



CAPCA Newsletter

November – December 2007

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A Publication of the Chicago Area Peace Corps Association

Founder's Day and CAPCA Elections Break Records, Chairs

Founder's Day 2007, A Smashing Success

Micah Strand (Grenada, '03 – '05)

On September 29th, returned Peace Corps Volunteers and supporters alike gathered at Riva on Navy Pier to celebrate CAPCA's annual Founder's Day Gala. This yearly event is CAPCA's largest fundraiser of the year.

Funds raised support Peace Corps partnership programs for currently serving Peace Corps volunteers around the world. It also provides a great opportunity for returned volunteers, recent and not-so-recent, to gather in a formal setting and celebrate volunteerism and the good work that Peace Corps volunteers continue to supply to those in need.

This year's Founder's Day Gala saw one of the largest turnouts in recent history. Over 105 people attended this year's event. They were treated to a spectacular dinner, a beautiful view of the Chicago skyline from Navy Pier, and wonderful company with which to trade stories. We were honored to have WBEZ's Jerome McDonnell, host of the award-winning *Worldview* program, as our guest speaker. Additional Peace Corps "celebrities" who attended included our Masters of Ceremony, Alderman Scott Waguespack and Ken Lehman.



The night was rounded out with a silent auction that saw intense bidding and the disbursement of a wealth

of exciting and exotic items from around the globe. A great time was had by all who attended. The night was a great success for CAPCA and its supporters. We hope that everyone who attended the 2007 Founder's Day had a wonderful time.

For those who were unable to make it this year, be on the watch for next year's gala, which promises to be the best Founder's Day yet!

CAPCA Elects New Board Members

Trina Janes (Morocco, '91 - '93)

Elections for the 2007-2008 CAPCA board of directors were held on October 25 at Andie's Restaurant. In addition to great Mediterranean food, candidates introduced themselves and members cast their ballots. There was strong interest in positions on this year's board and a record number of candidates expressed interest in positions.

Joining the CAPCA board are:

- **Jodie Barger**: Health Ed volunteer in Mali '03 – '05 and currently a case manager at BEHIV.
- **Marie Erdman**: Zimbabwe '93 – '95 and El Salvador '06 and currently a Technical Implementation Manager for a software company.
- **Kevin Rieder**: Sanitation volunteer in Bolivia from '03 – '05 and Culture Shocks softball player.
- **Steve Ripes**: Math/Science volunteer in Cameroon from '02 – '05, new CAPCA newsletter editor, currently

pursuing his M.Ed. at DePaul University.

- **Annisa Wanat:** TEFL volunteer in Bulgaria '97 – '99 and currently Regional Field Organizer for The ONE Campaign.
- **Mia Yankow:** Mozambique '03 – '05 and currently a fundraiser at Northwestern University.

Re-elected to the CAPCA board are:

- **Ann Meehan :** Philippines '02 – '04 and currently the education curator at the Loyola Museum of Art.
- **Jeri Titus:** Morocco '92 – '94, former Peace Corps recruiter and currently a US passport administrator.

The elections mark the departure of several long time members of the board. CAPCA thanks the following people for their service: Eileen Gallagher, Tara Leitzell, Trina Janes, Jennifer Marks, Eva Lord Pearson, Mike Prokapeak, Marnie Sanborn, Chuck Sheftel and Sue Suhling.

A big welcome to the new board members and big thank you to the outgoing board.

CAPCA is in good hands.

CAPCA Member Joins Chicago Recruitment Team on 50+ Initiative

Christine Torres, Public Affairs Specialist
Chicago Regional Peace Corps Office

Thanks to Donna Braden, active CAPCA member, more older Americans throughout the region are being inspired to consider Peace Corps service.

Donna joined the Chicago Regional Peace Corps Office recruitment team as a project recruiter for the agency's new 50+ initiative to attract those ages 50 and above into the Peace Corps. The goal is to ensure Peace Corps represents the

diversity of American citizens, including volunteers at all stages of life.

In fact, Donna herself served in Ukraine after age 60, from 1999-2001, as an environmental awareness volunteer. She has been hosting information presentations in Chicago and cities such as Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Kansas City and Louisville with great attendance.

“My job is to present Peace Corps as a viable service option for later in life, target recruitment efforts toward 50+ organizations and act as a resource for anyone interested in Peace Corps at 50+,” says Donna, who is fielding an increasing number of e-mails and calls from potential 50+ applicants.

As part of Donna's work, she feels it's important to reach out to RPCVs for support in helping spread the word that there is no upper age limit in Peace Corps. She also invites those 50+ RPCVs who served in their twenties to consider Peace Corps again, or perhaps Crisis Corps. For referrals or anyone interested, contact:

Donna Braden, Recruiter, 50+ Initiative
Peace Corps Chicago Regional Office
312.353.3585, dbraden@peacecorps.gov
www.peacecorps.gov/50plus

Saving Peace Corps' History

Bob Klein (Ghana '61 – '63),
Project Organizer

The Peace Corps Archival Project is an informal network of RPCVs who work directly with the John F. Kennedy Library to preserve the Peace Corps' legacy through oral history, interviews, and the collection of archival materials from those who served as volunteers in the field.

In the five years of its existence, more than 40 RPCV interviewers have completed approximately 300 interviews.

The project's basic resource is and will continue to be the unpaid voluntary efforts of RPCVs who have participated, operating mainly through NPCA Affiliate groups.

Now, as we approach Peace Corps' 50th Anniversary, the project plans a renewed effort to seek out volunteers from the 1960s, pioneers of the Peace Corps. We again appeal to those RPCVs willing to serve as interviewers.

The Project Guide is under revision and, along with the required forms, will be available via email.

A modest goal for this renewed archival effort is to add three thousand 1960s interviews to the RPCV collection before the year 2011; about 10% of those who served during that period.

If interested, please email
RPCVArchivalProj@att.net.

Commentary...

Why did E.T. have to ET?

Steven Ripes (Cameroon, '02 – '05)

Over twenty-five years ago, America's favorite extra-terrestrial decided to early terminate his service on Earth, leaving its citizens unfulfilled, and in a curious state, as we continue to ask ourselves... "why?"

Beginning his ("His?" Is that correct? Are we to assume E.T. was male? We are? Oh, alright...)

Beginning *his* service in the summer of 1982, E.T. was welcomed with open arms into the homestay family of Elliot, Michael, and Gertie. Tensions arose early and misunderstandings ensued as our visitor became acclimatized to our Earthly customs and 78% level of atmospheric nitrogen. However, were those differences severe enough for E.T. to throw his arm appendages up and say, "Nuts to this," terminating his service within days upon arrival?



Was Drew Barrymore not enough reason to stay?

Little information was ever learned about our otherworldly traveler. Being some sort of galactic-botanist, E.T.'s agroforestry work had only just begun.

"There was so much we could have learned from him. Like bringing unusually large sunflowers back to life, for example." stated Mary, Elliot's mother.

Unfortunately, E.T.'s language skills developed slowly. A hindrance to his interaction with HCNs, those closest to him argued. Within his few days on planet, E.T. managed to learn a small number of valuable phrases including, "Ouch," "I'll be right here," and "Beeeeeeee goooooood."

Often E.T. was found, hiding inside closets and draping himself in bed clothes to avoid communication. A pity considering his ability to regenerate damaged human tissue with the touch of a single glowing finger would have made him the life of any Earth party he accepted an invitation to.

Yet, homesickness, a broken psychic connection to his child-host, and the fact an alien/human task force were hunting him down all became contributing factors to E.T.'s demise.

In the end, he had no other choice but to phone home.

"See what I still don't understand is...if he could make my bike fly, why couldn't he have just flew back to his home planet?" asked 10-year-old Elliot. "Why, instead, did he make me risk my life to create that stupid intergalactic telephone?"

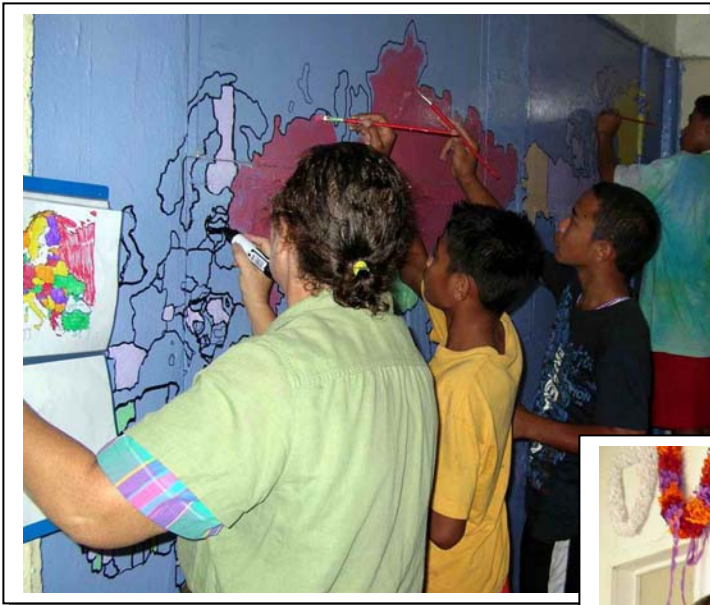
Earthlings everywhere are still torn in debate.



E.T. leaving us. Forever.
Lousy quitter.

Another CAPCA Funded
Triumph!

World Map Project
Samoa



“The maps have been great fun for both the volunteers and the youth involved. Some have even gone beyond the basic map to make works of art.”

- Janet Ott, PCV Samoa



Photos courtesy of, and
special thanks to,
Susan Suhling

CAPCA provided a \$500 grant to Jan & Ray Ott, second time around PCVs currently serving in Samoa. The Otts initially served in Morocco from 1981 to 1983. The funds allowed the Otts to purchase materials to organize world map painting projects at several schools.



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CAPCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES FROM 7 AUGUST 2007

Open: Trina Janes

- Ginny Koch, Jeri Titus, Marnie Sanborn, Micah Strand, Eileen Gallagher, Trina Janes, Eva Lord, Susan Suhling, Theresa Fernandez, and Gavin Morgan in attendance. Invitations to the Founder's Day Dinner were assembled for distribution to invitees.

Peace Corps Office Update: Ginny Koch

- Members of the board introduced themselves to Ginny Koch from the Chicago office of the Peace Corps. She or someone from her staff will be visiting the board meetings on a regular basis now to foster open communication, so that we can work together. Ginny described several of the initiatives being undertaken by the Peace Corps to recruit older than average volunteers, including recruitment events targeting older audiences, a new motto: "Volunteer at any age", advertisement in Senior publications, and feature articles in newspapers. The recruiting office is also receiving additional funds to target older volunteers. The office has also hired Donna Braden as a 50+ Recruiter doing full-time outreach to this population. The Peace Corps Director will be coming to the Chicago area soon to help with these efforts. Ginny will let us know when the dates are set.

Secretary's Report: Gavin moved approval of the minutes from the July 9, 2007 meeting. Theresa Fernandez seconded. Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Eva Lord

- The Treasurer will give a full report next month. She did issue a check in the amount of \$720 for printing the Founder's Day Dinner invitations.

Board Appointment – Steve Ripes: Trina Janes

- Steve was a TEFL volunteer in Cameroon, who is nominated as Marnie's replacement doing the newsletter. He was unable to attend the meeting, and there was no motion to appoint him. We will take up this appointment at the September meeting.

2007 Elections: Trina Janes: Elections will be at the end of October (22nd or 23rd). Those with terms ending in 2007 will be up for election.

Fundraising Committee: Micah Strand/Eileen Gallagher: Calendars have arrived and are now for sale.

- Micah and Eileen went over the planning matrix. Things are on schedule. The board discussed lists we should send invitations to. Trina will ask for use of the list of NPCA members who are not yet members of CAPCA.
- Silent auction items are coming in. Eileen is contacting hotels, stores, airlines, limos, etc. Board discussed packaging some items together for the auction.

Mentoring Committee: Jeri Titus: Nancy Kramer is hosting an event at her house. There will be an announcement in the September newsletter for this potluck dinner and discussion. There will also be an announcement sent to the listserve.

Membership Committee: Theresa Fernandez/Chuck Sheftel: Still pursuing the NPCA list of members

Advocacy Committee: Gavin Morgan: Working with Jonathan Pearson of NPCA to secure support from local groups for undoing the changes made to international surface mail rates that affect the cost of sending items related to their missions. The Oak Park Council on International Affairs will be sending a letter to Danny Davis, as will CAPCA.

- Should know soon about action for Peace Corps Volunteer Empowerment Act

NPCA Update: Trina Janes: Working on data sharing and fundraising issues as well as relations between PC and NPCA affiliate groups. Planning for PC's 50th anniversary is coming soon.

Community Service: Jen Marks: Jen is looking for opportunities in the Fall and will report back soon.

Social Networking: Shayne Bell: .No September event because of Founder's Day and Andie's on Montrose in October.

Close: Trina Janes: Meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm.

CAPCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES FROM 4 SEPTEMBER 2007

Open: Trina Janes

- After assembling the newsletter, the meeting was called to order at 6:25 p.m. with Shayne Bell, Theresa Fernandez, Eileen Gallagher, Trina Janes, Jen Marks, Ann Meehan, Gavin Morgan, Steve Ripes and Jeri Titus in attendance.

Secretary's Report: Gavin Morgan/Ann Meehan

- The minutes were approved with a motion by Gavin and a second by Eileen.

Treasurer's Report: Trina

- The only expense this month was reimbursement for stamps.

Board Appointment – Steve Ripes: Trina

- Steve has taken over for Marnie Sanborn as newsletter editor. Coming out of the gate running, Steve has already cleared out the spam from capcaneews@yahoo.com. Steve quickly picked up on the cheekiness of board meetings and suggested that he could forward on the Viagra emails.

Committee Reports

- Fundraising Committee
 - Calendar Sales: Trina: We agreed to sell calendars for \$10 for members and \$15 for nonmembers.
 - 2007 Founder's Day Planning: Eileen Gallagher: We have 25 RSVPs and \$2,805 in hand. Riva is owed \$4,000 for food and beverages. The items for the silent auction are QUITE impressive. People who buy ads for the program will also be allowed to advertise in the newsletter.
- Mentoring Committee: Jeri Titus: Twenty-five people have RSVPed for the mentoring potluck. The evening will be unstructured—Peace Corps style—food drink, mingling and a hook-up room.
- Membership Committee: Theresa Fernandez will work on a postcard with the top ten reasons for joining CAPCA.
- Advocacy Committee: Gavin "M-bag" Morgan is working on getting groups involved as well as universities with international departments. We are waiting for more information from NPCA on the status of the Peace Corps Empowerment Act.
- NPCA Update: Trina announced the NPCA has agreed to share membership data with RPCV groups.
- Community Service Committee: Jen Marks has been looking at places on the west and south sides for a fall event. People suggested volunteering at a food pantry in October—Salvation Army or Inspiration Café.
- Social Networking: Shayne Bell: The October 25th elections will take place at Andie's on Montrose. November will be the Oak Park International Affairs Council annual dinner. Shayne has worked on an excel sheet of all the Social Networking events CAPCA has had since 2002.

Next Meetings: Trina

- October 09 at Ann's office and November 07 at Trina's office

Close: Trina

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

NEXT CAPCA BOARD MEETING IS WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2007



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Chicago Area Peace Corps Association National Peace Corps Association

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New Member

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- \$ _____ 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.

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

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

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

RPCV Spotlights...

CAPCA Newsletter is proud to salute the *Culture Shocks*, CAPCA's very own softball team!

Culture Shocks,

Thanks to everyone for a great 2007 softball year! We played Spring, Summer, and Fall!

Thanks to Sue and Gavin for jumping in as Managers.

Thanks to Erin, Jocelyn, Kevin Y, Jen, Roz, and others for subbing when needed.

Thanks to Roz for taking one for the team.

Thanks to Gevic for his great plays.

Thanks to Tom for his consistency.

Thanks to Bryan, Anne, and Joanne for there dedication to playing their best.

Thanks to Gavin and Kevin for doing some great pitching.

Thanks to Sal for his willingness to play where and when he was needed.

Thanks to new Shocks Artie, Matt, Sid, Bri, Kerstin, and Rob.

Thanks to Pam for planning the fun picnic.

Thanks to Players Sports for doing a good job with the schedule this year.

Thanks for the memories

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

Community Thanksgiving Meal at the Living Room Cafe
November 10th, 8 a.m.- 12 p.m
806 E. 64th Street. Chicago, IL.

Volunteers will help prepare food for the Community Thanksgiving Meal on November 17th

Please contact Jen at jenmarks@hotmail.com . Volunteers are encouraged to rsvp asap -- spots will fill up quickly.

Annual CAPCA Holiday Potluck

Join CAPCA members on Thursday, December 6th at 6 p.m., for our Annual CAPCA Holiday Potluck! As always, it will be held at the Corinthian Yacht Club at Montrose Harbor (601 West Montrose Drive). Please bring an international dish to share (main dishes are strongly encouraged). Family welcome. This event is a BYOB event.

Email Kevin to RSVP- kevinrieder@gmail.com.



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