



CAPCA Newsletter

Jan. – Feb. 2005
vol. x
no. 1

A Publication of the Chicago Area Peace Corps Association

Service, Skis, and Skates Kick Off CAPCA's 2005

CAPCA to Winterize H.O.M.E.s Saturday, January 15

Volunteers are needed to complete various winterization projects Saturday, January 15, at a number of homes of low-income, elderly individuals on Chicago's South Side. This is the first CAPCA-sponsored opportunity in 2005 in which to meet new friends, spend time with old ones, and swap Peace Corps stories while doing something positive for the community.

RPCVs will meet at 9:30 a.m. January 15 at the home of CAPCA Board member Lee Losey (Tanzania 83-85), who lives at 7236 South Yates Boulevard, #2. Teams will be formed and specific assignments will be made there. Everyone is invited to return to Lee's at 3:30 p.m. for a late lunch.

Volunteers should wear work clothes. Most will be putting plastic sheeting over windows to keep the cold air out of seniors' homes and their heating bills affordable. CAPCA's community partner Housing Opportunities and Maintenance for the Elderly, or H.O.M.E., will provide all of the necessary supplies. H.O.M.E. (www.homesseniors.org) is a non-profit organization committed to improving the quality of life for Chicago's low-income elderly.

To sign up to help out Saturday, January 15, contact CAPCA Community Service Chair Berna Jacobson (Slovakia 99-01) at 773-459-3467 or sakana29@yahoo.com. Directions to Lee's home are inside on page three.

CAPCA Annual Ski Trip January 28-30 Celebrates Tibet

CAPCA members, RPCVs, family, and friends: Come join us for cross-country skiing (or downhill skiing nearby), gourmet food, sledding, fireside conversation, games, music, and much, much more! It's CAPCA's annual ski trip to Camp Vista January 28-30. Snow or no snow, we go!

Camp Vista is in Dundee, Wisconsin, about two-and-a-half hours from Chicago, near Kettle Moraine. The cost is approximately \$50 and includes shared lodging and communal dining.

Accommodations include very comfortable dormitory-style lodging with clean showers. Bring bedding or a sleeping bag and a towel.

This annual CAPCA trip to the North dates back to at least January 1997. It was once known as the (Ralph) Maffucci Ski Weekend and featured Italian food created from the recipes of Ralph's grandmother. This year's menu will feature traditional dishes from Tibet.

RSVP by January 24 to Brian DeFilippo (Mali 89-91) at 847-650-1080 or bmd8991@aol.com. When making reservations, let Brian know if 1) you have special dietary needs and 2) if you can take some passengers to Camp Vista or if you need a ride. Sorry, no dogs at the camp this year.

Wait! There's more! Are you good at singing, dancing, or telling a joke? You may want to sign up for the First Annual Camp Vista Talent Show! Talk to Brian about details and show times.

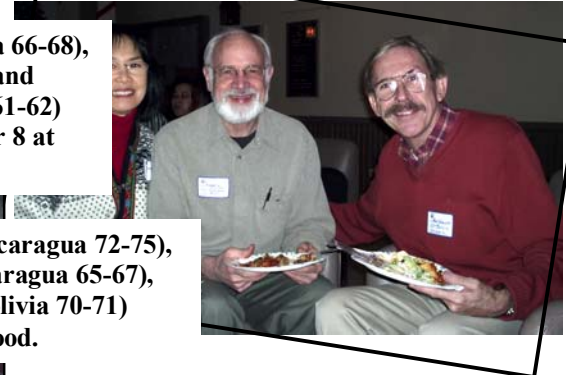
2004 CAPCA Holiday Party



▲ Mike Wittenbrink (Nigeria 66-68), Lee Losey (Tanzania 83-85), and Melinda Hunter (Phillipines 61-62) celebrated together December 8 at CAPCA's annual potluck.



▲ Mariko Salvesson (Nicaragua 72-75), Franklin Salvesson (Nicaragua 65-67), and Ron Schlachter (Bolivia 70-71) enjoyed the variety of food.



▲ Tom O'Brien (Malawi 94-96) brought Natasha to the Corinthian Yacht Club.



◀ CAPCA Secretary Christine Blair (Panama 95-98), CAPCA Board member Carol Wilkerson (St. Kitts-Nevis 95-97), and Gavin Morgan (Kyrgyzstan 95-96) chatted all night.



▲ CAPCA President Trina Janes (Morocco 91-93) with Greg Smith.

◀ CAPCA Board member Scott Waguespack (Kenya 93-95) with camera-shy Jade Cheah.



◀ CAPCA Board member Berna Jacobson (Slovakia 99-01) and Donna Braden (Ukraine 99-01) welcomed Michelle Dulski (El Salvador 02-04).



All the Best to CAPCA Members in 2005

National Day of Action March 1

March 1 is the 44th anniversary of the founding of the Peace Corps, and NPCA is planning a national day of action to support strong funding for Peace Corps programs.

NPCA Advocacy Coordinator Jonathan Pearson hopes that RPCVs, former staff, and other supporters will set aside just five or ten minutes March 1 to contact their representatives in Washington and demonstrate the depth of support throughout the country for a vibrant and growing Peace Corps. Lee Losey, the chair of CAPCA's Advocacy Committee, will be posting resources on CAPCA's listserv and Web page for contacting your elected officials.

Family Reunion



NPCA Board member Stephanie Arnold (Ghana 93-96) and her husband Komla Penty brought Komla's aunt Promise Boateng to CAPCA's holiday potluck. Promise was visiting from Cape Coast, Ghana.

To get to Lee's home at 7236 S. Yates

By car: Go south on Lake Shore Drive to 71st Street. Then go straight; it turns into Yates.
CTA riders: Take the #14 Jeffery Express bus; transfer to the 75th Street bus. Or take the Red Line to 69th Street; transfer to the 71st Street bus.



Conference Flags Donated to Evanston YMCA

CAPCA donated 76 flags from last summer's NPCA conference to the McGaw YMCA in Evanston. The flags joined others donated to the Y to celebrate the international melting pot of the area. All of the flags are on permanent display along the running track that overlooks the Y's main fitness center.

One of the highlights of the 2004 NPCA conference, which CAPCA hosted in August at the Palmer House, was the Sunday morning procession of flags of 138 countries where RPCVs have served. CAPCA sold the flags at the silent auction during the conference's Founder's Day celebration and then individually following the end of the conference. The flags that remained were donated to the McGaw YMCA last month.

CAPCA's generous donation was recognized by the YMCA at its annual Santa's International Family Day, December 11. CAPCA President Trina Janes and Board member Jeri Titus, both at the festival to share their Peace Corps experiences in Morocco, received a certificate of appreciation from Bill Geiger, the YMCA's executive director. The flags are a wonderful addition to the Y's fitness center and a huge boost to its international theme.

All 84 PCVs serving in Thailand have been contacted and are unharmed, according to a December 29, 2004 news release at www.peacecorps.gov. Another 15 volunteers, who were traveling through Thailand, are also confirmed safe. All of these PCVs are in CAPCA's thoughts and prayers.

CAPCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 4, 2004

Present: Wallace Goode, Kevin Hogan, Trina Janes, Tara Leitzell, Eva Lord, Lee Losey, Mike Prokopeak, Chuck Sheftel, Scott Waguespack, and Carol Wilkerson.

1. Call to order at 6:15 p.m.

2. Secretary's Report (Goode/Hogan). Janes motioned to approve minutes of September 7, 2004 Board meeting.

Wilkerson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

3. Treasurer's Report (Lord). Lord submitted summary of transactions from September 7 through October 4, 2004.

Beginning checking balance was \$8,016.21; ending balance was \$7,139.08.

4. NPCA 2004 Conference Wrap-Up (Janes). Janes passed around a copy of the final report on the NPCA conference, which highlights lessons learned for future conference hosts. More frequent comments from conference attendees, according to Janes, were: 1) Too expensive, 2) Too many things going on, 3) Opening ceremony too long, and 4) Too many room changes. Janes is working with NPCA to determine the final conference budget. Trina and Lord are working on clarifying CAPCA's tax exemption status. Lord said CAPCA is exempt from federal taxes. We also want to be exempt from Illinois state taxes.

5. Election of 2004-2005 CAPCA President (Goode). Goode said he enjoyed being president and enjoyed stepping down. He recounted the things CAPCA accomplished over the previous 12 months: volunteers activities, PCV projects funded, monthly meetings, and the national conference.

Then Goode called for nominations. Lord nominated Janes. There were no other nominations. Janes left the room while the Board discussed her nomination. A vote was taken, and Janes was unanimously elected CAPCA's 2004-2005 president.

Janes said she wants to take CAPCA to the next level, powered by the momentum of the success of the conference and the new enthusiasm and energy of the Board.

6. Committee Reports.

a. Advocacy. Losey agreed to chair the Advocacy Committee. He said he would like CAPCA to have a bigger voice in foreign policy and international affairs than it has now. He'd like to educate CAPCA members, get into a discussion with them, then advocate. He was concerned about making statements that speak for the entire CAPCA membership. Janes recommended Losey pick three issues with one of them an issue NPCA has chosen to address.

b. Communication. Wilkerson agreed to continue to chair the Communication Committee. Janes said she would like to get the electronic membership directory out as well as a membership brochure that Kori Scurlock started. Hogan agreed to continue to produce the newsletter. Janes said Marie Erdman has agreed to be web master.

c. Community Service. The chairmanship is vacant. Janes said she had some individuals in mind whom she'd like to see on the Board. It was agreed that four activities a year should be planned. Goode suggested the Community Service chair follow up with volunteers from event to event to keep them active in CAPCA. Losey mentioned it was important to find the right projects for CAPCA's volunteers.

d. Fundraising. The chairmanship is vacant. Leitzell agreed to chair the Founder's Day celebration. Waguespack agreed to coordinate the sale of 2005 calendars. Prokopeak was interested in holding a 50/50 drawing at each monthly dinner. Hogan said he would put a "Rent this Space" ad in a newsletter to solicit ad revenue.

e. CAPCA Grants. Sheftel agreed to continue to be the chair of this committee. Janes said she would seek a co-chair to work with him.

f. Membership Development. Waguespack and Christine Blair will co-chair this committee. Waguespack said he worked a lot with NPCA in preparing for the conference.

g. Peace Corps Update. Jeri Titus will continue to be CAPCA's liaison to Peace Corps.

h. Social Networking. Prokopeak agreed to continue to be chair of the Social Networking Committee.

7. Vice Presidents (Janes). Janes appointed Goode vice president of internal affairs, which makes him the liaison to the Communications, Community Service, Fundraising, Membership Development, and Social Networking Committees. She appointed Sheftel vice president of external affairs, which makes him the liaison to the Advocacy, Fundraising (with Goode), and Grants Committees and NPCA Update and Peace Corps Updates.

8. New Business. None.

9. Adjournment at 8:30 p.m.

November 3, 2004

Present: Stephanie Arnold, Kevin Hogan, Berna Jacobson, Trina Janes, Tara Leitzell, Eva Lord, Robyn Michaels, Mike Prokopeak, Susan Suhling, Jeri Titus, Scott Waguespack, and Carol Wilkerson.

1. Open: Trina Janes. Called to order about 6:05 p.m.

2. Secretary's Report: Kevin Hogan for Christine Blair. Reviewed minutes from October 4 meeting. Corrections made. Motion made to accept the minutes with changes. Seconded. Motion passed.

3. Treasurer's Report: Eva Lord. CAPCA applied for state sales tax exemption as an educational organization. Checking account balance is \$7,002.04. Balance of NPCA MicroEnterprise Fund is \$1,009.97. Motion made to accept the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Carol. Motion passed.

4. New Board Appointments: Janes. Trina nominated Robyn Michaels, Berna Jacobson, and Susan Suhling to one-year terms on the Board. Robyn will serve as the chair of the Fundraising Committee; Berna, Community Service Committee; and Susan, Grants Committee. After a short discussion, the Board unanimously approved Trina's appointments of these three individuals. In addition, Trina nominated Jeri Titus and Kevin Hogan to one-year terms as voting members on the Board, and the Board unanimously approved these appointments, too.

5. Committee Reports:

a. NPCA Conference Committee: Janes.

Final conference report is almost finished. Still need a final financial report. Report was passed around to Board members. Trina said it will be circulated among local conference planning committee members then given to NPCA.

b. Social Networking: Mike Prokopeak

Discussed possibilities for branching out from monthly dinners and offering a variety of things to do in 2005, like the ski trip, ice skating, country-specific film festivals.

c. Communications Committee: Carol Wilkerson.

Will solicit ads in next newsletter, will keep web site up-to-date. "Postcards from Overseas" column will debut in the newsletter soon. Stories from overseas are welcomed.

d. Membership Committee: Blair & Scott Waguespack.

Eva mentioned that membership renewals and changes of address may not be up-to-date because of a lag in time between NPCA and CAPCA.

e. Advocacy Committee: Lee Losey.

Will address issues like proposed cuts to the Peace Corps budget, especially when cuts could compromise the safety of volunteers. Will see what other groups are doing. Pass on issues and concerns to Lee.

f. Community Service Committee: Berna Jacobson.

Accepting new ideas for community service in January, something other than volunteering at HOME, like a WBEZ or WTTW fund drive perhaps. It was noted, though, that HOME is a good organization that fits nicely with what we want to do and the time we have to do it.

g. Fundraising Committee:

i. Calendar Sales: Waguespack. Sales are dribbling in. Discussed individuals to contact because they might be interested in a bulk purchase for an office or organization. Will be sold at November and December events.

ii. 2005 Founder's Day Dinner: Tara Leitzell. Will start thinking about a location and a date for the 2005 dinner. Usually held in June.

iii. 50/50 Raffle: Prokopeak/Robyn Michaels. Robyn received tickets to have a raffle at next event.

h. Grants Committee:

Susan is ready to get this committee going! Peace Corps Partnership web site is a source of prospective projects to support. Can post flyer in Peace Corps office and distribute flyers at nominating parties so new volunteers are aware of CAPCA and the potential for CAPCA support of their projects while in service. Susan suggested giving grants based on a percentage of available dollars, rather than a set dollar amount. In the past, award announcements have been made around the Founders Day dinner, which generally raises \$3,000 to \$5,000 for these project grants.

NPCA Update: Stephanie Arnold.

New association management system coming. Will be able to join and renew online. Groups like CAPCA will be able to manage their membership better. Exchange between NPCA and local groups will be more timely. Will reduce lag time. By-law vote coming up, which, if passed, will streamline national governance structure.

Peace Corps Office Update: Jeri Titus.

Said interest in Peace Corps remains very high. She just completed 33 interviews in 2 days at Notre Dame.

Close: Janes. Adjourned about 7:35.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: FEBRUARY 8. □ DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER: FEBRUARY 18



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?

CAPCA has a long tradition of hosting monthly events at some of Chicago's most authentic ethnic restaurants. Do you remember CAPCA dinners at any of these restaurants? Do you know if they are still around?

- Shilla Korean Restaurant, 5930 N. Lincoln. (CAPCA was there in September 1995.)
- Moti Mahal Indian Restaurant, 1035 W. Belmont. (CAPCA was there in March 1996.)
- La Creperie Brittany-style Restaurant, 2845 N. Clark (CAPCA was there in July 1997.)

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*One-year presidential appointment
that expires in September.

RPCVs of Wisconsin - Madison
2005 RPCV Calendars
are still available.



\$10, plus
about \$4
more if you
want it
mailed to
you. Send a
check

payable to CAPCA to CAPCA,
PO Box 1149, Chicago, IL
60690. Questions? Contact Scott
Waguespack at
swaguesp@hotmail.com.



Chicago Area Peace Corps Association
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Ice Skating - Millennium Park - January 20

Join the CAPCA crew Thursday, January 20 for an evening of ice skating at Millennium Park. We'll hit the ice at 6 p.m. Rental skates are available for \$7. If you've got your own pair, this event is free!

The McCormick Ice Rink is located in Millennium Park on Michigan Avenue between Washington and Madison Streets. The park's café and restaurant will be open as will the Dunkin Donuts right across the street in case you need to warm up with some hot chocolate.

RSVP by January 18 to Mike Prokopeak at
mprokopeak@yahoo.com

Diversity Dinner - Edna's - February 24

CAPCA is once again partnering with Jeri Titus (Morocco 92-94), Jamie Diatta (Senegal 99-01), both pictured below, and the rest of the Chicago Regional Peace Corps office to promote ethnic, religious, and cultural diversity among current and future Peace Corps volunteers. Join Peace Corps Regional Manager Virginia Koch at CAPCA/Peace Corps' annual Diversity Dinner at 5:30 p.m.,



Thursday, February 24 at Edna's, 3175 W. Madison Street. The cost is \$15 a person. The restaurant is accessible from the Kedzie stop on the Green Line.

Call Sarah at the Peace Corps
office to RSVP:
1-800-424-8580, Option 1.