



CAPCA Newsletter

September - October 2007
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A Publication of the Chicago Area Peace Corps Association

CAMP VISTA WRAP UP & BUNGALOW PROJECT A GO-GO!

CAMP VISTA SUMMER 2007 Brian DeFilippo (Mali 89-91)



(Photo: Spectators at the Dundee pig wrestling included Greg Smith, Roxanne, Ron Cox, Trina Janes & Gina)

From July 27-29, we had a great group, perfect weather, warm campfire and marshmallows, and tasty beef brisket!! We had the biggest summer group yet- 26 adults and 11 kids. On Friday night we discovered a new fish fry that was heavenly. My girlfriend and I went biking to the beach the next day while some went into town, and the kids had a great time in the canoes out back.

Ralph and Renee, our gracious hosts and gourmet cooks, did a great job this year! The highlight of the weekend was a festival in Dundee that featured pig wrestling! That's right! Four people got into a mud ring with a pig and tried to pick it up. Don't worry, it was not cruel but it *was* unusual! Some succeeded and some failed. Perhaps we can get a Peace Corps team together for next year.



(Photo: Brian DeFilippo & Gina pose by the canoes at Lake Camp Vista)
Mark your calendars now for the Winter Camp Vista X-Country Ski Trip scheduled for January 25 to 27, 2008.

CAPCA Funded Teacher's Bungalow Project a Rewarding Success

Marnie Sanborn (Cameroon 03-05)

The CAPCA Board had the pleasure of meeting with Anthony Cotton, RPCV Ghana (03-05), to learn about the success of his Teacher's Bungalow project funded with the help of CAPCA funds.

Anthony's project renovated an old and unused school building into a dormitory of 18 bedrooms, including 2 bathrooms and common area for primary school teachers in the area. Anthony remarked, "Completing the project was difficult but rewarding". Skilled masons, carpenters and electricians worked along side members of the community to build the beautifully neon green building that houses 18 primary school teachers.

As anticipated, creating housing for teachers has improved teacher attendance and punctuality at all of the primary and junior secondary schools near Anthony's village, Adanwomase. Teachers no longer need to travel long distances to commute to this rural area, but can now live and work in the community.

Anthony is incredibly pleased with the project and explains that "without the generosity of so many individuals and groups this project could not have been completed".

Since his return from Ghana, Anthony has been accepted into the Peace Corps Fellows program at Fordham to study International Political Economy and Development. He looks forward to continuing a life of service to the developing nations of the world.

New Newsletter Editor Edits Plans for Editing News

Steven Ripes (Cameroon, 02 - 05)

CAPCA newsletter editing responsibilities were recently passed on to Cameroon RPCV and CAPCA member Steven Ripes.

After being asked on several occasions to change tables due to "audible whispers," "excited explanations," and "excessive mouse-clicking" by public library patrons and staff, former editor Marnie Sanborn (Cameroon 03-05) and new editor Steven Ripes (Cameroon 02 -05), were able collaborate in order to learn "the ropes."

"Often I am loud, rambunctious, and destructive in public libraries and no one seems to have a problem. Why should this be any different when I am with Marnie? It's madness I tell you," Mr. Ripes told reporters last Thursday.

Yet witnesses within the library noticed the duo building forts from library sofas, engaging in beat boxing contests, and creating multiple five-foot tall paperback archways in the reference section.

"Oh yes! Those are portals into 'Book Land,'" explained Mr. Ripes. "Surely, Hemmingway would

have been proud to have his work displayed in such a manner."

Ms. Sanbron was unable to comment due to what she described as, "no-talkie-time."

Mr. Ripes wishes it to be known that while the newsletter is under his tutelage, new and fresh ideas will be proposed. He welcomes any and all feedback from it's loyal following of three and half readers. "Rejoice, CAPCA. In the true manner of Peace Corps administration, I will have no problem editing any and everything you have to say. This I assure you."

Mr. Ripes can be reached at his email address at pcsteve0204@yahoo.com.

Support Founder's Day!

Advertise in the Ad Book

Don't forget our annual **Founder's Day Gala** coming up on September 29th at Riva's on Navy Pier. This is CAPCA's largest fundraiser of the year and we really need your support to be able to continue to great work we, as a group, do at home and abroad.

If anyone is interested in advertising in our program book, rates are:

- Full page (7.5" x 4.75") - \$175
- Half page (3.5" x 4.75") - \$100
- Quarter page (1.75" x 4.75") \$60

Ads are due by September 10th. Send your ad copy or camera ready art to Micah Strand michatomxix@yahoo.com or call 312-339-5441.

Silent Auction Items Needed

CAPCA is collecting donations for the silent auction. Suggestions include crafts or artwork from your country of service or other world travels, gift certificates from restaurants, shops, or spas, tickets to plays, museums, concerts, sporting events, etc... or donating a service or a lesson.

If you have questions or would like to donate, please contact Eileen Gallagher at eagallagher7@gmail.com, (773)720-6798.

**Join the CAPCA Board –
New Members Needed**

Are you interested in getting more involved with CAPCA?

The CAPCA board needs *you*.

We are looking for RPCVs interested in serving as secretary and assisting with fundraising and membership. Help us plan activities, expand programming and serve the needs of the RPCV community. Our annual elections will be held on October 25 at Andie's Restaurant, 1467 W. Montrose.

For more information or to express interest, contact Trina Janes – trinajanes@hotmail.com or 312-645-9400 ex. 35 by October 1.

SAVE THE DATE!

Former Peace Corps Volunteers and Peace Corps' Friends and Family,

Please reserve the date of **September 29th** for

The Chicago Area Peace Corps Association's

19th Annual Founder's Day Gala

Riva Restaurant on Navy Pier
Saturday, September 29th
Reception 6 pm o Dinner 7 pm
Silent Auction until 8:30 pm

The Founder's Day Gala is CAPCA's largest fundraiser of the year and serves to support CAPCA Global Outreach Programs, as well as bringing together one of the country's largest groups of RPCV's, Peace Corps' families and friends.

Within the past year, your contributions have made it possible for CAPCA to fund a potable water project in the Kyrgyz Republic managed by a PCV from Lake Forest, a school furniture repair project in Armenia managed by a PCV from Granite City, an interactive classroom in Guatemala managed by a PCV from River Forest, a geography education project in Samoa managed by a PCV couple from DeKalb, and a global education project at a high school in Chicago's Austin neighborhood.

Guest Speaker: Jerome McDonnell

Host of "Worldview" – WBEZ, Chicago Public Radio

Mr. McDonnell provides global affairs coverage of world issues with in-depth conversations on international issues and their local impact. McDonnell has a Peter Lisagor award and has been recognized by the Illinois Broadcaster's Association for "Best Public Affairs Program in a Series".

Please join us in celebrating and recognizing the continued contributions of Chicagoland Peace Corps Volunteers – past and present – by attending the 19th Annual Founders Day Gala on September 29th.

RSVP

To purchase tickets or for more information,
please contact Eileen Gallagher:
(773) 720.6798, egallagh@nmh.org

CAPCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES 9 JULY 2007

- **Open** (Trina): The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. with Anthony Cotton, Shayne Bell, Theresa Fernandez, Trina Janes, Ann Meehan, Mike Prokopeak, Marnie Sanborn, Sue Suhling and Jeri Titus in attendance.
- **CAPCA Grantee Report** (Anthony Cotton): RPCV Anthony Cotton showed us pictures of the dormitory for eighteen teachers built with funds from CAPCA. The building features a community kitchen and bathroom.
- **Secretary's Report** (Trina): The June minutes (recorded by Tara) were approved with a motion called by Theresa and a second by Shayne.
- **Treasurer's Report** (Jeri): A deposit of \$230 (membership dues) will be made. Withdrawals include \$2,000 (Riva's for down payment), \$232 (Kinko's for printing) and \$1,055 (Madison RPCV group for 250 calendars), \$123 (reimburse Jeri for stamps) and \$264.80 (reimburse Trina for expenses)

Committee Reports

- **Grants Committee** (Susan Suhling via speakerphone):
 - Peace Corps Partnerships Projects: Two people from the office in D.C. are touring around the country to meet with RPCV groups. At the July 23rd meeting, Trina and Jeri intend to discuss all of the changes PC/W has proposed.
- **New Website Planning** (Mike Prokopeak):
 - The board looked at sample pages from the new website. Text will be added by the end of the month but won't be ready for launch. Please let Mike know your thoughts on the changes.
- **Fundraising Committee** (Trina):
 - Calendar Sales: Trina urged us to sell the calendars at Founder's Day.
 - Founder's Day Planning: Trina plans to ask 32nd Alderman Scott Waguespack to be the master of ceremony. The deposit check will be sent with the signed contract. Jerome McDonnell will conduct tours for the sponsors. The price of ads will be \$60 for ¼ page, \$100 for ½ page and \$175 for whole page.
 - Silent auction: We need to get more donations for the auction. A fierce brainstorming session took place.
- **Mentoring Committee** (Jeri):
 - Jeri will contact Nancy Kramer about hosting an event for the mentors and mentees.
- **Membership Committee** (Theresa Fernandez):
 - Outreach to current/expired members and recruitment of new members: Of the 135 cards that went out, only six were returned.
 - Recruitment of new members: A suggestion was made that we should create a holiday card with a top ten list of reasons to join CAPCA.
- **Advocacy Committee** (Trina):
 - We need to reach out to Congressman Danny Davis about the m-bag issue.
- **NPCA Update** (Trina):
 - At the end of June, Trina ran the annual Group Leaders' Forum meeting. Deputy Director Jody showed up. People were disappointed with HQ's decision to limit relations with RPCV groups. The seed was planted to start thinking about the 50th anniversary of Peace Corps (23-26 June 2011). With our \$500 seed money, NPCA raised over \$21,000 for their virtual community project.
- **Community Service Committee** (Trina):
 - The event at the North Park Nature Center was attended by six people who showed up on a very hot day. Trina suggested we follow Lee Lowey's lead and appoint team captains to recruit people.
- **Social Networking** (Shayne Bell):
 - June 16 Summer Solstice BBQ at Chuck's: Thirty-five people braved the traffic and cicadas.
 - Future events: July's event will be at the Folk and Roots Festival in Welles Park (hosted by the Old Town School of Folk Music) on the 14th. August 15th's event will be in Grant Park. September is Founder's Day and elections will be held in October.
- **Next Meetings:**
 - Tuesday, August 07, 6:00 p.m. at Haymarket, 54 West Hubbard Street, Suite 200
 - Tuesday, September 04, 6:00 p.m. at the Loyola University Museum of Art, 820 North Michigan Avenue
- **Close** (Trina): The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

WWW.CAPCA.ORG

CAPCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES FROM 6 JUNE 2007

- **Open:** Trina Janes at 6:20 PM
- **Members Present:** Shayne Bell, Teresa Fernandez, Trina Janes, Jen Marks, Tara Leitzell, Jeri Titus and Marnie Sanborn (with Micah Strand participating by conference call for part of the meeting)
- **Secretary's Report:** Minutes from the May meeting were approved.
- **Treasurer's Report: Trina Janes**
 - \$250 was spent on the Peace Corps Nomination Party; \$220 raised for 8 new memberships; \$175 was sent to NPCA for dues rebates; \$297.50 was the first installment of the website redesign for 8.5 hours of work; \$500 donation was mailed off for the virtual community for NPCA

Committee Reports

- **Peace Corps Office Final Update: Jeri Titus**
 - The Nomination Party was successful and a great value. Jodi Olsen Assistant Director Peace Corps acknowledged issues between the National Office and affiliate groups.
- **Calendar Sale Recap: Tara Leitzell**
 - 250 Calendars will be sent to Trina's office shortly. We must sell the calendars everywhere we can!
- **Founders Day: Micah via phone**
 - Logistics: Riva's is locked in. We need to sign the contract and send in a \$2000 deposit by July 17th.
 - Advertising: Fliers were put in the newsletter at the Nom Party.
 - Silent Auction: We need to solicit items for the silent auction.
- **Newsletter: Marnie Sanborn**
 - We will need to find a replacement for Marnie when she heads off to grad school.
- **Grants Committee: Susan Suhling**
 - There are no new updates on funded projects and there was only one funding request that will be discussed next meeting
- **Mentoring Committee: Jeri Titus/Tara Leitzell**
 - Group was emailed about the July 21st event, but there the date did not work out. Jeri/Marnie suggested that the group looks to do volunteer work painting together for a school. Jeri now has all of the mentor/mentee information and will take over as mentoring coordinator.
- **Membership Committee: Theresa Fernandez**
 - Monthly email reminders to renew membership are working well. Outreach to new members via email and answer 'what is CAPCA'; Teresa will touch look into doing a joint mailing with the NE IL group. . Renewal postcards will be mailed on a quarterly basis.
- **NPCA Update: Trina Janes**
 - NPCA's annual general meeting is June 29-30 in DC. Use of Peace Corps office by affiliate groups was discussed with Jodi Olsen and will continue to be discussed. At the NPCA meeting there will be a virtual community discussion for group leaders. The 2008 annual meeting of leaders will be held October 4, 2008 in San Francisco
- **Community Service: Jen Marks**
 - July 8th there is a 15 person limit for the North Park Nature Center volunteer work. We still need to recruit more volunteers.
 - Next event will be in September or October and we are looking at development projects on the Westside.
- **Social Networking: Shayne Bell**
 - June 16th Summer Solstice BBQ at Chuck's
 - July 14th Old Town Folk Festival: Go one, go all! Bring shade and water.
 - August will be on a Wednesday at the Pritzker Pavilion
 - September is Founders Day!
- **Next Meeting**
 - At LUMA. Monday, July 10th.
 - Following meeting is August 7th. Location TBD
- **Meeting Adjourned:** 8:10 PM

NEXT CAPCA BOARD MEETING IS 4 SEPTEMBER 2007



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.
- \$500 Lifetime Membership to CAPCA only (does not include NPCA dues).

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

- Do not share my contact information in a CAPCA directory or with NPCA.

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.

<http://www.PeaceCorpsWriters.org/>

<http://peacecorpswriters.blogs.com/>

*Where Returned Peace Corps
Volunteers write about their world.*

RPCV Spotlight

CAPCA Welcomes Steven Ripes (Cameroon 02-05),
Newly Inducted Newsletter Editor

Hey, fellow volunteers. Steve Ripes here. Odd having to write these blurbs about yourself because they make you refer to yourself in the third person.

They didn't call him "Super Steve" during his service in Cameroon for nothing. Steve Ripes was a highly active, always motivated, and influential PCV to other PCTs, PCVs, and HCNs alike.

Within days after entering his tiny, remote village of Bafia situated in Southwest Cameroon, Steven began teaching Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Human Biology, French, and English. His plethora of students ranged from nursery age level to secondary, all the way up to adult education at a local woman's empowerment center.

Aside from his primary assignment, Steven also spearheaded a large-scale, village-wide water project, built and stocked a school library with over 1200 books and materials, organized the school drama and origami club, awarded over \$50,000 in scholarships, mentored female students, lead the school's HIV/AIDS education day, participated in 3 PSTs and 4 ISTs as a PCV trainer, often lectured at the University of Buea, and a bunch of other cool projects that can be read in full by downloading his DOS on the website maintained while in country to chronicle his adventures and service in Cameroon (<http://www.geocities.com/pcsteve0204>). Good times.

Due to his experience in Cameroon, he is currently pursuing his M.Ed. in Secondary Math Education and working in the School of Education at DePaul University.

He invites all RPCVs to come see the various artifacts, carvings, and artwork he brought back from his beloved village and country of Cameroon.

He dedicates this spotlight to his lost cat, Shocky.

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*One-year presidential appointment that expires in September.

-----Upcoming CAPCA Events -----

CAPCA Mentoring Program Potluck – September 15

RPCVs interested in participating as mentors to assist newly returned RPCVs or newly returned RPCVs looking for a mentor are invited to attend the CAPCA mentoring potluck at the home of Nancy Kramer, one of the current mentors in the pilot program.

Date: Saturday, September 15

Time: 6:00 pm.

Location: Nancy Kramer's home, 2764 W. Giddings, near the Rockwell stop on the Brown Line.

RSVP Info: Please bring a dish to share and a beverage, alcoholic or non. RSVP to Jeri Titus - jerititus@yahoo.com .

Founder's Day – September 29

Saturday, September 29

Riva's on Navy Pier

Tickets \$80

See inside for more details.

Annual Meeting & Elections – October 25

Interested in making the big decisions that make CAPCA tick? Now's the chance! CAPCA Board elections will be taking place on Thursday, October 25th during our October Social Event. We are looking for a few good RPCVs to join the board.

Join us for dinner and CAPCA's Annual Meeting and Elections at Andie's Restaurant (1467 W. Montrose) at 6 pm for delicious Mediterranean cuisine. Appetizers will consist of hummus and spinach pie, followed by either kabobs or a vegetarian platter for dinner and baklava for dessert. The cost will be \$18 for members and \$23 for non-members, which includes food, tax and tip.

Please email Shayne at Shayne11@yahoo.com to RSVP by Monday, October 15th.



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