



CAPCA Newsletter

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A Publication of the Chicago Area Peace Corps Association

CAPCA Purchases Water Filters for 30 Families in Los Cocos, DR

At its October 17 meeting, CAPCA's Board of Directors gave final approval to a \$1,000 grant to PCV Kristy Wegner's Peace Corps Partnership Project in Los Cocos de Jacagua, Dominican Republic. Wegner is from Frankfort, 35 miles southwest of Chicago in Will County.

There is little to no water purification in Los Cocos, a semi-rural suburb of Santiago. Residents endure problems with diarrhea and disease from bathing water. Earlier this year, Rotary International donated 50 water filters to families in Los Cocos. Wegner's project will purchase and install 30 more. The cost of a filter is \$1,600DR (\$27DR:\$1US). Each family will pay \$700DR, and CAPCA's grant will cover the \$900DR difference. The community will raise \$4,000DR to get the filters to Los Cocos.

The filters, fabricated in Dajabon by a locally owned company, are made of concrete and use natural gravel and sand to filter water contaminants, like giardia, that affect the health of both children and adults. The filters have a lifetime guarantee, if maintained and used properly. The Rotary Club of Los Cocos and the *Brigada Verde* Environmental Youth Group will offer lectures on water health and sanitation to promote awareness and proper usage of the filters.

This is the second grant in 2005 CAPCA has awarded to PCVs from the Chicago area. In January, CAPCA donated \$1,090 to PCV Katherine "Kasia" Krynski's community garden project in Sirmang, Senegal. Krynski is from Glencoe. The grants program is one way CAPCA assists current PCVs and the communities they serve. For more information, contact CAPCA Grants Committee Chair Sue Suhling at suepc@comcast.net.

CAPCA Elects New Board Members; Janes Re-elected President

Donna Braden (Ukraine 99-01) and Ann Meehan (Philippines 00-02) were elected to two-year terms on the Board of Directors at CAPCA's annual meeting and board elections September 21.

Braden served as an environmental volunteer, teaching ecology and American studies in a specialized high school in Kryvyi Rih in eastern Ukraine. Prior to her Peace Corps service,

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Don't Miss this Weekend

November 12 – 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Fall community service project in the Skokie forest preserves coordinated by CAPCA. Cut down invasive, non-native buckthorn trees. Meet at the Glenview Woods parking lot (off Harms Road, north of Old Orchard Road and south of Glenview Road, west of the Old Orchard exit on I-94). RSVP to Trina Janes (Morocco 91-93) at 312-420-2612 or cjanes1999@kellog.northwestern.edu

November 13 – 4:30 p.m.

Dinner at Bangkok Village in downtown Naperville, owned by Nit and Steve Paglia (Thailand 94-97), sponsored by RPCVs of Northeastern Illinois. BYOB. RSVP to Rick Barbieri (Congo 84-87), rick@rpcvs.org



CAPCA Members Break *Injera* Together October 20 at the Ethiopian Diamond



← Christina McMahon (Cape Verde 99-01) discusses her research into Cape Verde's theater traditions.

↖ Robyn Michaels (Malawi 91-92) sells 50-50 tickets while Mike Prokopeak (Papua New Guinea 94-96) settles up the tab for everyone.

↑ Kirsten Gobi (Ghana 01-03) and Amy Klein (Guatemala 02-04) discuss justice for immigrants and refugees.

↗ Robyn and Jeri Titus (Morocco 92-94) listen to an engaging story from a fellow RPCV.

→ Lucinda Boyd (Nigeria 62-64) explains why her COS was a great place in the Sixties for a young American woman.



Peace Corps Fellows Program in Community Development Western Illinois University

"Where is the road of life taking you?"

"Is your job unfulfilling?" "Is it time for that master's degree that you've been putting off since PC?"

The **Peace Corps Fellows Program** in Community Development at Western Illinois University offers RPCVs the opportunity to earn a master's degree with a specialization in community development. After **campus coursework** in one of six departments, Fellows serve an 11-month **paid internship** in which they gain practical experience while leading grassroots community and economic development projects.



WESTERN
ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY

Very **generous financial benefits** are provided to all Fellows, including a full tuition waiver, a monthly stipend, and an AmeriCorps education award upon completion of the internship. Applications accepted now for January and August 2006 enrollment.

For more information on the Peace Corps Fellows Program at WIU, go to www.peacecorpsfellows-wiu.org or contact the office directly: (800) 526-9943 or PCF@wiu.edu. Write to 503 Currens, Western Illinois University, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL., 61455-1390.

Crisis Corps

Former CAPCA Board member Lara Weber (Zambia 00-02) signed up for Crisis Corps to help in the recovery efforts in Louisiana. Here's some thoughts and observations she has put to paper for an article she plans to write for one of Chicago's daily newspapers:

Three other RPCVs and I drove into New Orleans the night before the city was reopened to residents. After we flashed our FEMA badges at the checkpoint on the edge of the city, we entered what felt like another world. The city was still pitch-dark as very little power had been restored. There was random debris strewn about. It left us speechless that this was a major American city.

A few things made [the four of] us so proud to be a part of Peace Corps. First of all, we pretty much talked our way onto this large task force of firefighters, and I'm certain there was some skepticism among their ranks that these girls could contribute anything as macho as they could. Determined to prove them wrong, we kicked butt from day one: we settled in comfortably at Tent City; the accommodations were luxurious compared to most of our PC houses! We learned to operate the chainsaws; and we jumped in on all of the tree-cutting missions (even gaining the respect of a group of Blackfeet Indian forest-firefighters from Montana!). We became the go-to taskforce members for all of the firefighters who (despite how much we loved them all!) just couldn't read a map or find their way around the city without us.

A Makeover for Peace Corps? CAPCA Members Speak Out

On October 25, Laura Vanderkam wrote in *USA Today*: ... The world has changed since Kennedy's speech [outlining his idea for the Peace Corps]. Our needs, likewise, have changed. Under Kennedy, we battled the USSR for the developing world's soul. Now, there may be a case for Arab world friendship programs, but elsewhere, people

need American friends less than they need to stop carrying water six hours a day....

This article prompted a spirited response from the CAPCA community.

Elizabeth McGraw (Mongolia 01-03) responded: In Mongolia, the PC staff produced a myriad of opportunities for volunteers to become productive service providers, but so many of it was lost in the mere journey from the capital.

Mary Schuller (Nepal 96-98), CAPCA's web master, wrote: Naturally we want quality volunteers, but as someone who lived in a village with no other volunteer nearby for a year, followed by living in a village with other volunteers around, I can say that my year surrounded exclusively by locals was a much more culturally rich experience.

Mark Morrison (Panama 01-03): My experience made me grateful we did not have to come up with hard statistics. Though some volunteers may be anxious to get another bullet point for their résumé, generally it was great to try to add value without concern for exactly where that value would be added.

Robyn Michael (Malawi 91-92): I think we owe it to HCNs, our counterparts, future volunteers, and American citizens in general to call 'em as we see 'em and needle Peace Corps into being more accountable.

Amy Converse (Mauritania 97-99): One of the benefits of the somewhat piecemeal way that volunteers go about designing and carrying out projects is the fact that local populations are empowered to make decisions for themselves about what their priorities are.

David Savard (Macedonia): The problem in many countries is rarely lack of skills, education or training. In my country, every third person seemed to be trained as an engineer. What they did not have was the funds or coordination to implement clearly needed projects.



On Sale Now!

2006

RPCV International Calendar Featuring Recipes from Each of the 13 Featured Countries

The International Calendar Project of the RPCVs of Wisconsin - Madison seeks to share Peace Corps experiences with our home communities and to raise money for grassroots projects in the countries where we served or in which we lived. The calendar's stunning images introduce us to the people who welcomed us so warmly into their communities. CAPCA will sell these calendars at our November 22 outing at The Map Room and at our December 7 holiday potluck at the Corinthian Yacht Club. At just \$10 a piece, these calendars

make great holiday gifts. Contact Jeri Titus at jtitus@peacecorps.gov to place an order if you will not be at our November or December events.

CAPCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, July 11, 2005

Attendees: Stephanie Arnold, Kevin Hogan, Berna Jacobson, Trina Janes, Tara Leitzell, Eva Lord, Robyn Michaels, Chuck Sheftel, Susan Suhling, and Carol Wilkerson.

- 1) **Open:** Trina Janes.
- 2) **Secretary's Report:** Berna Jacobson. Minutes from June 1 Meeting approved.
- 3) **Treasurer's Report:** Eva Lord.
 - a. Handed out Founder's Day reconciliation, which showed an income of \$5,000.
 - b. Checking account has \$12,500.
- 4) **Tax-Exempt Update:** Janes. Case won; so CAPCA is now tax-exempt.
- 5) **Founder's Day: Lessons Learned & Future Suggestions:** All.
 - a. Overall evening was a success; select date earlier.
 - b. Work to get more ads for the program; hand out CAPCA and NPCA update.
- 6) **2006 Board Elections:** Janes. Will be held at the September dinner.
- 7) **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Grants Committee:** Susan Suhling.
 - b. **Community Service Committee:** Jacobson.
 - i. Suggest take survey of what people want to participate in.
 - ii. Suggest do work at forest preserve in fall.
 - iii. Chuck will look in opportunities at a women's homeless shelter.
 - c. **Communications Committee:** Carol Wilkerson. Newsletter and website are up-to-date.
 - d. **NPCA Conference Committee:** Janes.
 - i. Working to receive profit from conference, will probably know after NPCA Board meeting in July.
 - e. **Peace Corps Office Update:** Jeri Titus.
 - i. Peace Corps Nomination Party Recap (June 9).

1. Howard Raik from CHPA keynote; talked about CAPCA grants program
 - f. **Social Networking:** Mike Prokopeak.
 - g. **Fundraising Committee:** Robyn Michaels.
 - i. Create designs for cafepress.com to raise funds; have a golf outing as a fundraiser.
 - h. **Advocacy Committee:** Lee Losey.
 - i. NPCA lobbying Capital Hill on July 28; NPCA and Oxfam coming together for grassroots lobbying.
 - i. **NPCA Update:** Stephanie Arnold.
 - i. New board representative is Deb Most from Minneapolis.
 - ii. Trina will call into the Annual General meeting of NPCA on July 29.
- 8) **Close:** Janes. Adjourned 7:45

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Attendees: Trina Janes, Robyn Michaels, Chuck Sheftel, Kevin Hogan, Carol Wilkerson, Mike Prokopeak, Jeri Titus.

- 1) **Open:** Trina Janes. After assembling the newsletters, the meeting was opened at 6:42 p.m.
- 2) **Secretary's Report:** Berna Jacobson. Minutes from August meeting approved.
- 3) **Treasurer's Report:** Eva Lord.
 - a. Checking account balance reflects NPCA conference proceeds. Report approved.
- 4) **2006 Board Elections:** Carol Wilkerson/Janes. Logistics and candidates for the 2006 elections were discussed.
- 5) **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **NPCA Conference Committee:** Janes.
 - i. CAPCA has finally settled conference proceeds with NPCA; proceeds have been split 60/40.
 - b. **Peace Corps Office Update:** Jeri Titus.
 - i. Recruiters took part in West Side parade in August; three new recruiters in the Peace Corps Office.
 - ii. This year marks the 45th anniversary of PC, and there is increased emphasis on diversity in recruiting.
 - iii. Discussed combined event with Peace Corps, CAPCA, and City of Chicago (Alderman Ed Smith) to honor returned volunteers: lunchtime event at Daley Plaza, evening reception, partnership with World Music Festival, partnership with Sister Cities Foundation.
 - c. **Advocacy Committee:** Lee Losey.
 - i. Discussed military recruitment tied to Peace Corps.
 - ii. Trina noted NPCA members have written op-ed pieces for national papers.
 - iii. Materials to advocate are available through the NPCA Web site.
 - d. **Grants Committee:** Chuck Sheftel.
 - i. Moved to approve \$1,000 grant to project in Dominican Republic pending grant meeting CAPCA requirements; Chuck to follow up on grant requirements.
 - ii. Discussed funding Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts, but funding efforts on a local, grassroots scale; Board members to research grassroots groups to contribute to.
 - e. **Social Networking:** Mike Prokopeak. November events: Oak Park Council of International Affairs fundraising dinner, happy hour at the Map Room.
 - f. **Fundraising:** Robyn Michaels. Discussed raising money through stamps and printing materials through Caf  Press.
 - g. **Community Service Committee:** Berna Jacobson. No update
 - h. **Next Meeting:** Monday, October 17
 - i. **Close:** Janes. Adjourned 8:11 p.m.

NEXT CAPCA BOARD MEETING IS NOVEMBER 30, 2005.



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.
- Family \$22 for CAPCA only.
- \$500 Lifetime Membership to CAPCA only (does not include NPCA dues).
- Individual \$50 for CAPCA *and* NPCA.
- Family \$65 for CAPCA *and* NPCA.
- \$ _____ 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:** _____

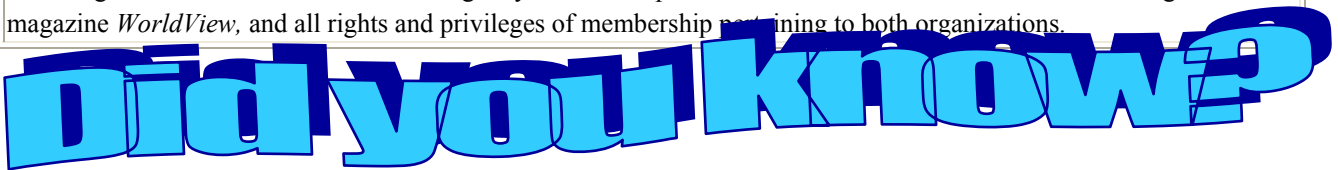
Country/Years of Service: _____

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.



Nationwide, the Peace Corps community is responding to the hurricane emergencies. Individuals are posting messages and sharing information with the wider Peace Corps community at www.rpcv.org. Click on **Hurricane Response**.

U.S. Congressman John Kline (Minnesota) introduced legislation to remove Peace Corps as an option for completing an individual's military enlistment requirement. Take action with Kline at www.rpcv.org. Click on **NPCA Response to Program Linking Peace Corps, Military Recruitment**.

CAPCA Board Elections, con't

Braden enjoyed careers in banking, public finance, association management, and social services. She currently works for a federal grantee serving the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Meehan worked as an English teacher trainer in the Philippines, using her organizational, leadership, and fundraising skills from working and volunteering at the New Orleans Museum of Art, the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, the Terra Museum of American Art, and the Loyola University Art Museum. Meehan brings to the CAPCA table great attention to detail, the desire to make Chicago an even better place to live, and most importantly, a wicked sense of humor.

Trina Janes (Morocco 91-93), Chuck Sheftel (India 69-72), and Susan Suhling (Malawi 89-90) were each re-elected to two-year terms on the Board. Janes, CAPCA's 2005 president and co-chair of the 2004 NPCA conference, served as a health and sanitation volunteer in Morocco. She is currently a public affairs consultant with the Haymarket Group. Sheftel, who was the co-chair of the 2004 NPCA conference with Janes, has been on the CAPCA Board for more than eight years. He returns to his village in India every two or three years to revisit friends. He hopes to get more members into CAPCA with exciting and fun events. As CAPCA's Grants Committee chair, Suhling has put together a formalized grants application process and wants to continue to help get the word about CAPCA's grants program out to PCVs.

In accordance with CAPCA's by-laws, the 2006 Board, at its first meeting October 17, nominated Janes for president, Sheftel for vice president, Meehan for secretary, and Eva Lord (Honduras 94-96) for treasurer. These nominations were unanimously approved.

CAPCA 2006 Board of Directors

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2005-2006 Board Meeting Dates

November 30
January 4
February 2
March 8
April 4

*One-year presidential
appointment that expires in
September.

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22 – 6 P.M.
INTERNATIONAL HAPPY HOUR**

**THE MAP ROOM – A TRAVELER'S TAVERN
1949 N. HOYNE
(BETWEEN DAMEN AND WESTERN)
FEATURED COUNTRY: INDIA**



**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7 – 6 P.M.
ANNUAL CAPCA
HOLIDAY POTLUCK**

**CORINTHIAN YACHT CLUB
AT MONTROSE HARBOR
BRING AN INTERNATIONAL DISH TO SHARE
BYOB**

*** * * ***

**January 27-29, 2006
*Annual CAPCA Ski Trip to Camp Vista***

**Save the Date
Read the January '06 newsletter
for full details.**



Chicago Area Peace Corps Association
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