

November 2010

25th Anniversary of
GCCRPCV
Peace Prints
Volume 25, Issue 1



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Gulf Coast Council of Return Peace Corps Volunteers Founded in 1985 Happy 25th Anniversary

We hope that you will enjoy this "real" issue of the Gulf Coast Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers newsletter. We have

been sending many e-mails and mini "e" newsletters recently and thought a "real" newsletter might catch your eye. Enjoy!



**Gulf Coast Council of Returned
Peace Corps Volunteers**

*Our first logo was designed by
Gene Hester*



Our first President was Jim Smith. He was transferred shortly after our group started and Deirdre Conley was President for several years. Here is the Board in 1989.

Special points of interest:

- **Holiday Party is
December 4th**
- **Annual Meeting is
January 23, 2011**
- **50th Anniversary
Event March 3rd**

Houston Area Peace Corps 50th Anniversary Celebration News

Come join us to celebrate the Peace Corps 50th anniversary this March here in Houston! The celebration will take place the evening of Thursday, March 3, at the Houston United Way, the same week as Peace Corps week nationally. The celebration is being coordinated by Chanti Koumba, the Peace Corps Regional Recruiter for the Houston area, Ryan Gorczycki, the 50th Anniversary Committee Chair for the GCC-RPCV group, and some members of the GCC-RPCV board. Chanti, as the area recruiter for Peace Corps, will be inviting the Houston community to come join us to celebrate 50 years of Peace Corps, and we are hoping for a large community turnout in addition to area RPCVs.

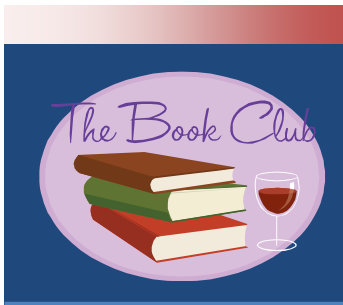
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Peace Corps Partnership Projects Fundraiser Dinner

The Gulf Coast Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers 2011 Annual Peace Corps Partnership Program fundraising dinner is scheduled to occur on **Sunday, April 17, 2011** between 4:30 and 8:00 pm. Lisa Reynolds has arranged for the dinner to be held at her mid-town apartment's club house. Specific location and parking details will be provided in future communications. This will be the 6th Fundraiser Dinner, and we have had a great success due to the participation of our members, their families, and friends. This participation has made it possible to raise a substantial amount of money each year to support one or more Peace Corps Partnership Programs. Some of the projects funded through our group's efforts have included the Kenya Aids Project (\$610), Ghana Cape Coast Field trip for middle school children and Lesotho

library project (\$690), Ambinanitelo Library/Community Center in Madagascar (\$500), and a Library project in Ecuador (\$500). In addition to support for these worthy projects, the dinners have been a great opportunity to reconnect and talk about our Peace Corps experiences.

As previously, we will call upon all of our GCC-RPCV members to donate their favorite dish from their country of service in addition to their monetary contribution. Of course, sharing a dish is not a criterion for attending and supporting the projects of our fellow active PCVs. If you have participated and supported our fundraisers in past years, we hope for your continued support. For those of you that have not participated previously, please come and join in the fun and become a supporter of Peace Corps Partnership Projects.



GCC-RPCV Book Club

A few members of the **GCCRPCV** group are in the process of putting together a Book Club. Current plans are to focus on authors suggested by Book Club members, particularly authors from their country of service or novels written by former PCVs. The discussion leader and host of the Book Club meeting will be the person whose book was chosen for the meeting. Frequency of the meetings is still to be determined and will be finalized after the Book Club is officially established. Members interested in participating in a Book Club should contact skoelzer@valtera.com.

More on the 50th Anniversary Celebrations in Houston

Continued from Page 1

Currently, we are looking for members of the GCC-RPCV group to volunteer in a variety of areas such as greeters, hosting a table representing your country or region of service (bring photos, momentos, etc., to decorate the table), or being a part of a learning station to share something more specific with the public such as a RPCV panel answering questions about Peace Corps service, a dance station, or a language station. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Ryan Gorczycki at gorc0001@umn.edu or 612-701-5745. Give your name, country of service, and the type of area in which you would like to volunteer. Additional station ideas are welcome and it is encouraged to contact your fellow Houston RPCVs from the same country or region in creating a table or station. There is a soft deadline to declare interest in volunteering by December 1st to determine our event resources to aid in advertising for the event, with a hard deadline being February 1st to plan for the event. Of course we will still take volunteers right up until March 3, these volunteers will just be added to the existing event stations. Additional information about the event will be given at the GCC-RPCV Christmas party this December, and later in e-mail as the event gets closer. We hope to see you at the 50th Celebration!

Board Job Descriptions



President

The President is principal officer of GCCRPCV and serves as chairman of the Board of Directors. He/she presides at meetings of the Board, and serves as an ex-officio member of all committees. The President, with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall create and appoint chairpersons of committees. The President is responsible for the execution of the policies and programs of the Board, and for the administration of the affairs of GCCRPCV.

Vice President

The Vice President shall perform such duties as may be assigned from time to time by the Board of Directors, or the President. In the event that illness or other disability prohibits the President from performance, the Vice President shall have the power to perform the duties that are ordinarily the responsibility of the President.

Secretary

The Secretary is responsible for ensuring that accurate minutes of meetings are taken, approved, and distributed. He/she is sufficiently familiar with legal documents such as by-laws and makes sure they are available at all meetings; acts as parliamentarian making sure Robert's Rules of Order are followed during meetings, fulfills any other requirements of an Officer, and performs other duties as the need arises and/or as defined in the bylaws.

Treasurer

The GCCRPCV Treasurer is primarily responsible for tracking revenue and expenditures for the group. He/she tracks calendar purchases to determine the total amount that can be donated to projects in the Peace Corps Partnership Program and manages the bank and Paypal accounts for the GCCRPCV. The Treasurer prepares an annual report to the NPCA on total expenditures and ensures the proper IRS filing is completed to maintain the group's nonprofit status.

Fundraiser Chair

Currently, the Fundraising Chair coordinates the yearly Peace Corps Partnership Fundraiser Dinner which includes asking for participation of members to provide dishes from their country of service and monitoring the numbers of individuals who will attend the dinner. The Chair researches the Peace Corps web site for the Partnership proposals submitted by Texas volunteers. Members vote on the proposal(s) to fund with the money raised. The person filling this position potentially has flexibility to identify other areas in which money could be raised to fund the Peace Corps Partnership program.

Webmaster

The Webmaster is responsible for updating the website. The person must have some knowledge of website design is helpful. Must have access to web editing software that allows for uploads (ftp). Being able to convert documents to pdf format is also helpful.

Membership/ Data Base

A good working knowledge of Access or Excel data base is helpful. This person keeps the membership list updated and can provide mailing labels for mail outs and email addresses for email news blasts.

Special Events Planning events and helping with publicity are the main duties of this person.

Archivist The Archivist acts as the historian for the organization.

Many thanks are in order for the 3 Board members leaving us in January. Kevin has been an expert Treasurer, Sally has helped us raise almost \$4,000 for Peace Corps Partnership, and Bill has been a great Vice President.

The above 9 positions are voting members of the Board of Directors per our By Laws. (see: <http://www.peacecorphouston.com/bylaws.pdf>) The general membership votes on the Board and then the Board fills the above positions from the elected people. At the Annual Meeting in January 2011, 3 positions on the Board will be open. The people leaving the Board currently hold the following positions: Treasurer, Fundraising, and Vice President. We need new people to join the Board in January. Most likely, these are the positions that you would be able to fill. Call or email the current Board if you would like more information.

Membership Enrollment Form for GCCRPCV

1 CONTACT INFO

Name: _____ Country of Service: _____
Address: _____ Years of Service: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Service Focus: _____
Home Phone: _____
Work Phone: _____
Email Address: _____

2 SERVICE INFO

3 MEMBERSHIP DUES and PAYMENT

GCC RPCV Annual Dues: @ \$15 per person
___ No. Persons
Additional donation to GCC RPCV \$ _____
Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Payment Options:
Mail a check or money order to:
GCCRPCV
PO Box 980393
Houston, TX 77098-0393

Pay Online at: <http://www.peacecorpshouston.com> Go to our ON LINE STORE

Annual membership dues and donations to GCCRPCV are TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

Form to Express Interest in a Position on the Board

1 Must be a paid member

2 Complete the form below and mail to the

PO Box or send information via email to
Secretary@peacecorpshouston.com

3 Form:

Name: _____
Address: _____

Phone: _____
Email: _____

Country of Service: _____
Date of Service: _____
Position(s) you are interested in:

Board Openings : Annual Meeting Jan. 23

The GCCRPCV By Laws call for three Board positions to be open each year. This year, persons who have served as Treasurer, Vice President and Fundraising Chair will have served their three-year term and may either retire from the Board or choose to run for re-election.

The Annual Meeting is when the general membership votes for the Board of Directors. The Board then votes for the Executive positions. All GCCRPCV members who are interested in serving on the Board are welcome to submit their names for the January 23rd election.

The current Board Terms are:

Expiring in 2011: Kevin Barnard, Sally Koelzer, Bill Tilney.

Expiring in 2012: Stephanie Wilson, Tara Smarsh, and Nancy Gibson.

Expiring in 2013: Ken Fraley, Lisa Reynolds, and Joe McElligot

The Annual Meeting will be January 23rd from 4:30 –7:30 and will also be a pot luck dinner. Watch the website and for email updates for more details. See Page 3 for a list of the Board Job Descriptions.

Our Connection with KIVA Projects

Since 2008 the GCC group has been giving back by lending money through the organization Kiva. By partnering with existing micro finance institutions (field partners) in developing countries, Kiva, is a very simple way for individuals or groups to provide micro financing to people who have few options for financing. The GCC has made 77 loans, most of about \$25 each. The GCC started with \$700 and has re-lent most of this amount several times over as loans have been repaid. In fact, the GCC has loaned a total of \$2,425 since 2008 without adding any additional funds. The delinquency rate is very low, 3.35% for the loans.

Most of the GCC loans have been made to women (68.5%) in the retail (32.9%) and food (28.8%) sectors. The GCC loans have been fairly evenly distributed among various countries with the two highest recipient countries being Cambodia (8.2%) and Bolivia (8.2%). Through Kiva, there is a real connection to the people receiving the loans, like Christy Evbuomwan, a 58-year old Nigerian woman with 4 children who used the loan to buy and sell sarongs. The GCC, with many other lenders, provided Ms. Evbuomwan a \$675 loan on July 23, 2009 which was completely repaid by April 20, 2010. When repayment is complete Kiva credits our account. We can re-lend our funds to other entrepreneurs, donate their funds to Kiva (to cover operational expenses), or withdraw our funds. We usually donate some funds to Kiva, but a majority of the money is re-lent. Kiva is a great organization, you should go to their webpage, www.kiva.org, and check it out yourself.

The GCC could not have made these loans without the support of its members (several of whom have made donations specifically for Kiva). Also, many thanks to Lisa Reynolds, the GCC Archivist who has managed the Kiva loans for the past few years!



Many thanks to our
retiring President,
Heidi Bacon.

Did you know....the GCC has
helped more than 70 individuals
and groups with micro
financing. See the KIVA article.



Above: Jim Smith

Below: Deirdre
Conley, Janet Beck
and Robert Willis



GCCRPCV
PO Box 980393
Houston, TX 77098-0393

Important Dates

November Reconnect: none

Holiday Party : December 4th
6PM at Kevin Barnard's
1603 Fawnhope, Houston, TX

Annual Meeting: January 23, 2011
from 4:30-7:30pm

50th Anniversary Event March 3rd

2011 Fundraising Event will be
April 17th 4:30 –8PM

Please check our website for updates as times and places could change due to unforeseen circumstances.

www.peacecorps-houston.com

Bringing the world back home.



Clockwise from top left: Rafting on the Guadalupe in 1988;

Galveston meeting 1989,

Reconnect 2010.