



CAPCA Newsletter

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A Publication of the Chicago Area Peace Corps Association

NPCA Conference Update

August 5-8, 2004

The year of the conference is here and the countdown to the kickoff is on! This summer, for the first time ever, the NPCA Biennial Conference is coming to Chicago. August 5-8, 2004, be part of the action and encourage your friends to meet you in Chicago. The conference will be held at the historic Palmer House Hilton with special events held in Grant and Millennium Parks.

Check out the Conference Website – www.rpcv2004.org

The official conference website is up and running! Visit www.rpcv2004.org to get up-to-date conference information and to register online. The website has lots of helpful information for those planning to attend or those considering attending including: a schedule of activities, details about discounted lodging and airfare, details of Country of Service activities, links to information about Chicago tourist activities, registration information and more. Remember to pass the URL along to your out-of-town RPCV friends.

Register for the conference before March 31, 2004 to receive early bird discounts. Registration fees range from \$95 to \$220 for the four-day event. Additional discounts are given to seniors (age 65 or older as of August 1, 2004) and newly returned volunteers (close of service on or after August 1, 2000). Register online now!

Conference Speakers

We are pleased to announce that His Excellency Hedayat Amin Arsala, Vice President of the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan, has agreed to speak at the conference. He is the husband of RPCV Betsy Thomas Amin-Arsala, an international development expert, who is also planning to speak during the conference. Also confirmed is Chicago Tribune writer and RPCV, Steven Franklin.

Solicitations have also been sent to UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan, Senator Hillary Clinton, Bill Gates and Mayor Daley. In addition, notable RPCVs including Hardball anchor Chris Matthews, writer Paul Theroux, Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle and First Lady Jessica Doyle, Ohio Governor Bob Taft, Chicago Alderman Ed Smith, UNICEF Director Carol Bellamy have been invited to speak at the conference.

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Peace Corps Partnership

This year, through the generosity of its members and friends, CAPCA sponsored two development projects, at a total of \$5,500, through Peace Corps Partnership program. This program allows current PCVs in the field to apply for funding for projects they are planning with their communities. Both of this year's recipients are from Illinois.

The first project, the ambitious Bamako Waste Management Improvement Initiative, was submitted by Marc Jeuland in Bamako, Mali. Currently in Bamako, waste management is lacking and liquid and solid waste is dumped, untreated, onto public lands where it causes a severe health risk. This project was proposed by the community and involves converting bio-solids into marketable compost and treating liquid waste through a lagoon process. The community will build the lagoons, and a private waste hauler will transport the waste. External funds will pay for a hangar to protect workers and compost from the sun, and a well and water tower for providing and storing water at the site. CAPCA has contributed \$2,500 of the \$13,300 external costs of the project.

The second project, a Computer Learning Center, was submitted by Brian Crowe in Aiud, Romania. The Titu Maiorescu National High School has an outstanding reputation in Aiud. An assessment determined that the greatest need for the school is more computers, and a Computer Learning Center. The Parents Association already raised \$1,000 in support of the creation of the Center—an amazing accomplishment considering the average monthly salary in the community is \$100. The computer center will enable to students to master current computer programs, utilize the internet, be more in touch with people from different cultures, and research countless subject areas. CAPCA contributed all of the \$3,000 needed to purchase computers and related equipment.

The Titu Maiorescu students have already sent CAPCA thank you letters expressing their gratitude for the funding and commitment to their community; and say they are very optimistic that they will gain a tremendous amount from the computer center.

NPCA Conference Update-continued

If you have a suggestion for a speaker or would like to help confirm the invited speakers, contact Programs Committee Chairman, Chuck Sheftel at programs2004@rpcv.org or (847) 831-3886.

Workshop Selection Underway

The Workshops Committee, led by Jason Neises, received nearly forty proposals from people and groups interested in presenting workshops during the conference. Proposed workshops cover themes from international affairs to health to agriculture to socially responsible investing to Peace Corps updates and programs. The Workshops Committee is currently reviewing the proposals and communicating with prospective candidates. For more information or to get involved, contact Workshops Chairman, Jason Neises at workshops2004@rpcv.org or (312) 922-3432 ext. 268 (day), (708) 386-2507 (evening).

Participate in the Career Fair and International Marketplace

Calling all employers, businesses and organizations that want to reach out to the RPCV community! There will be an exhibit hall and career fair at the conference for companies and organizations to reach out to RPCVs. The Career Fair is seeking companies interested in interviewing and hiring RPCVs. The Career Fair will be held on Friday, August 6, 2004.

The International Marketplace is seeking entities that wish to promote or sell their product to RPCVs. The international Marketplace will be held on Friday, August 6 and Saturday, August 7, 2004.

Exhibitor registration deadline is February 23, 2004. For questions or more information, contact Judi Burnison, Conference Manager, at (773) 472-3370 or jburnison@burnisongroup.com.

2004 Founder's Day Celebration – August 7, 2004

This year's Founder's Day Dinner—CAPCA's annual fundraising event—will be held in conjunction with the conference. Mark your calendar for Saturday, August 7, 2004 at the Palmer House Hilton. A committee is actively planning the Founder's Day Celebration that will include a reception, dinner, silent auction and dance. To donate to the silent auction or assist with the planning, contact Nancy Kramer at nkramer@ccc.edu or (312) 553-3190.

Seeking RPCV Filmmakers

An international film festival is being planned in conjunction with the conference. If you are an RPCV filmmaker or know of one, please contact Film Festival Coordinator, Helen Haugsnes at snes@anet.net or (630) 355-3916 with your ideas.

Country of Service Contacts Needed

Country of Service (COS) events are a mainstay at the NPCA conferences. We need a Chicago contact for each country to plan their group's activities: Friday night dinner at a local restaurant, Saturday afternoon meeting and Sunday march with their county's flag. Each country's scheduled events will be displayed on the conference website. These events form the backbone for COS reunions that are held throughout the conference. We have representatives for many counties, but still need local representatives for other countries. Contact COS Events Chair, Virginia DeLancey at chicago2004-cosgroups@rpcv.org or (847) 663-9808 to get involved.

Volunteers Needed

There are still plenty of opportunities for volunteers to get involved with the conference – big and small roles are available. Activity chairs, co-chairs and team members are needed to oversee the long term planning. People with fundraising experience or people interested in gaining valuable fundraising experience are desired! To volunteer, contact Volunteers Committee Chairman, Brian DeFilippo at volunteer2004@rpcv.org or call (847) 635-1180.

Upcoming Planning Meeting

The next conference planning committee meeting is Monday, January 12, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. at the Palmer House Hilton, 17 E. Monroe, Room Dearborn 1 on the 7th Floor. For more information or to get involved, contact Conference Chair, Trina Janes at chicago2004@rpcv.org or (312) 645-9400 ext. 35.

"Staying involved with CAPCA provides me an opportunity to remain connected to like-minded people and gives me the opportunity to continue volunteering. It also allows me to continue to add international flavor to my life."

-Wallace E. Goode, CAPCA President

Volunteer Opportunities

CAPCA Volunteer Day!

Saturday, February 28, 2004

Join your fellow RPCVs for a day of painting and window weatherization for Chicago's elderly poor! No experience necessary.

This activity benefits H.O.M.E., a non-profit organization founded in 1982 to provide housing and social services to elderly poor. CAPCA has volunteered with H.O.M.E. in the past, making a contribution to a worthy cause while enjoying the company of fellow RPCVs.

CAPCA is hoping for a strong turnout at this event. The goal is to organize four or five teams of ten for a total of 40 to 50 volunteers. If you are interested in being a team captain or volunteering for this event, please call Lee Losey at (773) 610-6463 (cell) or during the day at (312) 355-4751 or by e-mail at leelosey@yahoo.com.

Volunteers will meet at 8:30 a.m. (location TBD) for a short orientation and breakfast before going out in teams to paint or put up window weatherization kits. This is one of the most enjoyable and meaningful events of the year, so don't miss this opportunity! And, in appreciation of your participation and hard work, Lee is hosting a pizza party following the event (approximately 1 p.m.).

Host Families Needed

The Council of International Programs (CIP) in Chicago provides internship opportunities for mid-career social service professionals from countries around the world. All participants are carefully screened and interviewed in their own country before being placed with an agency here in the Chicago metropolitan area. Most come for a four to six month period. Initial placement with a host family is for one month, which gives the visiting professional an opportunity to experience family life in the United States.

Host families provide a separate bedroom, some meals and, most importantly, friendship and cultural insights. CIP provides transportation, a weekly stipend for expenses and a support network.

For information or to sign up to be a host family, please contact Linda Kalnina, Executive Director at lindakalnina@msn.com or (773) 296-2219.

Announcements

A Friend to Remember

On November 21, 2003, the world said farewell to a champion of international affairs, Elsie Jacobson. Elsie will always be remembered for her phenomenal work with the Peace Corps' domestic and international outreach efforts. She began the renowned Oak Park Council on International Affairs School-to-School program, which has raised funds to build 275

schools and school additions in Third World countries. "I looked for whatever it was that nobody else was doing, and took that on," she said.

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Elsie's innovative idea received national recognition from Sargent Shriver, and eventually led to the beginning of the Peace Corps Partnership Program.

Her life was also marked by a strong commitment to several important causes including the League of Women Voters and UNICEF. She helped found the Historical Society of Oak Park and was a supporter of the Save the Conservatory movement and the Frank Lloyd Wright and Ernest Hemingway Foundation.

Elsie died at the age 89. The Peace Corps truly appreciates her leadership and years of dedication to the Partnership Program. She will be remembered through her outstanding service to humanity.

Calendars

It's not too late to buy 2004 International Calendars! If you are interested in purchasing one, please contact Kara Malenfant at (773) 866-1572 or via e-mail at kmalenfant@illinoisalumni.org. The cost is \$10.00 (no charge for postage). For pictures of the calendar, please visit www.capca.org.

Take a Chance on a Child

Chances by Choice, a Chicago area not-for-profit foundation, works to find permanent adoptive families for orphaned children, especially for those living in countries where social stigma and lack of education and resources have created a massive health crisis.

Continued on page 4.

Announcements-continued

If you or someone you know would like further information about adopting a child who needs a loving family, please visit Chances by Choice online at www.chancesbychoice.org, e-mail us at info@chancesbychoice.net, or call Kim, Margaret, or Emily at (708) 524-4673.

Local Community Coordinator

Earn extra money working part-time (10-15 hours per week) for the Center for Cultural Interchange, student exchange program promoting, interviewing and monitoring the program.

Opportunities are also available for short-term summer host families for interns from over seas who will be working in Chicago during the summer.

For more information, contact Marge Ryan, Regional Manager, at (888) 488-4056.

Join the List Serv!

Get all the latest CAPCA news and happenings via e-mail.

To subscribe, send an e-mail to:

capca-announce-subscribe@egroups.com.

Upcoming Events

Poverty in your Coffee Cup

A Panel Discussion on Issues of Fair Trade

Tuesday, January 13, 2004

6:00 p.m.

DePaul University (Downtown Campus*)
1 E. Jackson Blvd., 11th Floor, Room 11013

There is a crisis destroying the livelihood of 25 million coffee producers around the world. The price of coffee has fallen by almost 50 percent in the past three years to a 30-year low. Long-term prospects are grim.

Developing-country farmers, mostly poor smallholders, now sell their coffee beans for much less than they cost to produce. The popular

beverage has emerged as a socially responsible investment issue because of concerns about the way it is grown in Latin America. Coffee is both an environmental topic and one tied to Third World poverty and labor problems.

Coffee is an interesting financial topic in its own right. How many investors recognize it as the world's second most heavily traded commodity, after petroleum? How many consumers realize coffee prices, which trade on the New York Coffee, Sugar and Cocoa Exchange, are stuck in a severe bear market?

A panel will discuss what kind of activities are going on in Chicago and nationally to promote Fair Trade and combat trade policies that do not adequately provide for small scale coffee farmers. Panelist will include:

- Shayna Harris, Fair Trade Coffee Organizer, Oxfam America.
- Jubilee Economic Ministries will speak about the experience of small farmers in Latin America as well as in the U.S. to highlight the need for Fair Trade.
- Alison Paul, Chicago Committee for Fair Trade and Campaign Coordinator for the U.S. Labor Education in the Americas Project (US/LEAP).
- Patrick Eccles will speak about the general principles of Fair Trade. Patrick recently returned from Guatemala and will share an analysis of Fair Trade from the perspective of small coffee farmers along with positions of certain groups that are attempting to support them amidst the extremely difficult circumstances of the global coffee crisis.

January Dinner

Thursday, January 22, 2004

6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Cafe Iberico, 739 N. LaSalle Drive, Chicago, IL
\$20 CAPCA members (\$25 non-members)

Join us for an evening of Spanish tapas as we welcome Ambassador (and RPCV) Ron Godard. Godard is the new Diplomat in Residence at the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) and is eager to meet with RPCVs who might be interested in

Upcoming Events-continued

careers with the Department of State. The next Foreign Service written exam will be given in April, and Ambassador Godard can offer excellent guidance to anyone considering this career opportunity.



Immigrant & Refugee Policy Summit

January 23-24, 2004

Working for an agency or organization that supports immigrants and refugees? Would you like to learn more about what issues affect newcomers in your community? Then join the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) for its 2004 Immigrant and Refugee Policy Summit: *From Newcomers to New Americans: Building Immigrant Power*.

This two-day summit draws immigrant and refugee leaders, service providers, elected representatives, government officials, and grantmakers to learn about the immigrant population statewide, to discuss policy and administrative issues affecting immigrants and refugees, and to create action steps for fully involving newcomers into Illinois community life.

This year's summit will build upon the work of the field hearings held by the Joint Legislative Task Force Committee. The Task Force will issue a report at the beginning of 2004 with recommendations on an "Illinois Immigrant Policy" encompassing issues of healthcare, education, work and entrepreneurship, citizenship and civic engagement, human services, and community-police relations. A goal of the summit will be to work to encourage increased immigrant voter registration and immigrant voter participation in the upcoming elections.

Governor Blagojevich and candidates for U.S. Senate have been invited to participate. Some 40 workshops will be held over four separate

sessions with information and applicability for participants from outside Illinois.

To register and for general information, visit ICIRR online at www.icirr.org or call Yesenia at ICIRR (312) 332-7360 ext.34 or yesenia@icirr.org.

For more information on creating a workshop, please contact Diego Bonesatti, Training Coordinator at ext. 17 or dbonesatti@icirr.org.

Overall conference questions can be directed to Lawrence Benito, Director of Newcomer Initiatives at ext.21 or lbenito@icirr.org.



February Dinner

Thursday, February 5, 2004

6:00 P.M.

Red Fish, 400 North State Street, Chicago, IL
\$19.00 includes tax, tip, and gratuity

In celebration of Black History Month, please join the CAPCA and the Chicago Regional Recruiting Office for a Diversity Dinner. All are welcome and please feel free to bring a friend.

This is a wonderful opportunity for returned Peace Corps volunteers and their friends to get together and talk about Peace Corps in an informal setting. This dinner is also geared towards increasing the number of diverse volunteers into Peace Corps. Therefore, we would like as many people to come to this event as possible and make it as diverse as possible. Recruiters from the Chicago recruiting office will be on hand to answer specific questions you may have about Peace Corps.

Please RSVP by Friday, January 30, 2004 to Elizabeth Thomas at ETHomas@PeaceCorps.gov.

Check out the latest Peace Corps
news and events
from around the world at
www.peacecorpsonline.org!

CAPCA Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes for October 9, 2003, 6:00 pm

Present: Arnold, Sheftel, Blair, Erdman, Goode, Malenfant, Wilkerson, Janes

1. Minutes from September 4, 2003 meeting (Goode). Janes moved to approve the minutes, Goode seconded. Minutes were approved with the following amendments:
 - a) NPCA conference Workshop proposals due November 14, 2004
 - b) 3/1/61 will carry NPCA RFP in 10/31 issue
2. *Treasurer's report (Malenfant):* Malenfant presented the Treasurer's report as of October 9, 2003. The final balance was \$15,374.23. Janes moved to approve the report, Sheftel seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
3. *Elections:*
 - a) Welcome to two new board members elected at the September 25, 2003 general meeting: Christine Blair and Carol Wilkerson. Also, Goode, Janes and Sheftel were re-elected.
 - b) Erdman nominated Goode for president of the new CAPCA board. Malenfant seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
 - c) Goode accepted the position and was given control of the meeting, and thanked Arnold for her contributions to the board. Arnold will stay on the board as immediate past president.
 - d) Goode nominated two vice presidents, Erdman and Malenfant, with vice presidential roles to be defined. Arnold seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
 - e) Blair will be secretary as of the next meeting, with Wilkerson as backup.
 - f) Goode proposed asking the following CAPCA members to accept board appointment: Eva Lord, Lee Losey, Holly Denniston, Lara Weber, Cheri and Keri. Erdman moved to accept the suggested appointments, Janes seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
 - g) Lee Losey has already indicated an interest in being community service chair, and has been appointed as such. Carol Wilkerson will be Communications Chair. Versten and Sheftel will continue in their roles as Grants co-chairs.
4. *Holiday potluck:* Lucinda Boyd will be coordinating the Holiday Potluck this year, date still to be scheduled.
5. *NPCA Conference:* The next NPCA Conference meeting to be held October 20, 2003 at the Palmer House.
6. Joseph Permetti sent a letter to the group of RPCVs in the western suburbs who would like to incorporate under the name of RPCVs of Suburban Chicago; Permetti indicated that they will not be able to use that name, and will have to work something else out, either by joining us or with a different name.
7. *Newsletter:* Newsletter deadline is October 25, 2003. Carol Wilkerson will be the newsletter liaison to the board.
8. *NPCA Conference update:*
 - a) Ethnic restaurants from Chicago will be selling food for the Taste portion of the conference. Many activities will be held in Millennium Park, scheduled to open shortly before the NPCA conference, so this will be one of their first events.
 - b) Mayor Daley has joined the Advisory Committee.
 - c) Janes and Conference Planner Judi Burnison met with the NPCA and Peace Corps staff in DC last month.
9. *Grants committee:* Sheftel presented recommendations from the Grants committee on how to use funds raised from this year's Founder's Day. Sheftel moved that we contribute to two Partnership Programs: Waste management in Abamaco, Mali - \$2500 and a Computer Learning facility in Romania for \$3000. Malenfant seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
10. *Next meeting:* Next meeting will be Monday, November 10, 2003 at Wallace's office. December meeting will be Monday December 8, 2003.



Chicago Area Peace Corps Association Board of Directors, 2004

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**One-year presidential appointees
(term expires at board election
time: September of the year
indicated).*

CAPCA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Want to become a member? Membership about to expire? Please send in your dues today. Make checks payable to CAPCA. Send your dues and this form to Kara Malenfant, c/o CAPCA, PO Box 1149, Chicago, IL 60690 or go to www.rpcv.org and join CAPCA and NPCA electronically.

Check one: __RENEWAL __NEW MEMBER __ADDRESS CHANGE

Contact Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Home phone: _____

Work phone: _____

Country/Year(s) of Service: _____

Job assignment: _____

Current position: _____

Current employer: _____

Membership Options

- \$15 CAPCA annual dues
- \$50 Joint CAPCA & NPCA dues
- \$65 Family CAPCA & NPCA dues
(2 members, one address)
- One year free for newly returned RPCVs
- \$500 Lifetime CAPCA membership
- \$_____ Unrestricted contribution
- \$_____ Restricted contribution
- Interested in giving talks about Peace Corps
- Would NOT like my name in the CAPCA directory

CAPCA Membership
c/o Kara Malenfant
PO Box 1149
Chicago, IL 60690

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED