address

- One year FREE for newly returned PCV.
- Individual \$15 for CAPCA only. Individual \$50 for CAPCA *and* NPCA.
- Family \$22 for CAPCA only. Family \$65 for CAPCA *and* NPCA.
- \$500 Lifetime Membership to CAPCA only (does not include NPCA dues).

- \$ _____ Unrestricted Donation to CAPCA.
- \$ _____ Restricted Donation for _____

- I am interested in giving talks about Peace Corps.
- I would **not** like my name in the CAPCA directory.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Home #: _____ **Work #:** _____ **E-Mail:** _____

Country/Years of Service: _____

Peace Corps Job Assignment(s): _____

Current Position and Employer: _____

How did you hear about CAPCA? _____

Enrolling in both CAPCA and NPCA will give you a subscription to our newsletter and to the award-winning national magazine *WorldView*, and all rights and privileges of membership pertaining to both organizations.

Did you know?

Up until September 1995, CAPCA was called the Chicago Area Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, or CARPCV. The name was changed to CAPCA to reach out to a broader community of Peace Corps supporters, according to the October 1995 newsletter.

CAPCA was the second RPCV group to go online, after Pittsburgh. CAPCA's website was founded in 1995 by RPCV Christopher Patzer, according to the November 1999 newsletter.

Chicago Area Peace Corps Association

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*One-year presidential appointment
that expires in September.

Schedule of CAPCA Board Meetings

Tuesday, December 7, 2004
Monday, January 10, 2005
Tuesday, February 8
Wednesday, March 9
Monday, April 4
Tuesday, May 3
Wednesday, June 8.



Chicago Area Peace Corps Association
P.O. Box 1149
Chicago, IL 60690

International Night at

The Map Room

A Travelers Tavern

1949 N. Hoyne Ave. (at Armitage)
6 p.m., Tuesday, November 9

Drink locally, think globally. That's the mantra for The Map Room, and who better than a gaggle of RPCVs to bring some global flavor to this Bucktown bar. With 100 types of beers from scores of countries, you can take your own trip around the world without leaving your barstool. Just be sure to call a cab for the ride home. There's no cost (aside from the tab you rack up yourself) or RSVP required for this November gathering of the CAPCA tribes. So there's no excuse not to come.

Annual CAPCA Holiday Potluck Corinthian Yacht Club

At Montrose Harbor (4400 N) and LSD
6 p.m., Wednesday, December 8

Find out why this is one of the best events of the year! Bring a tasty dish and beverage, Peace Corps or otherwise, and celebrate the season with your fellow RPCVs. Appetizers, main courses, and desserts are all welcome.

This is the mother of all CAPCA social events.

RSVP to

Mike Prokopeak at mprokopeak@yahoo.com