



CAPCA Newsletter

May-June 2006

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A Publication of the Chicago Area Peace Corps Association

2006 Founder's Day

Annual Dinner June 10 at LUMA

Join CAPCA for our annual Founder's Day celebration. This year's dinner is Saturday, June 10 at the Loyola University Museum of Art (LUMA), located across from the historic Water Tower on Michigan Avenue. A reception will begin at 6 p.m.; dinner will be served at 7 p.m.

Our honored guest speakers Suzanne and Stephen Franklin (Turkey 1967-69) will offer insight into the search for refuge and security among peoples throughout the world. Stephen is a staff reporter for the *Chicago Tribune* and has written on most of the world's recent wars. As the *Tribune's* Middle East correspondent, he covered the Gulf War. He also reported from Guatemala, Honduras, Peru, and Venezuela. Stephen has been through many battles and says it is a harrowing experience to see the devastation of war on people.

Suzanne is director of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, an agency that assists refugees and immigrants. As a member of the Council of World Parliaments, Suzanne took part in the council's discussion about the global dilemma facing refugees.

Our Founder's Day celebration will also include a private showing of *The Gods as We Shape Them*, LUMA's exhibition of approximately 200 deities from Africa, Asia, and the Americas.

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Dinner Supports PCV Projects

Your attendance at our Founder's Day dinner continues to make a difference in the lives of peoples throughout the world. With the proceeds of the dinner and the silent auction, CAPCA supports community development projects submitted by PCVs from the Chicago metropolitan area. Some of the more recent projects that CAPCA provided funding to are:

• Sirmang, Senegal – Community Garden

PCV Kasia Kryski of Glencoe worked with the villagers of Sirmang in rural Senegal to create a first of its kind community garden. Over 100 individuals from many different groups in the village participated in the construction of the garden, which consisted of a 15-meter cement-lined well, two 3x2-meter basins extending 20 meters from both sides of the well, and a storage hut, all encircled by a 240-meter chain link fence.

• Los Cocos, DR – Water Filtration

PCV Kristy Wegner of Frankfort worked with Rotary International to provide 50 water filters to families in Los Cocos de Jacagua, a semi-rural suburb of Santiago. CAPCA provided support for 30 more water

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Nonprofit Job Fair May 24

New CAPCA member Jacquelyn Jancius alerts us to Idealist.org's annual Chicago nonprofit career fair Wednesday, May 24, in the student center on DePaul University's Lincoln Park campus. It's free for job seekers. To register and to see a list of employers scheduled to attend (there's already 50 signed up), go to www.idealists.org.

Annual Dinner, continued

Founder's Day is CAPCA's annual fundraising event. Proceeds support select Peace Corps Partnership Projects of current Chicago-area PCVs. For more information, or to RSVP for the Founder's Day dinner, contact Tara Leitzell, CAPCA's fundraising chairperson at 630-669-4662 or tara_leitzell@yahoo.com.

Update from Bay St. Louis, Mississippi

The dollars so generously donated by CAPCA and its members and friends have been deposited into an account for the Bay-Waveland Alternative School in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. The end result would be to buy some outdoor sports equipment or chairs. Presently, the students are still attending classes in trailers, and teachers are trying to get an idea of when a new school can be rebuilt. It seems that, sadly, they feel it is not in the near future. Contact CAPCA vice president Chuck Sheftel at shef3886@sbcglobal.net for more information

Wanted: Cool Silent Auction Items

CAPCA will hold a silent auction June 10 as part of our Founder's Day dinner. Both the dinner and the silent auction are the primary source for raising funds to support Peace Corps Partnership Projects.

Support CAPCA and your fellow Chicago area PCVs by asking your friends, family, and business associates to donate items to the silent auction. Do you have any cool, ethnic handicraft items from a Peace Corps country? Do you or anyone you know have a vacation home or timeshare to offer, or season tickets to a sporting event to spare? Or any professional services to offer (tennis lessons, massage services, chef classes)? Nothing is too small.

To donate or for more information, contact Susan Suhling, CAPCA's grants committee chairperson, at suepc@comcast.net, or send auction items to her at 523 Cross Rd., Gurnee, IL, 60031.



Peace Corps Fellows Program in Community Development Western Illinois University

Where is the road of life taking you? Is it time for that master's degree that you've been putting off since Peace Corps?

The **Peace Corps Fellows Program** in Community Development at the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs 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.

Culture Shocks Softball

CAPCA's Culture Shocks begin the 2006 summer season of 12-inch softball on May 21 with Players Sports. We can use your skill and experience! We are looking for more full-time or part-time players. Left-handed hitters and women are encouraged to apply. We play Saturdays, between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. for eight weeks at Waveland Park, which is at Irving Park Road and Lake Shore Drive. Call Brian DeFilippo (Mali 89-91) at 847-650-1080 to negotiate a multi-million dollar contract.



Stephanie Arnold (Ghana 93-96), who works now in the U.S. Consulate in Toronto and Kara Malenfant (Armenia 92-94) at 2005 Founder's Day.

Junior Curators Program

CAPCA secretary Ann Meehan, curator of education at the Loyola University Museum of Art, is organizing a program with Connection Arts Chicago www.connectionarts.org to teach 15 kids ages 10 to 12 from Chicago's West Town community how to curate an exhibition. The program is intended to provide youth a safe, nurturing learning environment over the summer with an engaging arts education experience that fosters healthy self-esteem and teambuilding skills.

Ann is looking to *borrow* artwork(s) from the countries of service of CAPCA members and asking that the kids interview the RPCVs about their Peace Corps experience. To participate and to loan a piece of art to the program, contact Ann at 312-915-7604 or anniemaelou@yahoo.com.

CAPCA Volunteers for the Chicago River Day

Join us for the
14th Annual Chicago River Day!
Saturday, May 13, 2006 from
9 a.m – 12 p.m

**Meet at the Belmont River Club, 3201 N. Rockwell.
We will help clean and beautify this part of the river.**

**There are several projects for experienced and novice workers.
Please bring rope and sharp scissors/shears, if possible.**

***Chicago River Day is a wonderful day for everyone to get out and explore
the river and help to make it a beautiful and healthy place to visit!***

**Please e-mail Kristi Schober at schoberk@yahoo.com or
call 773-308-6860 to RSVP or for assistance with transportation.**

PCV Projects, continued

filters needed to complete the project. Kristy's project helped alleviate residents' problems with diarrhea and disease from bathing water.

While Kristy Wegner has extended her time in the Dominican Republic for another year, she will be in town for CAPCA's Founder's Day dinner and will bring pictures related to her water filtration project with her.

•Adanwomase, Ghana – Teacher's Bungalow

PCV Anthony Cotton of LaGrange is converting an unused school building in Adanwomase into a 16-room teacher's bungalow. On any given day, due to bad roads, poor weather conditions, and the scarcity of vehicles, many teachers do not report to the classroom on time or at all. Consequently, it is very common that large groups of students go untaught and unsupervised for long periods of time. With access to the bungalow, teachers who have to travel long distances will be able to stay overnight and report for their teaching duties on time everyday.

The major renovations required of the project are constructing eight cement walls, fixing the existing foundation and walls, putting up a new ceiling and roof, installing basic electrical fittings, and painting the whole building. Local leaders are employing trained masons, carpenters, electricians, and painters. Anthony met with all the skilled laborers and drew up contracts.

All of the materials have been purchased. Anthony feels like the hard part is over. He anticipates that the teacher's bungalow will be ready at the start of the 2006-2007 school year.

NPCA Case Statement

The National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) is the national alumni organization for individuals influenced by the Peace Corps experience. We are committed to justice and tolerance and know the importance of being engaged in the world. We share a lifelong dedication to service. We foster peace by working together in service, education and advocacy. We connect, inform and engage our community of more than 130 groups through a national network. We work with a variety of organizations to help us advance our mission and enhance the effectiveness of what we do.

Each Peace Corps generation has a unique and valuable experience to share with our community and the rest of the world. We welcome your visit to www.peacecorpsconnect.org to connect with members of our community, become better informed about Peace Corps and major development issues, and explore new ways in which you can make a difference.



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Learn more **about the Mary Kay opportunity** on my Personal Web Site! It's the place to discover all the things a Mary Kay business can offer you to help you change your life for the better – with great opportunities to earn extra money and prizes, and spend more time with family. Plus you can enjoy unexpected rewards like friendships and the satisfaction of helping others. I'd love to talk to you about starting your own Mary Kay business today! Visit www.marykay.com/cwilkerson1 to find out if a Mary Kay business is for you. Take a fun quiz and read some great stories about people who have discovered the good life through the Mary Kay opportunity.

CAPCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES – MARCH 2006

Open: Trina Janes

- The meeting was called to order at 6:30 with practically a full house — Donna Braden, Kevin Hogan, Eric Knepper, Trina Janes, Tara Leitzell, Eva Lord, Ann Meehan, Mike Prokopeak, Chuck Sheftel, Kristi Schober, and Jeri Titus.

Secretary's Report: Ann Meehan

- The February minutes were approved after Eva and Tara requested changes. The motion was called by Eva and with a second by Ann.

Treasurer's Report: Eva Lord

- Eva happily reported that we exceeded our \$1,000 cap for Katrina donations by \$400.
- A lengthy discussion ensued about what to do with our ever growing funds in the CAPCA bank account. A motion was proposed by Trina that we invest \$5,000 in a three-month CD and another \$5,000 in a six-month CD.

Committee Reports:

- Peace Corps Office Update: Jeri Titus
 - Diversity Dinner Report: There were 70 attendees! Wallace brought 10 students from the University of Chicago. Anthony Cotton's mother presented her son's project that CAPCA is funding.
 - Franklin Williams Award Nominations: The Midwest regional office nominated Karen Tyler Ruiz, who served in Honduras and has worked on community development block grants.
 - 45th Anniversary Celebrations: There was a 45th anniversary kit available which included a lesson plan and accessories.
- Community Service Committee: Kristi Schober
 - February 11 Home Project: 15 people showed up, and a great time was had by all. We painted hallways and bathrooms.
 - Future events: Suggestions were made to participate again in the Chicago River Day.
- Grants Committee: Susan Suhling
 - Anthony Cotton's Ghana Project: Tara encouraged CAPCA to provide funding to complete this project. Chuck pointed out that we had already given \$1,800 and advised us to set a limit of \$2,400.
 - Partnership projects: At the moment we have no other projects on the table.
 - Katrina Donation: Chuck also delivered the news that the school will remain in a temporary trailer for at least two years. He hopes to make a site visit in June.
- Social Networking: Mike Prokopeak
 - Plan for March 22 event for 45th Anniversary: The anniversary event will take place in Greektown at Roditys. Future events: Other ideas were a social event in May, a dinner at Heartland Café, a potluck in July.
- Fundraising Committee: Tara Leitzell
 - Founders Day Planning: Tara had an impressive list with names, assignments, due dates, notes and a complete box. Much of the March section was filled out, and other tasks were delegated. Everyone on the board is charged with getting items and selling tickets.
- Membership Committee: Donna Braden
 - Trina strongly recommended that we have a membership table at the March event.
- Communications Committee: Eric Knepper
 - Eric is trying to connect with Mary about the website. He will also discuss with her an on-line membership form with a link to PayPal.

Future Meetings: Trina Janes

- Because the Peace Corps office is being remodeled, all meeting until after the summer will have to be held elsewhere.
- Another date to mark on your calendars in the nomination party at the Mexican Fine Arts Museum and Center on June 14 at 6:30 p.m.

Close: Trina Janes

- The meeting ended at 8:00 p.m.

NEXT CAPCA BOARD MEETING IS JUNE 5, 2006.



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: _____

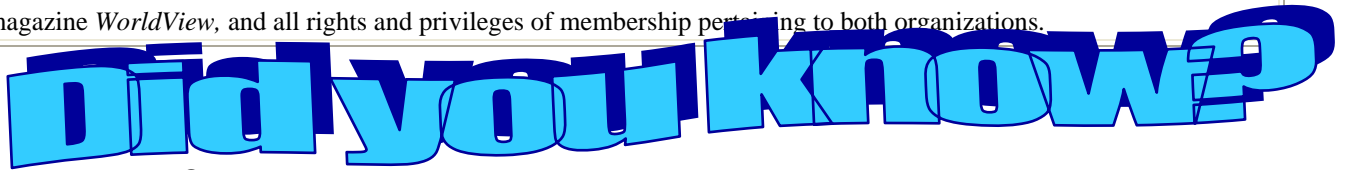
Country/Years of Service: _____

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.



Peace Corps at a Glance

June 1961 – The first 12 PCVs are selected and begin training. Two months later, they arrive in Accra, Ghana to “promote world peace and friendship.”

June 1962 – Programs begin in 22 countries and 2,816 PCVs are in the field.

June 1966 – More than 15,000 PCVs are in the field, and Peace Corps is the nation’s top employer of recent college graduates.

June 1990 – The first PCVs to serve in Eastern Europe are deployed.

June 1993 – The first group of PCV English teachers leaves for China.

Books Are Not Obsolete Yet

Do you have books published within the last five or six years collecting dust? Scot Roskelley, Public Affairs Director at the Chicago Regional Peace Corps Office, sent his dusty books to the Divide County Public Library in Crosby, North Dakota and received a heartfelt thank you note: "Opening your box was such an unexpected, joyous surprise."

If you have books that you are never going to read again, send them to the Divide County Library. Email Leslie Deering dcl@nccray.net with a list of books you have and see if she would like any of them for the library.

Teachers Are Waiting for Books

A Thousand Books www.athousandbooks.us/ has tons of English language books for teachers overseas but an empty bank account. They are asking for contributions to cover the costs of shipping the books. Contact John or Tony at donatebooks@athousandbooks.us.

Book Writers Needed

The Chicago Peace Corps Office is holding an awareness event at the Harold Washington Library in the Loop on May 10. They are looking for a local RPCV author to attend and read from their work and speak about their Peace Corps experience. If interested, contact Emily Olsen (Dominican Republic 96-99), Regional Recruiter, 312-353-5210.

Newsletter Editor Wanted, Too

CAPCA is looking for a RPCV to take over the creation, production, and distribution of our organization's newsletter in September 2006. The newsletter is published every other month and requires an average of five to seven hours of time each month. For more information, contact Kevin Hogan, our current newsletter editor, capcanews@yahoo.com.

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*One-year presidential appointment that expires in September.



Chicago Area Peace Corps Association
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CAPCA Hits Rock Bottom in May

Meet us at the Rock Bottom Brewery and Restaurant on Wednesday, May 24 at 6:00 p.m. for happy hour. Assuming the weather is good, we'll head up to the restaurant's rooftop beer garden.

Rock Bottom is located at 1 West Grand Avenue at the corner of State and Grand in Chicago's River North neighborhood.

No RSVP is required. This event is free, assuming you don't have anything to drink. If you have any questions, feel free to call Mike Prokopeak at 312-343-1947 or e-mail him at mprokopeak@yahoo.com.

ANNUAL CAPCA FOUNDER'S DAY DINNER

JUNE 10, 2006
TICKETS: \$80 AND UP