



# CAPCA Newsletter

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A Publication of the Chicago Area Peace Corps Association

## Advocating for new Peace Corps Legislation: One Highlight of the NPCA annual Conference

by Leslie F. Wilson, Thailand '90-'92 / Moldova '95-'97

While the events of September 11, 2001 caused the postponement of the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA)'s 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference in DC, the "Forty Plus One" festivities that took place June 20<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> were greatly successful in celebrating the lives and service of the 165,000 Americans who have served the world as Peace Corps Volunteers since 1960. From Thursday's full day of advocacy activities on Capitol Hill through Sunday's procession of flags from the Lincoln Memorial to President Kennedy's grave and on to the Tomb of the Unknown for a memorial service in honor of the hundreds of PCVs who died during their service, the weekend was full of activity and action, festivity and fun.

It was my privilege to represent the Great Lakes region of RPCV groups (Chicago, Madison, Milwaukee, Southeast Michigan, and Western Michigan) at the conference and at the NPCA Board of Directors' meeting, which took place before, during, and after the conference. We were also represented by CAPCA President Stephanie Arnold, by CAPCA board members Trina Janes and Chuck Sheftel, and by long-time CAPCA member Lucinda Boyd as well. The NPCA board meetings were productive as we strategized ways to make NPCA more evidently relevant to RPCVs worldwide. Please don't hesitate to be in touch with NPCA Directors and staff with your ideas - and offers to help - for meeting this goal!

In the midst of the conference, I was simultaneously in the process of preparing to once again leave the U.S. for an overseas assignment. I head out on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and, beginning July 15<sup>th</sup> I will be the (acting) Country Representative for Save the Children in Bangladesh with responsibility for oversight of our many and varied health and education projects for newborns, mothers, pre-school children and older children in our impact area, which is 8 hours (by car, ferry, rickshaw, and foot) from Dhaka.

Because of my "moving on," it was particularly meaningful for me to attend the NPCA conference and to represent the interests of RPCVs and friends of the Peace Corps from Chicago and the rest of the Great Lakes region. As those who know me realize, I am passionately devoted - as many of us are - to the Peace Corps and our past, present and future work for peace in the world. We have an historic opportunity to help ensure the future and independence of the Peace Corps by supporting - through our Illinois Representatives and Senators - the "Peace Corps Charter for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act," which has been introduced in both the Senate and House by RPCV Congressmen.

While on the Hill, Stephanie Arnold, Gail and Bob Lamont, Jean Ellickson, and I attended our Senators' regular Thursday morning constituent breakfast, and we were lucky enough to ask the last question of the morning: "Will you support the new Peace Corps act?" Without committing specifically, Senator Durbin made it clear that the Peace Corps has his enthusiastic support. Senator Fitzgerald was less committal, and commented that foreigners often think that PCVs are CIA agents (his example was from a year he spent living in Greece).

All the more reason for all of us to advocate for the Act and to educate our Senators, Representatives and others about what the Peace Corps is and what PCVs do to!

While I will not be able to advocate as actively as I would like from Dhaka, I hope that many, many of you - and your RPCV friends and family - will! Please take this opportunity to help ensure a future that is as bright and strong as our past! The text of the bill as introduced by RPCV Senator Dodd can be viewed at <http://thomas.loc.gov> when you enter the bill #S2667. Additional information will continue to come from NPCA own Advocacy Coordinator, Ed Crane, so - if you have not already done so - please take this opportunity to join our Advocacy Network via the NPCA web site: [www.rpcv.org](http://www.rpcv.org).

It has been an honor, a privilege, and a great deal of fun being active in CAPCA - and NPCA on our behalf - over the past 4 and ½ years. I'm not sure what the future will hold for me "après Bangladesh" but I hope our paths will cross, and in the meantime I wish you, each and all, "Drum Bun" (which is Moldovan/Romanian for "Happy Trails!" - sort of.

## **Peace Corps Charter for the 21st Century Act**

Dave Hibbard and Roger Landrum (Nigeria 1961-63) are leading the Coalition to Support the Peace Corps Charter for the 21st Century Act, which was introduced Wednesday, June 19th into the Senate and House. Below are the highlights of the charter.

1. Provides a fund of \$10 million per year to be used by RPCVs to develop programs and projects to promote the objectives of the Peace Corps.
2. Calls on the Peace Corps Director to more fully utilize RPCVs in opening and reopening Peace Corps countries.
3. Keeps the PC independent from the USA Freedom Corps.
4. Calls for a very carefully thought out and safe expansion of PCV numbers.
5. Calls for an expanded Crisis Corps to utilize to the maximum extent the pool of talent from the returned Peace Corps Volunteer community.
6. Calls for the creation of an Office of Strategic Planning, to evaluate existing programs and undertake long term planning in order to facilitate the orderly expansion of the Peace Corps.
7. Calls for a streamlined bipartisan National Peace Corps Advisory Council composed (entirely) of distinguished RPCVs, which the PC Director would be required, by law, to consult with regularly. This Council would be called on to make recommendations for utilizing the expertise of returned Peace Corps volunteers in fulfilling the goals of the Peace Corps.
8. Includes a global infectious disease initiative.
9. Readjustment allowances would be increased from \$125 to \$200 per month.

The coalition is looking for Senators to support this bill, especially Republicans, to make this a bipartisan effort. They are asking RPCVs to call their Senator's office in Washington, DC and ask to speak to the staffer in charge of Foreign Affairs. Tell them you are supportive of this bill which was introduced by Senator Chris Dodd and ask that your Senator contact Dodd's office to get a copy of the Legislation and to support it. Remind them that there are 166,000 RPCVs nationwide, many of whom are in your state.

Call the Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121 and ask to be connected to your Senator's office. For more information, contact Dave Hibbard at [cdhibbard@indra.com](mailto:cdhibbard@indra.com).

## **40+1 Anniversary Celebration, “The Peace Corps Family: Bringing the World Together” by Stephanie Arnold, Ghana '93-'96**

Approximately 1,700 RPCVs and family members participated in the 40+1 Peace Corps Anniversary Celebration held in Washington, D.C. June 20th - 23rd. The conference, entitled “The Peace Corps Family: Bringing the World Together”, was co-hosted by the National Peace Corps Association and the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Washington, D.C. More than 20 Chicago area RPCVs attended the conference, including CAPCA Board Members Leslie Wilson, Chuck Sheftel, Trina Janes and Stephanie Arnold.

The conference, based at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Woodley Park, included a full schedule of activities for RPCVs all around our nation’s capital: a full day of advocacy on Capital Hill, a business symposium, congressional reception at the Library of Congress, career fair and workshops, country of service events, a volunteer day, gala dinner and reception, numerous workshops, NPCA’s Presidents’ Forum and Annual General Meeting, awards presentations, and a procession of flags from the Lincoln Memorial to Arlington National Cemetery. While keynote speaker President Alejandro Toledo Manrique of Peru was unable to attend the opening ceremony in person due to a crisis in his country, he was able to speak to the audience by telephone. It was particularly moving to see and hear from the two former Peace Corps volunteers, Nancy and Joel Meister (Peru '64-'66), who met young Alejandro (at age 16) and his family in Peru and have continued a lifelong friendship. Among the notables at the opening and closing ceremonies were Sargent Shriver, Peace Corps Director Gaddi Vasquez, Harris Wofford and RPCV Congressmen Chris Dodd (Dominican Republic, '66-'68), Sam Farr (Colombia '64-'66), Christopher Shays (Fiji '68-'70) and Tony Hall (Thailand '66-'67).

The conference allowed RPCVs to get together to share fond memories, reunite, advocate, rekindle the spirit of our volunteer service, and work together for peace and understanding in our post-September 11th world. The recipients of this year’s Ruppe and Shriver awards given for community and humanitarian service, respectively, provided a great deal of inspiration to motivate all of us to work toward these goals. Recipients included the Friends of Ethiopia and Eritrea and the Friends of Sierra Leone, who have worked tirelessly and played major roles in promoting peaceful resolutions to conflicts in their countries of service.

Much talk during the conference focused on the future of the Peace Corps and the Peace Corps Charter for the 21st Century Act, introduced that week in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. Many RPCV groups and individuals have already signed on in support of the legislation. Details of this legislation are provided in this newsletter and in other RPCV communications.

During the conference, NPCA launched two new programs you will be hearing more about in the coming months. These include NPCA Continuation of Service Grants and New Group Grants. NPCA Continuation of Service Grants allow any active affiliate group to submit a proposal to NPCA for funding of up to \$1,000 annually to support community-based development projects at home and abroad. Also announced were NPCA New Group Grants, which are one-time grants of up to \$200 to new and reforming affiliate groups to support their efforts to organize.

One exciting development from the conference was that NPCA formally expressed an interest in having CAPCA host the next major NPCA Conference in August 2004 in Chicago. CAPCA Board Member Trina Janes is chairing this effort and is currently seeking a team of volunteers to help with the planning and serve as committee chairs. In order for this conference to be a success, CAPCA will need the full support of its membership and many, many volunteers. We need you to join us and help us show the RPCV family what a wonderful city Chicago is!!!

## 2004 NPCA Conference in Chicago:

### Volunteers needed to spearhead planning committee activities

In 2004 CAPCA will be celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary! To help commemorate this important milestone, and with strong encouragement from the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA), CAPCA submitted a proposal to host the 2004 conference in Chicago, which has already been accepted.


To begin exploring how to organize this annual meeting, several CAPCA board members went to Washington, D.C. on a fact-finding mission. Stephanie Arnold, Trina Janes, and Leslie Wilson attended the June 20-23, 2002 NPCA Conference where they met with NPCA leaders to discuss plans for the 2004 event.

To successfully undertake this initiative, CAPCA needs your help! Hundreds of volunteers are needed to fill a variety of leadership and non-leadership roles. Starting immediately, CAPCA needs individuals to sit on the planning team and/or to chair/co-chair a subcommittee. While several CAPCA members have already agreed to play significant roles in the planning process, including Chuck Sheftel, Lucinda Boyd, and Brian Defilippo, many more volunteers are needed.

To make the Chicago conference a success, we need to form a strong team to coordinate tasks such as lodging, conference venues, special events, speakers, volunteer day activities, workshops and country of service events. As the conference date draws near, additional volunteers will be needed to fulfill many additional functions.

For further information, to volunteer, or to make recommendations or suggestions to the planning committee, please contact Trina Janes, Morocco 91-93, 2004 Conference Exploratory Committee Chair at [cjanes1999@kellogg.nwu.edu](mailto:cjanes1999@kellogg.nwu.edu) or (312) 645-9400 ex. 35.

Updates and details will be posted on the CAPCA listserv ([capca-announce-subscribe@egroups.com](mailto:capca-announce-subscribe@egroups.com)) and in future newsletters.



*Check out the latest Peace Corps  
news and events from around the world at  
[www.peacecorpsonline.org](http://www.peacecorpsonline.org).*

# Announcements

## Illinois Society for International Development Summer Social

Please join ISID...

**When:** Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**Where:** The Berghoff Restaurant, 17 W. Adams Street, Chicago, IL

**Why:** The event is designed for socializing and networking with others involved or interested in international development.

**RSVP:** Trina Janes at [cjanes1999@kellogg.nwu.edu](mailto:cjanes1999@kellogg.nwu.edu) or call (312) 645-9400 ex. 35.

The ILLINOIS SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (ISID) is the Illinois chapter of the Rome based Society for International Development ([www.sidint.org](http://www.sidint.org)).

On the second Tuesday of every month, ISID organizes events focusing on international development issues. Information about events and opportunities related to international development are distributed through the ISID listserv. To subscribe, send an email to: [ISID-subscribe@topica.com](mailto:ISID-subscribe@topica.com) and write "subscribe" in the subject line.

### 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](mailto:capca-announce-subscribe@egroups.com)



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# Upcoming Events

## JOIN CAPCA FOR SUMMER EVENTS

### Peace Corps summer potluck event at Ravinia!

Saturday, July 27, 2002, 5:30-10:00 PM.

Make it an evening with your fellow Peace Corps friends under the stars. Come early and stay late. You bring the good eats, and drinks (alcoholic beverages are allowed, so is juice) we'll provide the good music.

Romeo & Juliet Chicago Symphony Orchestra  
Andrew Litton: Conductor, James Galway, Flute  
Borne: Fantasie brillante on Bizet's Carmen

The Romeo and Juliet Project: Boy meets girl. Lots of passion and pain. Great music. Then things get complicated. It doesn't get any more romantic than this musical interpretation of Shakespeare's classic love story through the works of composers from Berlioz to Bernstein. A stunning performance that weaves music and theatre. A montage of Shakespeare's text and the music it inspired, including works by Bellini, Berlioz, Bernstein, Gounod, Henze, Prokofiev, Nino Rota, and Tchaikovsky. A special Stearns Preview Concert begins at 5:45 PM.

Dinner begins at 7:00 PM on the lawn, concert time is 8:00 PM. Look for posted CAPCA signs to locate our group.

To purchase lawn tickets, go online at [www.ravinia.org](http://www.ravinia.org). Admission for adults is \$10, children \$5. Tickets go fast, and may sell out before the night of the event, so be sure to place your order well in advance.

So that enough space and tables can be reserved, an accurate head count is needed for this event. **Please RSVP** to Chuck Sheftel at [shef3886@aol.com](mailto:shef3886@aol.com) or (847) 831-3886.

### Summer Picnic In Milwaukee!

Sunday, August 4, 2002

Milwaukee Peace Corps Association (MPCA) invites CAPCA members to join them for their annual summer picnic at Grant Park on Milwaukee's south side. The picnic will start around 11:00 AM, and each RPCV is asked to bring a dish to pass.

Please contact MPCA President, Al Liu, for further information at [al\\_liu@hotmail.com](mailto:al_liu@hotmail.com). Or look for information/announcements through CAPCA's listserv and/or posted online at [www.capca.org](http://www.capca.org).

### CAMP Vista Summerfest 2002

August 9-11, 2002

Come join us for our annual summer trip to Camp Vista, Dundee, Wisconsin where you can enjoy swimming, biking, fishing, horseback riding, or anything you want to do!

About 2.5 hours from Chicago, near southern Kettle Moraine, Camp Vista offers communal eating and comfortable dormitory living.

Everyone is welcome: RPCV's, family, and friends!

All you need to bring is a sleeping bag or bedding, and a towel.

Cost is usually very modest and includes lodging, food, and beer.

To RSVP and/or to get directions or further information, please contact Brian DeFilippo, at [bdefilippo@aol.com](mailto:bdefilippo@aol.com) or at (847) 650-1080.

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All phone #s are home #s unless otherwise 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](http://www.rpcv.org) and join CAPCA and NPCA electronically.

Check one:     RENEWAL     NEW MEMBER     ADDRESS CHANGE

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

## MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\$15.00 CAPCA Annual Dues

\_\_\_\_\_

\$40.00 Joint CAPCA & NPCA Dues

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

\$55.00 Family CAPCA & NPCA Dues  
(2 members/one address)

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

One year free for newly returned RPCVs

WORK PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

\$500.00 Lifetime CAPCA Membership

COUNTRY/YEARS OF SERVICE \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Unrestricted contribution

\_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Restricted contribution

JOB ASSIGNMENT \_\_\_\_\_

CURRENT POSITION \_\_\_\_\_

Interested in giving talks about Peace Corps

CURRENT EMPLOYER \_\_\_\_\_

Would NOT like my name in the CAPCA Directory

## **CAPCA MEMBERSHIP**

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Chicago, IL 60690

*ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED*