



# MNRPCV News

*Minnesota Returned Peace Corps Volunteers  
Serving RPCVs and the Community*

**2002-2003**

## **MNRPCV Board**

### **President**

*Mary Adams, Latvia 95-97  
612-521-0649*

### **Vice President**

*David Pearson, Cameroon 97-99  
612-285-2631*

### **Treasurer**

*Shannon Skally, Morocco 96-98  
651-699-0443*

### **Secretary**

*Maureen Smith, Cameroon 87-89  
612-378-7072*

### **Communications Chair**

*Elsa Frettem, India 68-70  
651-222-1765*

### **Speakers Bureau Chair**

*Pat O Leary, Sierra Leone 67-68  
651-582-8421*

### **Social Chair**

*Urbae Jiwa, Morocco 94-96  
651-698-0734*

### **Co-Community Service**

*Jared Erdmann, Honduras 99-01  
612-824-6732*

### **Co-Community Service**

*Gary Bank, Kenya 95-97  
651-633-3171*

### **Membership Chair**

*Vicki Dilley, Tuvalu 80-83  
507-645-6379*

### **Member At Large**

*John Shirk, Morocco 98-01  
612-825-4255*

### **Member At Large**

*Michael Smith, Liberia 80-82  
651-683-0197*

### **Member At Large and**

### **NPCA Board Member**

*Deb Most, Latvia 94-96  
651-334-1457*

### **Mission Statement**

*To serve Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and the community by providing service to others and fostering appreciation of cultural diversity.*

## **The Corner Board**

My goodness, time flies when you have a life, and 19 years have gone by since I physically returned to the life I lived as a Peace Corps volunteer. Peace Corps has never left the mental and spiritual side of me. I changed because of Peace Corps.

In 1980 my young husband and I left for the tiny island country of Tuvalu, located in the Central Pacific. Take your finger straight up from Fiji and before hitting the equator look for some indication of a tiny island nation called Tuvalu. Tuvalu is the fourth smallest country in the world, just after the Vatican, Monaco and Nauru, but in my mind one of the most important nations for what they could teach us about peace, harmony and tolerance. After living there, I always ask myself if I am being as generous and tolerant as a Tuvaluan.

We fell in love with these people and learned to call this tiny two by three mile island our home for three and half years. In 1983 we gave a tearful good-bye to our family and friends on the island and promised to one day return.

In the meantime, we had babies, bought a house, got jobs and found our resources too limited to do more than dream about going back. We often dreamt out loud though and our young daughter, Riana, grew up hearing stories about these people we cared so much about and this tiny island we had once called home. Frequently she would ask "when are we going to Tuvalu?" And we would always say, "Someday."

Some day didn't come, until a good friend of mine lost her daughter in a motorcycle accident. I realized that some things just should not wait. Riana and I decided we could go, and planned the "pilgrimage" as she called it. After all, she was going to see the woman she was named after.

In mid June we left for a five and a half week trip. We excitedly arrived in Fiji, a shock for Riana. At the food market, she first saw only the dirtiness and poverty. I knew Tuvalu would present an even bigger shock. I told Riana to look at the faces of the people, how happy and comfortable they are with each other, how they happily greet us. I told her to overlook their dress, their shanty houses, the emaciated dogs on the street. I remembered my similar reaction when we first arrived in Fiji. Now I saw it again through my daughter's eyes.

The heat would only grow more intense the closer we got to the equator. I had booked two nights in Fiji in a cheap hostel with no air conditioning and a shared bathroom like Lee and I had always done before on our

small Peace Corps stipend. I hoped this would be a transition from our very comfortable Northfield home to more rustic living in the Pacific.

Monday morning we boarded a small plane to land on the capital island, Funafuti. At the airport, many happy Tuvaluans chattered away while I tried hard to find a familiar face while going through customs. Faces peered around the corner and soon there was a man telling me "Fakamolemole, faitali i konei, ko vau Lasiani"...please wait Lasiani is coming.

My sister, Lasiani knew I was coming and had told us we were to stay at her house, but wasn't she at the airport. Later I learned that she was too excited to wait there, and was busily preparing her very tiny house. Getting off of the plane, I felt surprised at how similar things looked and how I could still understand when they spoke to me in Tuvaluan.

Though the heat and poverty were more intense, the people were ever so happy to see us, and to tell me how much older and fatter that I looked! As a skinny volunteer, they had encouraged me to eat to become fat. (kai ke fula). Now, I had finally become a plump Polynesian beauty! It was a joy to see people on the streets and hear them yell with glee, "Vicki! I can't believe it is you!" Some told me how I had changed their lives. Some students that I tutored in English now worked successful government jobs and had traveled abroad. It seemed like they had waited all this time to tell me of their success, and to thank me. Transportation to the outer islands had gotten worse since we left in 1983. In the early 80's Britain had subsidized a sea-plane service to the outer islands and took us back and forth from our own little island of Vaitupu (Tuvalu is made up of eight islands with a total land mass of 10 square miles). The country has only two cargo boats and the most recent arrived in February. The old boat was in dry dock in Fiji during our visit and strong winds prevented the new boat from traveling to the outer islands, so we were stuck on the capital for a week. Finally after a six-hour voyage to Vaitupu, we arrived around midnight and my heart raced as I was filled with dream-like senses from years past: the smell of the island, the moon-lit images, the sounds of the breeze. A few of our family members met us and carried our suitcases (so much for wheels) over the reef and onto the sand. Our family's home was totally different, with



**Fall 2002**  
**by Vicki Dilley**

*Continued on Page 2*



## The Corner Board *Continued from Page 1*

no more thatched roofs, woven walls or openness. Frequent storms over the last couple of decades had forced people to build more permanent, replaceable homes with help from the government. News reports said global warming could be causing the strong winds and bad storms. The next day I walked around the village and captured joy and excitement with my video camera. Always they asked about Lee, and when he would visit. Sometimes people mistook Riana for me. I once had that youthful figure and long blonde hair. But she quickly pointed in my direction and said "that is Vicki". Though she didn't understand the language, she learned to communicate with the kids. After they got over the initial shock of seeing a white person up close, they soon hung on her and played with her. This is when I think she began to open her heart to Tuvalu and see how special it is.

I took note of what had changed, what had not, what we had tried to change. The water tanks we taught them to build were still there. In fact they built more and bigger tanks! The village had so much water I would think that the days of hauling rationed water was a mere memory for some. The smokeless stoves and sinks with sanitary soak pits were gone, mothers were bottle feeding, formula and disposable diapers were available in the store! The fish ponds were no longer being used and the coconut oil expelling plant for soap making was barely surviving. Lee had worked so hard on this project with a grant from Save the Children. I wondered what we had accomplished.

The night before we left, the island women put on a huge feast and dance for us, their honored guests. They made many thankful speeches and we reminisced about the fun we had building the sinks, stoves and water tanks. Yet, I wondered why they fussed over sinks and stoves no longer there. One person spoke about the stories that had been told over the years about this young American couple who had come to live amongst them, learned their language, loved their food, danced with them and worked with them. I realized then it didn't matter what we built.

Earthly things are transient in Tuvalu, but the people and their hearts are constant. We had made our way into their hearts years ago. Now we carried them in our hearts too. We had lived in their stories, and they had come back to America with us in our stories.

Our trip had many physical challenges to it, but the part that was easy was revisiting old friends that we will never forget. Since coming home, our Tuvaluan brother has told me that he was forever changed since our visit, he realized how important we were to all of them and no one has changed Tuvalu as much as we had since our leaving.

Taking this trip with my daughter was a real privilege. She experienced so much of what we had told her about. She heard how much her parents were appreciated and she fell in love with these people as we had. Before we left she asked if we could stay longer since "we know people here." Unfortunately, we could not and we said tearful good-byes again.



I believe in Peace Corps so much! I am still an idealist following my heart, which tells me that world peace will not come with food relief that coincides with bombing. It will come at the village level, with people looking into the eyes of those different from them, sleeping, working and laughing together to make this world a better place.

Thanks! Fafetai lasi!

*Vicki Dilley, Tuvalu 80-83*

## Treasurer's Report

### MNRPCV Account Summary September 21, 2002 – October 30, 2002

I'm pleased to have taken over treasurer duties and am looking into FINCA so hopefully will have an update/article for next newsletter.

*Shannon Skally, Morocco 96-98*

<b>INCOME</b>	
Membership	757.50
Uncategorized Income	<u>1,515.00</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>2,272.50</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Happenings-Printing	<u>74.90</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>74.90</b>
Balance Forward	
Bal Fwd MNRPCV	<u>12,355.96</u>
TOTAL Balance Forward	12,355.96
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>14,553.56</b>



*Vicki and Lee with their Tuvaluan family in 1983.*



*Riana and Tuvaluan family, 2002.*



## Join the MNRPCV!!

Want to join the group? It's easy. Either fill in the form below and mail it with your check to NPCA, or join online at [www.rpcv.org](http://www.rpcv.org). Just be sure to check Minnesota as your choice for an affiliate group.

Questions about the group, or about why you should join?

Contact Membership Chair Vicki Dilley

507-645-6379 or [vdilley@iglide.net](mailto:vdilley@iglide.net)

## Dues increase beginning in January 2003

During the Board meetings at the June Conference, the NPCA Board implemented a **\$10 increase in Annual Membership Dues** to start in 2003. This action was taken upon the recommendation of the NPCA Finance Committee with the approval of the majority of group leaders attending the Presidents' Forum after discussion and a roll call vote. Beginning January 1, 2003, Annual Membership Dues for the NPCA will increase to the following rates:

- \* One-year individual membership (with one affiliate group): \$50
  - \* One-year couple/family membership (with one affiliate group): \$65
  - \* Three-year individual membership (with one affiliate group): \$135
  - \* Three-year couple/family membership (with one affiliate group): \$180
- Additional affiliate groups may still be added for an additional \$15 individual or \$22.50 couple/family per group per year.

**(Join now, beat the increase!)**

## Mystery Man Revealed

As I was browsing the web I noted that I appeared in the Spring 2001 MNRPCV Newsletter in Mr. Pearson's article about past MNRPCV Presidents as "Mystery Man". I am alive and well in Massachusetts. I did leave MN shortly after I served as President of MNRPCV in 1987...for good reason... I was married to RPCV Martha Hall (Gach). Both Martha and I served in Zaire during the early/mid 80's. Martha enrolled in a PhD Program at the U of Michigan and I decided to relocate to Ann Arbor. Two kids later we moved to Massachusetts where I work as Director of Business Development for a Minnesota-based company (Osmonics) that does water treatment... the same thing (albeit on a lower tech scale) I did in Zaire as a PVC.

I truly enjoyed my (short) tenure as MNRPCV President. Mostly I remember the great friendships, wonderful food and the slide shows!

We recently attended the local Worcester, MA RPCV gathering and had a delightful evening (again the food was most appealing). Martha and I stay active in volunteer roles. We are President and Vice President of the local Rebuilding Together affiliate. We refurbish low income housing and really enjoy it. We may have the opportunity to move back to MN (I commute to MSP 2X per month). We will certainly (re)join MNRPCV if we do!

No longer Mystery Man,  
Gerard Gach  
RPCV Zaire 82-85

## Membership Form

If you are interested in joining our group, please send in the following membership registration form.\*

**Yes! I want to be a member!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Work Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Country/Years of Service \_\_\_\_\_

- Annual MEMBERSHIP (includes both NPCA and MN Local Group membership) \$40 FOR INDIVIDUAL/\$55 FOR FAMILY
- INCLUDE JOB HOTLINE (listing employment opportunities in the U.S. and abroad) \$30
- INCLUDE OVERSEAS POSTAGE (if applicable) \$20

TOTAL PAYMENT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

MY CHECK PAYABLE TO THE NPCA IS ENCLOSED

or

PLEASE CHARGE MY CREDIT CARD:

MC

VISA

EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_ CARD# \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

\*Note: You may also join online at <http://www.rpcv.org>.

NPCA, 1900 L Street, NW Suite 205, Washington, DC.  
20038 fax 202/293-7754 phone 202/293-7728



## PC Director Vasquez Visits Minneapolis Masters Degrees of Interest to RPCVs

On August 15 Peace Corps Director Gaddi Vasquez and several of his Washington, D.C. staff came to Minneapolis and met with local media, local Peace Corps staff, and RPCVs. You may have seen the notice about this on the email list, and you may have expected to hear about it in this Newsletter. As designated scribe and photographer for the evening, I took notes and snapped photos, planning to document the event. Unfortunately, notes and photos currently reside in some sealed box either just leaving our old house or recently arrived in our new house. (The box is possibly labeled photos, but who really knows...) So, I apologize for the absence of an article on this event. I can tell you, however, that it was well-attended by local RPCVs who asked many questions. Director Vasquez answered the questions and was very interested in what everyone had to say. He asked for more RPCV comments, and gave his email address for anyone who wants to talk to him: [gvasquez@peacecorps.gov](mailto:gvasquez@peacecorps.gov) I know he'd love to hear from you!

*Elsa Frettem, India 68-70*

### Calendars are here!!

The 2003 Peace Corps Calendars are now in. The price per each is still \$8.00. As most of you know, the proceeds from the sale of these calendars goes towards those projects that receive grants from our group. Please let me know if you want one [or more] and arrangements will be made to expedite them to you.

You can mail a check to me [make all checks payable to MNRPCV] at the address listed below. Make sure that the amount includes some postage, too [\$1.50 to \$3.00]. How much postage depends on how many calendars you need. There will be about a 1-2 week turn around.

I am planning to attend several upcoming Metro dinners, happy hours or other events as I am able to do given my present schedule. Also I will be at the Minnehaha Lanes [Lousy Bowler's 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm] in St. Paul every Friday.

*michael smith, RPCV Liberia 80-82*  
3808 Windcrest Court, Eagan, MN 55123-1492  
[651-683-0197] home  
[612-819-2986] cell  
[w.mike.s@ix.netcom.com](mailto:w.mike.s@ix.netcom.com)

### Coming Soon!! February Ski Weekend

The MNRPCV winter get away weekend (Ski Weekend) is coming sooner than you think. Due to popular demand, we are returning to the Edgewood resort near Park Rapids. This year the dates are February 21-23, 2003. This is a really nice place, the group loved it last year. The lodge holds 35-40 people in 13 bedrooms. Check out this link to see the one-year-old cabin. <http://www.edgewood-resort.com/cabins/cabin1.html>

We can come in any time after noon on Friday and have the place until 1 PM on Sunday. Only a check will reserve your spot. Send it now payable to Curt Rahman, 4209 Browndale, St Louis Park, MN 55416. The price is a flat \$55 per person for the weekend, regardless of age. This includes lodging only and we cook group meals. We already have big interest from those who attended last year, so it will fill fast.

This is only a couple miles outside of Park Rapids. Therefore, it is very close to Itasca State Park for skiing. It is also a summer resort, so it is right on a lake (snowshoeing, snowmobiling, ice fishing, skiing etc). Please also forward this on to your Peace Corps friends.

*Curt Rahman, RPCV Kiribati*  
952-884-3334 work  
612-207-5411 cell, 952-925-3118 home

The **University of St. Thomas Master of International Management (MIM) Program** is committed to providing students with the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in the international marketplace by emphasizing intercultural understanding, global perspective, ethical values, professional development and intellectual growth. MIM values language learning and provides students with business-level proficiency in a second language. The MIM program facilitates an environment of lifelong learning for our students, faculty and administrators to become productive citizens of the world community.

For more information on the MIM program, check out our website at [www.stthomas.edu/mim](http://www.stthomas.edu/mim) or email us at [mim@stthomas.edu](mailto:mim@stthomas.edu). Application deadline for Spring Semester is January 1, 2003.

### New MA Program of Special Interest to RPCVs

The Intercultural Communication Institute (ICI) in Portland, OR, and the University of the Pacific (UOP) in Stockton, CA would like to announce a new graduate program of special interest to Returned Peace Corps Volunteers: MASTER OF ARTS IN INTERCULTURAL RELATIONS (MAIR).

The MAIR is designed for adult professionals who wish to earn an advanced degree in a two-and-one-half to three-year period while maintaining employment or other commitments. In our limited-residency program, students complete the core courses in 18 months through attendance in three 2-week residencies held in the Portland area every six months in January and July.

Directed course assignments are completed at home between the residency periods.

The MAIR Program provides students with the skills and understanding to respond appropriately to the challenges of working across cultures in both national and international organizations, and prepares them to meet the demands of managing and harnessing complex cultural diversity in our increasingly multicultural society.

**For more information**, please contact:

School of International Studies at University of the Pacific:  
<http://www3.uop.edu/sis/mair/ma.htm>

Or contact:

The Intercultural Communication Institute:

<http://www.intercultural.org>

Phone: 503-297-4622

### MNRPCV Toastmasters

meet the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month.

More info on [www.mnrpcv.org/Events.html](http://www.mnrpcv.org/Events.html), or contact

Richard Earle 952-929-6943,

Steve Coury 612-870-1091, or

Dan Grundtner 651-487-3068.

### New RPCV Book: Epiphany Under the Sun

**Check it out:** Essay: Epiphany under the sun: Almost 40 years ago, Paul Theroux was an idealistic young teacher in Malawi. In his new book, he returns to find his former school in ruins and the country in crisis.



## NPCA News

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Emily O'Rourke, NPCA Associate Director for Membership, at [groups@rpcv.org](mailto:groups@rpcv.org) or the appropriate point of contact for the particular item of interest.

**1) Crisis Corps Opportunities** (please pass along to group members)  
At this time, there are several Humanitarian Assistance Assignments in Guinea and Malawi as well as a variety of HIV/AIDS Assignments available in the Africa region. We are actively recruiting for all of these assignments with the aim of placing Volunteers in November and would be pleased to consider applications from qualified RPCVs with appropriate regional experience, for these positions: Africa.

Please note that to be considered for any Crisis Corps Volunteer assignment, RPCVs must have successfully completed their Peace Corps service. On an exceptional basis, Crisis Corps will consider RPCVs whose service was terminated for circumstances beyond their control, but have served at least one year, excluding training.

For more information about current openings, visit the Crisis Corps website at <http://www.peacecorps.gov/rpcv/crisiscorps/index.cfm> or contact us directly at 1-800-424-8580, option 2, extension 2250, or by e-mail at [crisiscorps@peacecorps.gov](mailto:crisiscorps@peacecorps.gov). Due to mail difficulties, Crisis Corps requests that applications and resumes be faxed to 202-692-2251 or sent in by e-mail.

### Upcoming Assignments

RPCVs are encouraged to submit their application materials as it is anticipated that additional assignments in various parts of the world will become available over the next several months.

### 2) Community Service in Rio Bravo, Mexico

The Heart of Texas Peace Corps Association (Austin, TX and environs) invites all RPCVs and friends-of-RPCVs to join them Thanksgiving Weekend on their semi-annual trip of work and fun in Rio Bravo, Mexico, just across the border from McAllen, Texas. For nearly 20 years, the HOTPCA has traveled to Rio Bravo regularly to help with various community service projects.

Currently, the focus is on a neighborhood school. For more information, please visit <http://www.geocities.com/texasrpcvs> or email [maseko@ev1.net](mailto:maseko@ev1.net).

### 3) Calendar of Events

Don't forget that groups can post their activities on the events calendar, which is accessible to all interested parties (including potential members of your group)! Go to <http://www.rpcv.org> and click on "Affiliate Groups." Click on "Calendar of Events" to access the calendar and instructions for posting an event. If you are unsure of your group's username and password, please contact [groups@rpcv.org](mailto:groups@rpcv.org).

## MNRPCV Members are NPCA Members

Since we are an NPCA affiliate, our membership list is maintained by them. We request a current mailing list before each mailing, and MNRPCV News or Happenings is mailed to all members of record. Please update your mailing address through NPCA.

As a member you should receive not only this quarterly MNRPCV Newsletter and monthly MNRPCV Happenings, but also the 3/1/61 newsletter from NPCA and the NPCA WorldView magazine. If you are a member but don't receive these, or if you would like to join, please contact our Membership Chair (see Page 3).

## Current PC news from [peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov)

News... News... News

(for more details see [www.peacecorps.gov/news/index.cfm](http://www.peacecorps.gov/news/index.cfm) and National Peace Corps Association news at [www.rpcv.org](http://www.rpcv.org))

**October 11, 2002** - Peace Corps Director Gaddi H. Vasquez announced the return of seven Volunteers to the African island nation of Madagascar. These volunteers, reinstated to continue their service after the suspension of the program last April, will be joined by 50 new volunteer trainees in February.

**October 3, 2002** — Peace Corps Suspends Programs in Côte d'Ivoire: Following a Department of State travel warning and notice of an authorized departure of Embassy staff and personnel, Peace Corps has announced its suspension of programs in Côte d'Ivoire, Africa. The suspension is a precautionary step until Peace Corps can determine when it is safe to return to Côte d'Ivoire.

**September 30, 2002**—Today the Peace Corps and Habitat for Humanity International joined forces by signing an agreement that partners Peace Corps volunteers with Habitat for Humanity International projects located in selected regions where both organizations are currently working.

Peace Corps volunteers and Habitat for Humanity volunteers will work jointly in the construction of houses throughout the developing world. Peace Corps will be a tremendous asset to these projects since Peace Corps volunteers are a living and working part of the community where homes will be built. Peace Corps volunteers integrate themselves into the local communities and form a unique bond with those they serve. In turn, Habitat for Humanity International will provide its expertise in construction and financial development to the housing projects.

**September 26, 2002** — Hipolito Mejia Dominguez, President of the Dominican Republic, visited the Peace Corps headquarters. For the second time in two weeks, Peace Corps staff was told of the importance of Peace Corps Volunteers' work over four decades by a chief of state of a developing country. President Alejandro Toledo visited Peace Corps on Sept. 14. President Mejia said he came to "love the work of the Peace Corps and the ideas of President Kennedy" as agriculture minister. "The message of Peace Corps was humility, work and the sharing of skills," President Mejia said. "That's why some of my closest friends and partners are former Peace Corps Volunteers who stayed in my country."

**September 19, 2002**— Peace Corps Director Gaddi H. Vasquez announced the return of the Peace Corps to the country of Bangladesh. In early October, Peace Corps will swear-in its first group of volunteers to work in Bangladesh after a year-long absence from the country. The Peace Corps is planning to send a second contingent of trainees to Bangladesh in February of 2003. The volunteers will work in the Youth and Community Development program and Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) program. A total of 79 Peace Corps volunteers have served in Bangladesh since 1998.

**September 14, 2002**—Peace Corps Director Gaddi H. Vasquez welcomed Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo to the agency's headquarters in Washington, D.C. After a moving presentation to Returned Peace Corps volunteers and staff, Toledo and Vasquez discussed the role that Peace Corps volunteers can play in Peru now and in coming years. President Toledo had first expressed his desire to reopen Peru's doors to the Peace Corps during his Inaugural Address in 2001. After a 27-year hiatus, Peace Corps volunteers recently returned to the Andean nation. By the end of 2002 at least two dozen volunteers will work in the Peruvian regions of Ancash, Cajamarca and Piura in small business development projects and rural health education.



## Community Service Events

Hello Fellow RPCVs: *by Jared Erdmann, Honduras 99-01*

I know it has been a while since you have heard from me but I am again beginning to crawl out of my pile of school books to join the real world, at least for as long as it takes me to write to you.

For those of you who did not do MPR last February, the membership drive is a very rewarding event. Once listeners know that RPCVs are taking calls inevitably you start to get calls from other RPCVs, to hear their stories and to get calls from parents or friends of current Peace Corps Volunteers. It is a great opportunity to witness how much of an influence PCVs have had and continue to have in the big picture. If you have never done the membership drive, let this time be your first time. You will not regret it.

### What: MPR Membership Drive

**When:** November 14

**Time:** 5:45AM to 9:15AM (if you need to leave early for work, you can)

**TO VOLUNTEER PLEASE CALL ME, JARED ERDMANN AT 612.824.6732, OR EMAIL ME AT [jared\\_erdmann@hotmail.com](mailto:jared_erdmann@hotmail.com).**

**Directions:** Minnesota Public Radio is located at 45 East Seventh Street in downtown St. Paul, at the intersection of Cedar and Seventh Streets on the corner opposite the Minnesota World Trade Center.

>From Eastbound 94: Take the Fifth Street exit. At the second stoplight turn left onto Seventh Street. MPR is 1/4 mile on the left.

>From Westbound 94: Take the 12th Street exit. At the fourth stoplight turn left onto Cedar Street. MPR is 1/4 mile on the left.

>From Southbound 35E: Take the 10th Street exit. After the third stoplight turn left onto Cedar Street. MPR is three blocks on the left.

>From Northbound 35E: Take the 11th Street exit. At the third stoplight turn right onto Cedar Street. MPR is four blocks on the left.

**Parking:** Marshall Field's St. Paul Parking is providing free parking to MPR volunteers. It is located one block south of MPR on Cedar Street. Entrances are on Sixth Street between Cedar and Wabasha Streets, and on Wabasha between Sixth and Seventh Streets. If you choose to park on the street, note that the parking meters are enforced 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday. If you are scheduled to volunteer on Sunday, parking meters are free.

Thanks to Walt Johnson, a returned volunteer who served in Ghana (1963-65), we have another community service opportunity idea coming up in the near future. Please mark your calendars because this could be a **public health learning experience for all of us!**

### What: St Paul Ramsey County Health Dept. Crowd Innoculation Drill

**When:** Thursday, December 12

**Time:** 9:30 am-12 pm (Free lunch following event)

**Where:** TBA—one site in St Paul, one site in suburban Ramsey Co.

**Contact:** See below

NO ONE WILL ACTUALLY BE INNOCULATED. THE EVENT IS A DRILL :)

If you are interested in participating please contact:

Joe.Hibberd@co.ramsey.mn.us or by phone (651) 773-4469

Thanks again Walt!!!

6

MNRPCV P.O. Box 6413, Minneapolis, MN 55406

## Hello from the new Social Chair

Hi ya ll, I m excited and honored to be the new MNRPCV social chair in 2002-2003. I had a great time meeting lots of MNRPCVs last year as a newly transplanted Texan in Minnesota! I welcome your suggestions and creative ideas for social, musical, ethnic, etc. events for the MNRPCV group. Also, consider hosting a game night or metro dinner in the near future. They are lots of fun and very easy to do. Look forward to metro dinners, happy hours, game nights, social events after community service, and lots of seasonal festivities this year. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or ideas and I ll get the word out!

*Urbae Jiwa, RPCV Morocco 94-96*

[urb13@rocketmail.com](mailto:urb13@rocketmail.com) or 651-698-0734

### November 9 Metro Dinner

**Date:** Saturday, November 9th

**Restaurant:** Russian Tavern

**Address:** 2510 Horizon Drive, Burnsville, MN 55337 (952) 846-4007.

**Getting There:** Just NE of Hwy 13 & Cliff Road, also just south of the Mall of America. (So take Hwy 77 to Hwy 13 or Cliff Road and head west).

**Contact:** Jack G. Conrad at [jackgconrad@earthlink.net](mailto:jackgconrad@earthlink.net) or Michael Smith at [w.mike.s@ix.netcom.com](mailto:w.mike.s@ix.netcom.com)

### November 22 Game Night

November 22, 2002, 7-11 p.m. at the home of Curt Rahman and Cindy Jurgensen. **RSVP** 952-925-3118 or 612-207-7337

Bring snacks and games, we'll provide beverages!

#### DIRECTIONS:

**From the West,** head 394 east to 100 south to Excelsior Blvd. going east. Turn right on Wooddale Av. (it's the first street after getting off the highway as Wooddale runs parallel to the highway) and go down 3 blocks to Browndale. Turn right and we're about 1/2 block down on the left, 4209 Browndale Av.

**From Lake and Hennepin:** head west on Lake St. Just after Lake Calhoun, take the left hand split which turns into Excelsior Blvd. Head West on Excelsior until Wooddale Av. Turn left and go down 3 blocks to Browndale. Turn right and we're about 1/2 block down on the left, 4209 Browndale Av.

**From the East,** head 94 west to 394 west to 100 south to Excelsior Blvd. See above.

### Are you, too, a lousy bowler?

Come join the Lousy Bowlers League on Fridays at Minnehaha Bowling Center in St. Paul 7:00 pm. For more information contact DJ Erkenbrack at 763-767-0754 or Minnehaha Lanes at 651-488-7208.

**Where:** Minnehaha Lanes, 955 Seminary Avenue, St. Paul, MN (2 blocks east of Lexington Pkwy on Minnehaha Ave.)

**Directions:** From either Mpls or St. Paul take I-94 to the Lexington Pkwy exit; go north on Lexington to Minnehaha Avenue (which is the second signal north of University Avenue); east on Minnehaha Avenue for 2 blks. Minnehaha lanes is in the shopping center on your left.

**Remember to use the  
MNRPCV Classified Ads and Forum on  
[www.mnrpcv.org/TalkToUs.html](http://www.mnrpcv.org/TalkToUs.html)**

<http://www.mnrpcv.org>



## A Wild, Wonderful Weekend...

By Kriste Ericsson, Paraguay 86-88

How do you summarize a great weekend in 500 words or less? Elsa insists it must be done, so here goes..

On Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup> eight enthusiastic RPCVs showed up at Wild River State Park to commence a weekend of fun, food, and hard work. It was already hot and muggy, but tents were set up, a campfire struck and brats and good conversation were the order of the evening. Dan Grundtner got everyone in the groove by putting on his hat as Toastmaster, and soon we were all getting to know each other better. By the time the campfire had burnt low and the mosquitoes and heat



had disappeared it was already 1:00 AM.

The next morning we were greeted by the smell of sausages frying, coffee

perking and Mike Smith demonstrating how to make "eggs in a bag".

By 10:15 we were at the Interpretive Center, where Park Naturalist Dave Crawford gave us a great introduction on prairie restoration techniques, seed collection and buckthorn removal. Then he shoved us out the door into the steamy day and we were off.

Four more RPCVs joined us for the fun. One came from as far away as Madison, WI. Out on the prairie we collected "tall cinquefoil" seed, and in the shade great buckets full of burr oak acorns. Barely pausing for lunch, we moved deeper into the forest and spent the afternoon clearing out a couple acres worth of buckthorn. Surprisingly, everyone seemed to enjoy this!

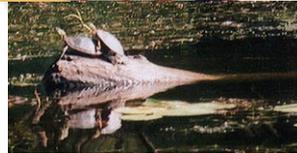
Especially since it was followed by a dip in the St. Croix River.

We were joined Saturday evening by three more friendly faces, Mary Donovan and her son, Jack, and their friend, Mary Lou. They hopped right in and made dinner for all of us over the campfire – hobo style. Got to bed a bit earlier that evening, to be ready for a nine-mile canoe trip towards Taylors Falls on Sunday.

The waters of the St. Croix were high and flowing strong. On the water the weekend heat was much less oppressive, and we had a great time paddling, drifting, swimming, and fishing our way downstream. Sometimes we linked the five canoes together and just drifted as a flotilla as we talked and snacked.

No one got lost; no one drowned. We found a great campsite for lunch and a couple of good beaches from which to take a dip. Saw plenty of turtles, great blue herons, and vultures (or maybe they were eagles!).

Should we do this again next year? Sure! Maybe along the North Shore? Maybe...





## Annual Holiday Party and Pot Luck! at the Stander s

**When:** Saturday night, December 1st beginning at 6 PM

**Why:** fun, fun, fun!! And great food courtesy of YOU. Bring your favorite dish.

**Who:** you. Family and friends are welcome, but you are required.

**Where:** 533 Portland Ave, St. Paul MN 55104, the home of Terri and Charles Stander. Take I-94 to the Dale St. exit, go south to Portland Ave. and take a left.



### WHAT SHOULD I BRING?

- \* a dish to share
- \* the recipe to share, if you dare
- \* something for the food shelf, protein suggested
- \* enough cash to buy a few of those great calendars for you and your friends
- \* your immense knowledge of geography to stun your friends in the Annual Geography Quiz!!!

**NOTE:** Kids are welcome and will be kept busy with games, videos and fun stuff to do in the huge house with the Stander kids as hosts

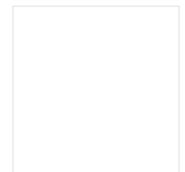
### Fall 2002 Table of Contents

Corner Board - Vicki Dilley	Page 1
Treasurer s Report	Page 2
MNRPCV Membership	Page 3
NPCA Dues Increase	Page 3
Mystery Man Revealed!	Page 3
Director Vasquez in Mpls.	Page 4
Madison RPCV Calendars for Sale	Page 4
February Ski Weekend	Page 4
Toastmasters	Page 4
New RPCV Book Out	Page 4
Masters Degrees of Interest	Page 4
NPCA Updates, Membership	Page 5
peacecorps.gov News	Page 5
Community Service	Page 6
Social Events	Page 6
Wild, Wonderful Weekend..	Page 7
Holiday Party and Potluck	Page 8

## MNRPCV

P.O. Box 6413

Minneapolis, MN 55406



CALEND ARS are here!!!

Buy yours from Mike Smith (see Page 4) or at the Holiday Party on December 1st (see above).

