



capca newsletter

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CAPCA Board Member Volunteers in South Africa

CAPCA Board member Kara Malenfant, a librarian at [DePaul University](#), received a [Vincentian Endowment Fund](#) grant from DePaul that allowed her to volunteer at a rural school library in South Africa during summer 2001. CAPCA donated \$200 so her local counterpart could purchase appropriate books to stock the library. She recounts her experience below.

I never imagined I'd find such a perfect fit to combine my interest in volunteering, travelling in developing countries, cross-cultural understanding and also make use of my skills as a librarian. The Inform the World Program (ITW), organized by [World Library Partnership](#) (WLP), fit the bill exactly. RPCV Laura Wendell, who was stationed in Togo in the early nineties, started WLP in 1996 after she returned to the US. During her service she quickly realized people in her village already had a handle on fish farming, which she was sent to teach, but were very interested in reading her Newsweek magazines. She started a reading room, and the rest is history.

The ITW 2001 program placed about two dozen professional librarians in rural South African libraries. Scarce resources and limited training and education make it difficult for librarians in South Africa to provide rural communities the information they need to build a better future. WLP believes that libraries are hallmarks of civil society and democracy. Libraries in developing countries can become tools for global understanding, community development and personal growth.

Under apartheid, quality education and access to information was basically denied to many South African communities. We worked to level the playing field. Volunteers received training and orientation, conducted practical service projects determined by the needs of their host libraries, and attended a book fair with our host counterparts.

I worked at Tenteleni Primary School in the township of KaNyamazane, Mpumalanga Province, near Kruger National Park. The community was very involved, supporting our efforts and demonstrating their commitment to the school and library by providing food and housing during our stay. The 26 educators at Tenteleni, a school with 1,100 learners in grades 1-7, had given up their staff room to create a library and the older boys had made bookshelves from school desks. Additionally, the full-time 2nd grade teacher - who is also one of the librarians - had received 3 weeks of intensive training from a librarian at a well-resourced private school.

I, along with my fellow volunteer partner, had contact with every single child at Tenteleni. Each class came to the library for 30 minutes of story time and library skills training (like care of books, arrangement of library, parts of books, fiction/non-fiction, etc.). The school had recently received 4 donated computers but the educators hadn't learned to use them so we had every educator come for a minimum of 2 hours to cover the basics of a computer, mouse skills, and windows basics. We also processed books, adding approximately 500 titles to the 300 that existed on their shelves already. The spirit, hope and initiative of the Tenteleni students, staff and parents were not only inspirational but also awesome. They have a well-developed fundraising plan in place to develop a media center with new library facilities. I feel confident that the work we did will continue.

Upon completing our three week service project, all the ITW volunteers and African host librarians returned to Pretoria for debriefing and a publishers fair. WLP supplies each African librarian with book certificates to use to purchase materials for their libraries. Many rural libraries have absolutely no budget for new materials and are stocked entirely with donated books from abroad. Donations are often outdated, in poor condition, inappropriate to the communities' needs and actually cost the recipient thousands of dollars in shipping, customs, storage and taxes. These rural libraries have no books in their native languages, no books written by African authors for African audiences and few books written specifically for developing countries. The Book Certificate Program empowers African communities to choose for themselves what materials will be in their libraries. It also contributes to the long-term sustainability of libraries by supporting African publishers and booksellers.

For summer 2002 WLP will send librarians again to South Africa and also to Honduras. If you'd like to find out more visit their website at <http://rtpnet.org/wlp>. You can also support the Book Certificate Program by making a tax-deductible donation at <http://rtpnet.org/wlp/itw2002/bookcert.htm>. Feel free to contact me if you have questions about my experiences at malenfant@alexia.lis.uiuc.edu.

Upcoming Events

VERY MERRY BAZAAR

Final call for **High Quality Goods** and **Booth Volunteers**

When: Friday, November 16 12-8:00PM; Saturday, November 17 10-5:00PM; Sunday, November 18 10:00-5:00PM

Where: Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton. Accessible by Public transportation

Why: 25% of booth sales goes to support CAPCA programs. Proceeds help support over 50 other non-profit organizations

Needed: Volunteers and high quality goods. Volunteers needed to cover 2-4 hour shifts. In exchange for your time and/or goods, you will receive free entry to the bazaar.

For more information or to volunteer: Please contact Nancy Kramer at email: kramernancy@worldnet.att.net or 773.725.6944.

EARLY WARNING! EARLY WARNING! EARLY WARNING!

ANNUAL HOLIDAY POTLUCK

When: Thursday, December 13th at 6:30pm

Where: Corinthian Yacht Club at Montrose Harbor

Be on the lookout for a postcard reminder!

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH SPEAKER SERIES

When: Monday, November 5, 2001 and Monday, November 12, 2001. Reception at 6 p.m., lecture at 7:00 p.m.

Lecture: "Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health in Africa"

Speaker: Dr. Khama Rogo, MD, PhD, Lead Specialist for Population and Reproductive Health, The World Bank

When: Monday, November 12, 2001. Reception at 6 p.m., lecture at 7:00 p.m.

Lecture: "People's Development: The Private Sector (NGO) Approach"

Speaker: Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, PhD, Deputy Executive Director, BRAC, Bangladesh

Where: Prince Faculty Commons, 16th Floor of the Tarry Building, Northwestern University Medical School
300 East Superior St., Chicago

For more information: Please contact Dévora Grynsman, Assistant Dean, International and Area Studies
Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, Northwestern University at international@northwestern.edu
or 847.467.7834.

Upcoming Events - continued

CAPCA DINNER MEETING

When: Tuesday, November 13th, 6:30 pm

Where: Ethiopian Diamond Restaurant, 6120 N. Broadway. One block south of red line Granville stop.

Cost: \$20 includes entrée, soft drink, dessert, and tax and tip. Alcoholic beverages are available for purchase. Vegetarian entree will be provided.

Featured guest: Mawi Asgedom: speaker, author and consultant. Recently published his first book, a memoir, *Of Beetles and Angels* which chronicles Mawi's life as a survivor of a refugee camp in the Sudan and his arrival and coming of age in America. Mawi's story is particularly inspiring because he worked hard in school and earned a full scholarship to Harvard University and is now running his own business.

Copies of the book will be made available for \$20 with 1/3 of all proceeds going to the HAT foundation, which helps newly arrived immigrants meet their needs. For more information on Mawi and his business, see his website: www.mawispeaks.com.

RSVP: Please RSVP for this dinner to Liz Klaus: lklaus@somercor.com 312.307.2957 by November 9th.

Announcements

Members Elect 2001-2003 Directors

At CAPCA's annual general meeting, which was held following our monthly dinner meeting at Ina's restaurant on September 13th, members elected Wallace Goode (CAR '80-'81 and Solomon Islands '84-'86), Trina Janes (Morocco '91-'93), Ben Peeters (Kazakhstan '97-'99), David Pope (Thailand, '90-'92) and Chuck Sheftel (India '69-'72) to two-year terms as CAPCA Directors. Continuing as Directors for the second year of their current two-year terms are Stephanie Arnold (Ghana '93-'96), Marie Erdman (Zimbabwe '93-'96), Nancy Kramer (Zimbabwe '96-'98), Kara Malenfant (Armenia '92-'94) and Elizabeth Versten (Senegal '89-'91). Other Board members include Melissa Hall (Paraguay '94-'96), who is continuing as newsletter Editor, Elizabeth Thomas (Yemen and Morocco), who is assuming a one-year appointed term as liaison to the local Peace Corps staff, and Leslie Wilson (Thailand '90-'92 and Moldova '95-'97), who is now Immediate Past President. Also Greg Nessiner (Kenya '87-'90) and Juliann Wilson Salinas (Paraguay '94-'96) will continue to round out our leadership team as Web Site coordinators and/or overseers.

Board Elects Stephanie Arnold (Ghana '93-'96) President

At their October 15th Board meeting, directors unanimously elected Stephanie Arnold as President of CAPCA for the coming year. In turn, Arnold recommended Wallace Goode and Marie Erdman to continue in their roles as Vice President and Secretary, respectively, Kara Malenfant to fill the position of Treasurer & Database Manager, the position Arnold herself had held for the previous 3 years. The board unanimously approved these choices as well.

While in the Peace Corps, Stephanie served as a Health Education/Water and Sanitation volunteer IN GHANA. While she primarily focused her activities on the construction of household latrines in her village of Kpando-Abanu, she also helped build hand-dug wells and conducted hygiene education programs with the village health committee she helped form.

Stephanie became involved with CAPCA when she moved to Chicago in 1997. In 1998, she joined the CAPCA board as Treasurer, when Noel Jackson stepped down, and has served as Treasurer ever since. In the past 18 months she also assumed the management of CAPCA's Membership Database.

She is delighted to be serving as the newest CAPCA President and looks forward to continuing her work with the Board. She is excited about exploring the many opportunities to serve CAPCA membership and promote the third goal of Peace Corps. Stephanie is always open to new ideas and encourages members to contact her with their ideas and suggestions for CAPCA.

Outside of CAPCA, she is employed as a Marketing Manager at Andersen in Chicago. She received a BA in International Relations from Grinnell College and an MBA in Finance, Economics and International Business from the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business. Stephanie is also a member of the Rotary Club of Chicago-Rogers Park and a Global Village Team Leader for Habitat for Humanity International. Please extend your congratulations to Stephanie.

Announcements - continued

Leslie Wilson Reports on NPCA Board Meeting and Scaled-Back 40th Anniversary Activities

Despite the events of September 11th, the National Peace Corps Association Board of Directors decided to convene its scheduled fall meeting, and to continue with two of the previously-scheduled 40th Anniversary events: a morning of volunteer service building a playground in honor of Sargent Shriver in the Anacostia section of Washington, DC and a late afternoon celebration near the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, both on Saturday, September 22nd. Wilson, then-President of CAPCA and newly elected Great Lakes Region representative to the NPCA board, attended the afternoon ceremony, at which she carried the Moldovan flag in the parade of the flags of the 135 nations in which Peace Corps has served. Wilson was a Small Business/NGO Development Program Manager in Moldova, and she took up the Moldova flag when competition to carry the Thai flag, from her county of Volutneer service, got too stiff. Importantly, the flag of Afghanistan was proudly carried by a contingent of RPCVs who had served there. The ceremony lasted two hours and was highlighted by powerful and inspiring remarks from Sargent Shriver, whose primary message was that of the power of service to overcome many of the world's ills – large and small. The ceremony featured readings by RPCV writers and readers; instrumental and vocal music performances from the Ukraine and Liberia, and a number of inspirational and patriotic songs sung by all.

In a related matter, Wilson reported, briefly, to the CAPCA board at their October meeting about her participation in the NPCA board meeting, which was highlighted by discussions and decisions on the rescheduling of the 40th Anniversary events – now dubbed “Forty + One,” and likely to be held in May of 2002 in Washington, DC. An important outcome of the meeting was a resolution by the Board following the events of 9/11/01, which is posted on the NPCA web site: www.rpcv.org. Additionally, NPCA staff reported that both paid and first year free membership numbers are up significantly, and that fundraising results are good; Global TeachNet activities are continuing apace, and the newly formalized advocacy activities of the NPCA are under way under the leadership of new NPCA staff member, Ed Crane, who lived in Evanston prior to taking the advocacy position with the NPCA. Anyone with questions about the details of the NPCA board meeting is welcome to contact Leslie at 773.973.6560 or lfwilson@hotmail.com.

By-law Amendment Notice

The CAPCA Board will be addressing a number of “housekeeping” issues in the upcoming months. As part of this effort, resolutions to modify the bylaws will be put forward for the approval of the CAPCA membership at the January Monthly Dinner meeting.

These resolutions will provide for changes that will continue to allow, but no longer require, that the CAPCA Newsletter Editor serve as a member of the CAPCA board. Currently the Newsletter Editor position is specified as an automatic Board Officer. The CAPCA Board together with the current Newsletter Editor (Melissa Hall), have agreed that the position doesn't require Board Membership and that, in the future, CAPCA will more easily find highly qualified people to serve in this capacity if those individuals are not also required to assume the additional responsibilities of Board Membership.

The resolutions will provide that the position in question (the one currently occupied by the Newsletter Editor) will be retained and will be a standard Appointed Board Member position to be filled through the existing process.

The resolutions will also provide that the CAPCA Board shall be entrusted to appoint non-voting ex-officio members as the Board may require. This provision will enable the Board to ensure that important communication links are established and maintained as required in future circumstances (e.g. designating a liaison position to be filled by a member of the Chicago Peace Corps office). As part of this provision, the Web-site Editor position on the Board shall be transitioned to non-voting status (it is already regarded as ex-officio).

The final proposed change covered in the resolutions is that the Immediate Past President be added as an ex-officio voting member of the CAPCA Board. This will help to ensure continuity and the preservation of institutional knowledge during important leadership transition periods.

At the end of the day, these modifications don't really change things very much, as we will continue to have the same number of voting Board members. It should just serve to ensure that we maintain important communication links, and that we are able to attract people with the skills required to best serve the needs of the entire CAPCA membership well into the future.

FOR SALE!

Save the Children Note Cards

To help preserve the traditional Mithila art form, and to help girls ages 10 to 15 develop creative skills for safe employment, Save the Children, the world's largest non-sectarian international development & relief organization, sponsors a group of young girls in the Siraha district of Nepal to hand-paint cards for sale. Sales from the cards directly benefit these young girls. Cards are \$2 each or 10 for \$12.

Sales also benefit CAPCA's Peace Corps Partnership Projects, community-based projects such as Connections, in Chicago, & other humanitarian initiatives worldwide.

Contact Leslie Wilson 773.973.6560 or lfwilson@hotmail.com for more information.

Peace Corps Calendars

It's that time of year again! The 2002 Peace Corps calendars produced by the RPCVs of Wisconsin-Madison are hot off the press!

Be among the first to get your hands on one - or ten! You'll definitely want one for yourself - but remember - Peace Corps calendars make great gifts for friends, family and coworkers!

Calendars will be sold for \$10. Bulk discounts are available for purchases in quantities of 25 or more. All proceeds go towards supporting CAPCA's Peace Corps Partnership Projects and disaster relief efforts. Last year was a huge success and we're hoping to sell many more calendars this year!

Get your calendars at CAPCA dinners and events until supplies run out! To order by mail: send your name, address and quantity desired to capcascalendarsales@bungo.com, or send your order and payment to CAPCA, P.O. Box 1149, Chicago, IL 60690, or contact Stephanie Arnold at 312.507.4885 during the day.



Chicago Public Schools' Department of Human Resources congratulates Peace Corps on 40 years of exemplary service.

We look forward to a continued partnership!

www.cps-humanresources.org

ASK4 Staffing provides staffing solutions to Chicagoland human services providers. There are short- & long-term assignments * flexible placements * full- & part-time jobs * exciting options in a broad range of social service settings: child welfare / counseling / substance abuse / welfare-to-work / teaching / community outreach.

So, whether you are preparing to leave, or have just returned, from the Peace Corps and you need a short-term job, or if you have returned and are looking for a social services career, ASK4 Staffing can help!



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www.ask4staffing.com

Call M.J. Foster, Recruitment Manager at
312.641.3184

Send a resume to 155 N. Wacker Dr., #715
Chicago, IL 60606

Opportunities

Peace Corps seeks RPCVs for Crisis Corps

Peace Corps Crisis Corps is looking for Spanish speaking RPCVs with construction or water and sanitation skills for 4 to 6 month assignments in El Salvador, and French and English speaking RPCVs with HIV/AIDS and organizational development skills for 6 month assignments in Africa. All assignments to begin as soon as possible. Interested parties please contact Crisis Corps at 800.424.8580 ext. 2250 or crisiscorps@peacecorps.gov

Peace Corps seeks applications for Country Director positions

Peace Corps seeks your help in finding the best senior managers with international experience to serve in overseas positions. If you know someone who might be interested or would like to receive an application packet for yourself, please contact Peace Corps at the following address:

E-Mail: cdselection@peacecorps.gov
Telephone: 202.692.2102
Address: Overseas Executive Selection and Support
Office of the Director
Peace Corps
1111 20th Street, N. W.
Washington, DC 20526

For further information and a detailed job description, please visit them online at:

<http://www.peacecorps.gov/employment/overseas/cd.cfm>

Tax Counseling Project is looking for Volunteer Tax Preparers!

The Tax Counseling Project, a project of the Center for Law & Human Services, is one of the nation's largest community-based programs providing free tax preparation and tax counseling for low-income workers. During 2001, 464 volunteers helped prepare over 10,300 returns and generated over \$13.6 million dollars in refunds! By helping families claim every tax benefit available to them, the Tax Counseling Project's volunteers can boost the incomes of working poor families up to 35%!

- Ö NO PRIOR TAX EXPERIENCE IS REQUIRED, FREE TAX TRAINING PROVIDED!
- Ö VOLUNTEERS ARE SUPERVISED AT ALL TIMES BY TAX PROFESSIONALS!
- Ö SIGN UP TODAY AND GAIN THE IMMEDIATE SATISFACTION OF GIVING BACK TO OTHERS!

If you would like to volunteer to help put money back into the pockets of thousands of Illinois families, please contact the Center for Law & Human Services at (312) 252-0280 or by e-mail at volunteer@centerforlaw.org, or visit www.centerforlaw.org and download an application today!



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2000-2002

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All phone #s are home #s unless otherwise indicated.

CAPCA Board Meeting Minutes

Summary of August 30, 2001 Meeting

The CAPCA Board met on August 30, 2001. Elections for the board will take place at the next CAPCA dinner meeting, with three elected positions to be filled. Leslie Wilson, current CAPCA president, was elected to the NPCA Board as the Great Lakes Regional representative and will be stepping down as president of the board. New leadership will be elected at the next board meeting, which will be the first meeting with the new board. The board will recommend to the entire CAPCA membership that the bylaws be modified concerning ex officio members — details will be posted in an upcoming newsletter. Finally, the balance of funds as of August 30 is \$5,456.60.

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

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

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

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