

Connecting

May-July, 2009

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Northern
California
Peace Corps
Association



50th Anniversary Matching Fund

Here is yet another benefit of being a NorCal member. NPCA President Kevin Quigley writes about the 50th anniversary in 2011, "Peace Corps does not simply belong to RPCVs, but rather it touches the lives of the American and host-country staff, colleagues, family and friends. It is important for us now to find adequate and sufficient ways to honor this anniversary, so that anyone who is interested can play a role in celebrating Peace Corps' many accomplishments, and rebuilding these life-long connections among so many of us around the world."

In honor of the 50th anniversary of Peace Corps, NPCA plans a 50th Anniversary fundraising campaign that will strengthen NPCA's capacity to fulfill the promise of Peace Corps. We envision four pillars to the campaign:

a. Permanent Presence for Peace. A permanent presence on or near the Mall in Washington, DC that honors the values that led to the creation of Peace Corps, a uniquely American institution. It will offer information and provide an opportunity for visitors from across the country and around the world to reflect on the possibilities of service, global understanding and cooperation.

- b. MorePeaceCorps Advocacy Campaign.** This innovative campaign calls for a bigger, better, bolder Peace Corps that will raise awareness at every level and in every sector of the importance of service and provide the impetus for the revitalized Peace Corps of the 21st century.
- c. 2011 People for Peace.** A major event on the National Mall in Washington, DC in honor of Peace Corps' 50th that will provide the opportunity for hundreds/thousands/tens of thousands to come together in celebration of service and peace, with concurrent events across the globe.
- d. Permanent Fund for the Third Goal.** Endowment to support NPCA program development that will strengthen the capacity of our member groups to have even greater impact with their special projects and implement Peace Corps' Third Goal of bringing the world back home.

If you contribute to the 50th Anniversary Peace Corps Fund through NorCal and are a NorCal member, NorCal will match the funds up to \$500. The ability to contribute through NorCal may be added to our website and PayPal, but for now please send a check made out to NPCA to NorCal's PO Box with 50th Anniversary noted in the memo section. NorCal will match the contributions made dollar for dollar up to the first \$500 so your contributions will be worth twice the amount.

More Peace Corps

RPCV Congressman Sam Farr of Monterey (Colombia 64-66) introduced the Peace Corps Expansion Act 2009 on February 13, 2009 with 40 co-sponsors; there are now over 100 signed on. This bill calls for \$450, \$600, and \$750 million to Peace Corps in FY 2010, 2011, and 2012. For up to date information, see www.morepeacecorps.org



Will this be the new NorCal logo?
Board to make decision soon!

President's Message

Dear NorCal Member,

Thank you so much for taking the time and effort to support our organization financially by paying your dues. In this electronic age, maybe there is a perception that everything is free, but even NorCal's electronic messages (our website, our electronic newsletter) cost about \$500 a year. The rest of NorCal's expenses last year (not what was donated and given to Grants) were over \$4,000.

By being a member you keep our organization in existence. You are one of about 400 RPCVs who belong to NorCal out of at least 5000 RPCVs in our area. That may be a small number of members, but you are making a big difference in keeping our organization alive.

Now I would like to ask each of you a big favor. I would like you to take one minute to think about how in 2009 you can personally help NorCal become stronger within our RPCV community. How can we connect you more to our organization and in doing so improve the well being of the group? One area that the Board will be working on this year is to develop a means to encourage and support NorCal volunteers more. We are working on a volunteer database.

A shining example of this spirit is Karen Keefer. Karen is a member of the Commonwealth Club. For those programs that Karen feels would be of interest to the RPCV community, she has gotten the Commonwealth Club to agree to allow us the member rate to attend. She has also organized other peninsula events. And she took the time and effort to nominate a fellow RPCV (Bie Bostrom) for the Lillian Carter Award, asking us if she could nominate Bie on behalf of NorCal.

See *President's Message*, page 4

Calendar of Events



NorCal

May

03 Su 10am-noon. Board meeting at the SF Red Cross building. First Floor boardroom, 85 Second Street (at Mission), San Francisco. Ask in lobby if you need help.

July

12 Su 10 am to noon. Board meeting; location TBD. Anyone interested in attending can contact Jayma Brown at 510.237.0231

September

12 Sa 16th Annual Recently Returned Potluck, 4 pm. at the home of Chris Carlisle (Poland 91-93), 2427 Ashby Avenue, Berkeley. PC office may invite some pre-PCVs. Bring food and feel free to have friends tag along. Questions? Contact Chris at cgc@ocf.berkeley.edu or 510.848.8564.

East Bay

May

14 Th 7-9pm. We are starting a book club (second Thurs of each month). The meetings will be in the East Bay (Oakland) but everyone is welcome. Selecting RPCV writers, we will start with *My African Horse Problem* by William Miles. Meet at Meg Carter's, 360 Vernon St, #109--the cross-streets are MacArthur Blvd & Perkins St.—about a 15-minute walk from the 19th St BART station. Closest bus lines: #11 & #57. RSVP to Meg Carter at meg_carter@juno.com.

20 We Potluck dinner 6:30-7:30 pm, movie at 7:30pm. Showing *New Year Baby*, a documentary of a young Cambodian woman who was born in a refugee camp in Thailand & emigrated with her family to the US. As a young adult she discovered secrets about the Khmer Rouge genocide & went to Cambodia

to try to understand it. It's won many awards. More info at <http://www.newyearbaby.net>. Contact Jayma at 510.237.0231 or jaymaghana@earthlink.net. Jayma & Allan are located at 525 32nd, Richmond between Barrett and Roosevelt. Plenty of street parking but not too close to BART so if you need to be picked up give us a call.

June

11 Th 7-9 pm. Book Club. Contact Meg Carter to find out what the book will be for this month at meg_carter@juno.com.

19 Fr 6 pm. Hangout at Albatross, 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. Contact Jean and Raleigh at jellisen@sbcglobal.net.

24 We Movie Night. Contact Jayma at jaymaghana@earthlink.net or 510.237.0231 for movie and location.

July

9 Th 7-9 pm. Book Club (see June 11)

San Francisco

May

17 Su 8:00 am Bay-to-Breakers with NorCal Peace Corps Association. B2B is on this year! We will be meeting up early on Sunday to run/walk/stumble 12K (7.46 miles) from the Embarcadero through Golden Gate Park to Ocean Beach together. Wear a Peace Corps shirt, a flag from your country of service or traditional dress of your host country (if feasible). Let Emily know your name and e-mail to receive a 10% group discount. The registration fee is \$44. Contact Emily Harris at rpcvemily@yahoo.com

17 Su 5:00 pm, Post-B2B barbecue and RPCV social. Meet up with other NorCal finishers and friends to celebrate the day's victory at Daniel Marlay's house, 1021 Divisadero, for barbecue, conversation and beer. Some food and drinks will be provided but not guaranteed. If

you are interested in helping out or have

some ideas for this event, please contact Daniel: 415.307.4961 (cell) or dmarley@yahoo.com

20 We 7:00 pm, NorCal SF mid-year planning, meeting & election at Velo Rouge Café (awesome gourmet pizzas at a very reasonable price) at Arguello and McAllister near USF/the Conservatory of Flowers. Share ideas for what the SF member group should be doing this year. Elect a new SF representative. Members can either vote in person or e-mail their vote (candidates and details to follow via e-mail). If interested in being a candidate, please e-mail a paragraph about yourself and your interest to Andrew Bradley, the outgoing rep by May 8th. Contact Andrew @ 415.407.4067 (cell) or afbpcv@yahoo.com

23 Sa 11:00 am, Volunteer at Project Open Hand—help the elderly and those with debilitating illnesses by packing groceries and putting together meals for delivery. Project Open Hand is located at 730 Polk Street (between Ellis and Eddy near the Civic Center). RSVP to Andrew Bradley afbpcv@yahoo.com by May 18th.

June

19 Fr 7:00 pm, Hangout at the Page Bar, Divisadero and Page Streets. Come and discuss all the Peace Corps stuff that bores your significant other and non-PC friends to death and enjoy a tasty beverage. Peace Corps sympathizers/fellow travelers are also invited. Contact Daniel Marlay, 415.307.4961 (cell), dmarley@yahoo.com

See *Calendar*, page 3

**Everyone is welcome to attend any event.
Watch the website calendar at www.norcalpca.org for events.**

North Bay

May

02 Sa 9:00 A.M., Trail clearing, Point Reyes National Seashore. Meet at the red barn & bring a bag lunch. Potluck following work day at picnic area across from Visitor's Center. Contact Doug Haner at: doug@yosemitecreek.com

June

13 Sa 11 am-6 pm—SF Peace Corps Office is seeking volunteers for Fairfax Ecofest willing to work a 2-hour shift. Contact Jennifer Clowers (Guinea/Niger 06-08) clowers@peacecorps.gov or call 510.452.8454. More info can be found on the Ecofest website: <http://www.wpn.org/ecofestival/index.php>

Santa Cruz/Monterey

May

02 Sa 12 noon—RPCV Spring Fling! Come Celebrate May Day, Festival of Spring, and Vivan Los Trabajadores! at a Peace Corps potluck at Celia's house, 220 Granite St. Pacific Grove. Please bring a dish to share—International and/or spring theme greatly appreciated! We will be electing a new NorCal board alternate representative and welcoming/connecting with Monterey Institute RPCVs before their term ends. Family, friends, children, and prospective PCVs welcome, but please RSVP to Celia at 831.375.5002 or celiabos@gmail.com

SF Member Group News

The San Francisco Member Group is looking for a new board representative! We need a dynamic, enthusiastic person to keep the events rolling and work with Annie Bovone to help create more Third Goal and volunteer opportunities for the SF RPCV community. The position does not require a tremendous commitment of time (roughly 1-5 hours per week on average), but requires the person be a current member of NorCal. The election of the new representative will be held at the mid-year planning session, which will take place at Velo Rouge Café on Wednesday, May 20th (see calendar). Voting will be conducted both online (via e-mail) and at the planning meeting on the 20th.

Outgoing SF Board Representative Andrew Bradley will be moving out of the Bay Area in June and will be starting graduate school at Washington University in St. Louis in the fall. Fittingly, he will be the recipient of the John F. Kennedy Scholarship, which is given to MSW students who are return-

ing Peace Corps volunteers and show "potential for innovative leadership in social work." Yet another example of the professional benefits of being an RPCV! He would like his NorCal friends to keep in touch by e-mailing their contact info to him at afbpcv@yahoo.com.

On March 21st, a group of SF RPCVs volunteered at the Computer Help Day at the Tenderloin Computer Lab. Thanks to Bosco So for promoting this event and the Computer Technology Network, a national-wide organization that is working to bridge the digital divide.

Our 3rd Annual Bissap Baobab dinner and dining event was held on April 25th. NorCal pretty much took over the restaurant with a group of around 30. It was a really fun night out and a chance to connect with RPCVs of all ages and countries of service. For those who missed out on their *mafé* fix, have no fear! NorCal will be having its popular Peanut Sauce Party and Cook-off this August. Watch the listserv and website for more details.

Sign Up to Stay Connected NorCal Listservs

NorCal has several listservs to keep our community informed and they are all available on the NorCal webpage at www.norcalpca.org. These are Yahoo listservs and include the NorCal-wide list recommended for everyone plus one for each member group: SF, East Bay, South Bay, North Bay, Santa Cruz/Monterey. There is also an Advocacy listserv for more political and opinion issues and one for posting job announcements and job seekers. Check it out and stay informed.

Monthly eNews

NorCal has a monthly electronic newsletter, *eConnection*, that you can sign up for on the website at: www.norcalpca.org.

Member Group Contacts

San Francisco:

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afbpcv@yahoo.com until 6/1
Annie Bovone 415.806.7957
abovone@sbcglobal.net

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North Bay:

Amanda Carles 707.778.7832
ndesy5@yahoo.com

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Santa Cruz/Monterey:

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Submitting Items to Connecting

CONNECTING will be published quarterly. All submissions must be sent to:

Darleen Beals, 17145 Vailetti Drive, Sonoma, CA 95476 707.938.1941 darleenb@yahoo.com

and received no later than July 15th for publication in the August-September-October issue. CONNECTING reserves the right to edit for space, spelling and grammar. All newsletter items must be sent to Darleen. Any late submissions must first be cleared by contacting the editor for possible late inclusion.

NorCal and NPCA News

Board Retreat—March 1, 2009

The NorCal Board retreat was held at the home of Kandis Scott on the Stanford Campus.



The retreat started with a chance for the new Board to get to know each other a little better. We found out what each of the current Board did as their first job, what they did in the Peace Corps, what we had in common with a partner on the Board and what we would do individually with a million dollars. We broke out into groups to look at what NorCal was doing and what it could do better. The common thread was that there are social activities, but there could be better support and service. The Board decided to have a point person for each of these areas.

The general meeting proceeded as follows:

An overview of the past year's accomplishments and projections for the next year was given by out-going President Scott Watenpaugh. Elections were then held with the following unanimous results:

- President: Jayma Brown (East Bay)
- Vice President: Annie Bovone (San Francisco)
- Treasurer: Meera Chary (At-Large)
- Secretary: Michael Van Derwood (East Bay)

Database: Currently there are 421 members on the NorCal database.

Membership dues: The discussion on dues was tabled until the next meeting when Meera would provide research and data to see whether or not NorCal PCA could drop its rate of \$19, or would need to raise it to \$20 based on forecasted costs and expenses.

NorCal calendar:

Board meetings: Sundays from 10 noon—May 3rd, July 12th, Sep 13th, Nov. 8th, Jan. 10th.

Holiday Party: Saturday, Dec 5th,
Picnic (North Bay): Saturday, Oct. 3,
AGM: Saturday, Jan 30th, 2010.

Contribution for PC Memorial in DC to commemorate 50 years of PC: \$500 of NorCal PCA's funds would be set aside as a matching fund for NorCal members who donated.

Calendars: 50 calendars to be purchased for volunteer recognition from the Madison RPCV group.

President's Message,

continued from page 1

So I know that you can spare a dime, because you've already given us that and more. Now, I'm asking if you can spare a minute to think of other ways that you can help us strength our RPCV community. Please feel free to talk about or email your ideas to any of the NorCal Board members. Your member group reps are always looking for more activities and the NorCal Board appreciates any assistance it can get.

Jayma Brown, President
jaymaghana@earthlink.net

Board Changes

Two of our very active board members are leaving the NorCal board and California this spring. We wish them both our best.

Ben Bellows off to Africa

Ben Bellows is going to Kenya in August for a job with Population Council, basically building on the work he has been doing for the past four years for his PhD. Based in Nairobi, he will work in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Bangladesh and Cambodia.

Just to keep things lively, Ben and his wife, Nicole, are expecting a second child in June. He says, "Should be interesting with the newborn."

Thank You Andrew!

NorCal appreciates all your efforts for the SF member group and your leadership of the Membership Committee. Good luck in grad school. See SF Member News on page 3.

NPCA Update

As your representative on the National Peace Corps Association's board of directors, I went to Washington, DC to attend an NPCA board meeting on March 8th.

NPCA staff (along with members of the NPCA Directors Circle and Advisory Council) held a meeting at Peace Corps Headquarters on March 6, with acting Peace Corps Director Jody Olsen. The new NPCA social networking website, Peace Corps Connect, is up and running. During the first month, nearly 5,000 people had signed on to become members. There is cautious optimism that funding for the PC will increase incrementally over the next three years, if HR 1066 passes. Support to increase PC's budget in both the House and Senate seems solid. Everyone is urged to contact their representatives in Congress to urge them to support this important increase in PC funding. The More Peace Corps campaign, which has generated much interest and participation over the past few months, will continue—at least through June—to advocate for a Bigger, Better and Bolder Peace Corps.

The NPCA ended 2008 with a budget surplus, exceeding its target by \$75K. The Gates Foundation grant of \$497K (to be used for funding the Africa Rural Connect) will begin being disbursed, hopefully in April. As of March 8, the number of NPCA Member Groups was 141, of which 83 had uploaded their webpage to the ConnectedPeaceCorps website. 17 others were in the process of doing so, and five others were pending. A fundraising event to raise money for the NPCA (to be directed towards activities associated with the PC's 50th Anniversary in 2011) is being planned for later this year.

Joe Hindman, NPCA Representative
joehondo@hotmail.com in Oregon

NorCal Officers

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jaymaghana@earthlink.net
Vice President: Annie Bovone 415.806.7957
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Returned Volunteer Services: Vacant
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831.724.1918 marhyde@cruzio.com
Advocacy: Celia Bosworth
831.375.5002 celiabos@gmail.com
NorCal Web Site: www.norcalpca.org

Grants Update

NorCal Grants Program Proposals
Due July 31, 2009

Once again this year, we are requesting your help in identifying worthy projects for NorCal Grants funding. In over 28 years, NorCal has maintained a long-standing commitment to provide financial support for community development programs. Last year, 2008, NorCal Grants helped projects in Belize, Colombia, Kenya, Namibia, and Eauripik Atoll, Micronesia.

We are especially interested in projects submitted by Northern California Peace Corps Association members and current Peace Corps Volunteers from Northern California.

The NorCal funding criteria include (as many as possible of the following):

- Be technically and economically feasible
- Improve the general welfare of the community
- Ensure that all those actively involved in the project will benefit from the results
- Address community need
- Facilitate the transfer of technology, skills and knowledge to others
- Foster self-sufficiency

The application deadline is **July 31, 2009**. Specific information about the application, process, and past awardees can be found on the NorCal Website at www.norcalpca.org. For more information contact Marilyn Hyde, Grants Committee Chair, at 831.724.1918 or marhyde@cruzio.com

Results of 2008 Grants Funding

1. NorCal Grants received the 2008 Annual Report of the **Habele Outer Island Education Fund**. The Habele Program is dedicated to educational projects in the Outer Islands of Micronesia. Their 2008 accomplishments included mailing over two dozen boxes of books and school supplies to seven islands and atolls. In 2008, the NorCal Grants donation of \$500 was used for lighting at the Euripik Atoll Public Library. For more details see the website at www.habele.org

2. A thank you letter from the **Grandmothers Raising Grandchildren** project:

Thanks for the money wired which will go to Goats Project. So far 58 goats plus food was delivered to G r G. The additional money will enable us to have 2 more goats for a bout 6 members who have large number of the Orphans to take care of.

It was a good initiative and I hope when you come for a visit we hope to go round to confirm whatever we have done. September is just around the corner. Lona Nyaywera (79yrs) actually was in our original list, those whom we interviewed first, She was reluctant then later feel the need of becoming a serious member. I remember during your last visit we never visited her at home but later approached me. As per now she has 2 grandchildren aged 7 yrs and 11yrs.

Mary Atieno Ouko(62yrs) has 3 grandchildren ages 7yrs,10yrs and14yrs is also one of the members who makes baskets.

I would like to request you to send a full list of G r G members so that we see how to handle cases of those who are not part of the project. Some have genuine cases and I hope we will consider them later.

Since the project started, I have a big challenge. Quite a number of Grandmothers who are also taking care of the Orphans always approached me in order to include them on the project. I have nothing to say but to encourage them to be in touch. My suggestion when you come next time, we can do another interview. In an African society when someone is left out on something she or He is qualified to they become discouraged.

It is my prayer the project will expand when the necessary will be there to accommodate another 30 members who are actually in need.

With the balls the orphans too will be in a position to form a strong team so that they have time to meet every weekends.

*Finally, I hope to let you know the last purchases soon, maybe after next Tuesday. **Oriti wanenore kendo ! Moses Warah***

3. **Tukwafeni Garden Project** to be officially opened, paving the way for employment of local gardeners, increased food security, and a training centre for school learners and workshop participants.

Olupito-Okalongo, Namibia, 22 April 2009 – On Thursday, 30 April 2009 at 10:00 in Olupito-Okalongo, government and community leaders, and community members will join The Tukwafeni Garden Project to officially open the garden. Thanks to generous funding from The Church Alliance for Orphans (CAFO), The Omusati Regional Council, and The Northern California Peace Corps Association, this Project has become a reality.



Using a neighbouring family garden, in existence since 1968, as an example and source of pride and motivation, project members have been working to start a community project which would generate income, increase food security, and also serve as a training centre for school learners and workshop participants. This large garden (150 square metres) is an impressive sight, and members have been working hard. From the construction of a quality fence, to land preparation, to planting, it is clear the group is motivated and their intentions are pure. They are using the land they know so well, with the experience of the neighbouring family garden, to make home-grown food security a reality. Income will be generated through produce sales, as well as nominal fees for use as a training centre.

Finally, this project serves as an example to others in their community and beyond, about what more can be done with the fertile land we are lucky to have here, and about how to maximize water conservation. "Gardens are such a good opportunity, especially here in the North, where we have fertile soil, but when we finish cultivating muhangu, we don't continue working in the fields," said Meme Petrine Shiimi, director of Oonte OVC organization in Ondangwa, who visited the family garden and Tukwafeni Project last year. As a training centre, the Project will inspire, encourage, and guide visitors to make/improve their own gardens, ensuring a healthy and nutritional diet for generations to come.

The Lillian Carter Award

The Lillian Carter Award honors outstanding senior volunteers who have kept alive President John F. Kennedy's dream of international service. Miss Lillian, President Jimmy Carter's mother, joined the Peace Corps in 1966 at age 68 as a public health volunteer in India. Her commitment to Peace Corps service was an extension of her tireless dedication and support of people and humanitarian organizations at home and abroad.

The award was established in 1986 in Atlanta as a biennial event. It is the largest domestic Peace Corps celebration and attracts a diverse audience from around the United States. Hosted by the Carter Center, the 2009 event is scheduled for May 13, and will emphasize the extraordinary impact age 50+ Peace Corps Volunteers have made around the globe since 1961, as well as the current poignancy of committing our nation to the values of volunteerism and national service. In addition to acknowledging Miss Lillian and the 2009 award recipient, President Carter will commemorate all the senior volunteers who have dedicated themselves since 1961 to promoting the organization's mission of world peace and development.

Nominations for this prestigious award are accepted from Peace Corps staff, returned Peace Corps Volunteers, and RPCV groups. Nominees must have served in Peace Corps as a senior (age 50+) and shown a demonstrated commitment to the Peace Corps' third goal.

The following nominees are members of NorCal:

June Tolbert

At age 52, June volunteered for the Peace Corps and spent 2 years in Guatemala from 1983-85 teaching in a nutrition program. Following her return from Guatemala, she continued to teach and in her classroom she promoted the importance and enrichment of volunteering. Through photographs, traditional clothing and crafts, she brought her Peace Corps experience to life for her students and helped them to understand a people of another culture.

In the past, June has been active in participating in the Family Nights in San Francisco that Peace Corps arranged for departing PCVs and their families. She also served as a panelist at Foreign



June Tolbert at a 4th of July parade in Santa Rosa

Affairs meetings in Santa Rosa at which she related her experiences, answered questions, and enthusiastically discussed the value of Peace Corps.

June has been a faithful volunteer at Point Reyes National Seashore in working with a group of other RPCVs in clearing trails. She was always eager to inform any user of the trail that this work was done by former PC volunteers. On the Fourth of July in Sonoma, she would be on hand to march in the parade with other RPCVs, proud to wear her Guatemalan garments. Volunteerism has become a focus of her life and her enthusiasm and friendliness in imparting the value of being a Peace Corps Volunteer is constantly seen. June epitomizes the third goal of the PC on a day-to-day basis as a perpetual ambassador for PC by simply sharing her memories and experiences with all who touch her life.

Beatrice (Bie) Bostrom

Bie has always had a love of photography ever since she was a young girl. This led to her 21-year work with Studio Bostrom, a commercial photo studio on New York City, photographing such prestigious groups as UNICEF and Save the Children. When her husband was dying of cancer in 2001, he asked Bie what she was going to do when he passed on. She responded, "Join the Peace Corps". And she did in 2004, when she was 63 years old.

As a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ahero, Kenya, Bie was assigned to work in Small Enterprise Development and Education Training, which offered training to youth in photography, computer and information technology. However, she also saw the vast need of children whose parents died of AIDS-related illnesses, which led to her also organiz-

ing training in safe water treatment, AIDS awareness, and income-generating activities. With a poverty rate at approximately 67% in Nyando District, most residents live on less than \$1 a day,

Upon her return to the States, she felt the need to expand her assistance to these orphans and their grandmothers. So she founded "Grandmothers Raising Grandchildren," to continue assisting a group of 42 grandmothers who were left to raise a total of 102 grandchildren.

In the two years since Bie has returned to the U.S., another 20 grandchildren have joined the group needing help. During this time, Bie has:

- Formed "Grandmothers Raising Grandchildren, Inc.", a 501(c)(3) non profit organization to market the baskets the grandmothers weave
- Created a brochure and website: www.grgahero.org
- Sold over 300 baskets in the U.S., Belgium and New Zealand
- Received a NorCal Peace Corps Association grant, which paid for 50 pairs of shoes and 50 school uniforms
- Raised additional funds to pay for 80 goats: 72 female and 8 male--20 of these have already been given to the grandmothers to raise and help generate income
- Spoken at the Commonwealth Club of California on "What Happens to Orphans of AIDS Parents?" The Club is the nation's oldest and largest public affairs forum
- Made additional donations to NADERMO (National Dermatology Organization), which visits Ahero once a month to treat the most common skin diseases free of charge

Indefatigable, Bie's goals for 2009 include:

- Have all kids tested for HIV/AIDS
- Buy mattresses and mosquito nets for those without them
- Provide goats for each family, in order to generate income



Bie Bostrom is the personification of all three Peace Corps goals!!!

NorCal-NPCA Membership Form

Name: _____ Email address: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Phone: (home) _____ (work) _____ (cell) _____

Occupation: _____

Country and dates of service: _____ PC program/job: _____

Membership Dues for NorCal only:

____ One-year Membership: \$19 Donation to NorCal Grants: \$____ Donation to support NorCal \$____

Send your \$19 check to *NorCal PCA PO Box 2547, San Francisco, CA 94126.*

Or you can join and pay online at www.norcalpca.org for NorCal only.

Membership Dues for both NPCA and the Northern California Affiliate Group—must go through NPCA in DC

____ Individual one-year Membership: \$50

____ Free one-year Membership (individuals who COSed during the last 12 months)

Payment options: Select Northern California as your affiliate group.

- Make check payable to NPCA or
- Pay by credit card: Please charge \$____ to my ____ MC ____ VISA ____ AmEx
Card number _____ Expiration Date: _____
Signature _____

NPCA will send Nor-Cal our \$15 share of your dues.

Mail to: NPCA Membership, 1900 L Street NW, Suite 404, Washington, DC 20036

Or you can join online at www.rpcv.org. Select Northern California as your affiliate group.

Judging the World Affairs Challenge at SF State

Several months ago I responded to a NorCal listserv announcement asking for volunteers to work at World Savvy's annual World Affairs Challenge on March 14 at San Francisco State University. I was invited to be a judge and participated in an hour-long orientation conference call.

The theme for this year was "Human Migration. There were three areas of competition—posters, team presentations and mixed team Q&A challenge. Teams came from schools all over the Bay Area. Separate prizes were given for middle school and high school teams, but the posters were presented together and the judges heard presentations from both levels. There were as many dioramas as posters with a wide range of creativity and topics touching on human migration—migration due to the drug trade, human traffick-



ing, youth conscription, religious and ethnic persecution and climate change.

Presentations were thoroughly rehearsed skits by teams of 5-10 students. Although not all the presentations were on human migration, they were creative. My favorite was a group from Napa who had made their own tie-dye t-shirts with their character names stenciled on, set in a village grocery store, with the shoppers explaining how hard it was to find their staple foods, and working that into the day's theme.

The last two sessions were more challenging for both the students and judges. Students were chosen at random from several teams, and this mix-and-match team was handed a 4-page document, each page describing a UN project in a different country which had a human migration theme, and their job was to decide which project to fund (they could only select one) and tell us why. They had half an hour before the judges were



let in. The format was Q&A-- the judges asked the students for their decision and we had to determine how unanimous it was and how they reached it. To make life interesting, all the projects cost the same amount of money, but helped different numbers and kinds of people in different ways.

At the closing ceremonies everyone was given an event t-shirt and speeches were made. It was a day well spent and very gratifying to see so many students interested enough in the world to take the time and effort for this event. I've volunteered to be a judge again next year.

Howard Stateman (Thailand 75-77)

SF Peace Corps Office News

Peace Corps' 50th Anniversary will be here soon! We invite you to contribute to Peace Corps' 50th Anniversary Digital Library—a searchable collection of photos, stories and documents about Peace Corps, the Volunteer experience, and the agency's legacy of service around the globe. Peace Corps hopes to include photos and stories from each country where Volunteers have served, and from each decade of Peace Corps history. To contribute a story and up to five photos from your Peace Corps service using our online submission forms, go to www.peacecorps.gov/50 and scroll down to 'Contribute to the 50th Anniversary Digital Library.' You'll find detailed instructions, photo and story submission guidelines, and links to the online submission forms. You can also browse the digital library and view our growing collection of materials contributed by RPCVs. If you have questions or suggestions about this project, email digital@peacecorps.gov or contact Stacia Clifton at 202.692.2214.

In February, we welcomed new Recruiter Jennifer (Jenn) Clowers, who served as an Agro/Forestry Extension Agent in Guinea from 2006-07 assisting women's garden cooperatives and providing technical assistance in a rural village. In 2007, Peace Corps evacuated Guinea and Jenn chose to complete her service in Niger where she worked with the Artisan Cooperative of the National Museum to improve artisan income, marketing, product quality control, & customer service. Jenn recruits in the North Bay, Humboldt, and San Joaquin Valley.

We want to thank those of you who participated in Peace Corps Week – particularly those who presented to local schools and organizations and those who received proclamations from 19 cities and counties in the region. Thank you!

Our region received four nominations for the Lillian Carter Award which will be considered along with nominations from RPCVs throughout the nation. The prestigious award is presented by Miss Lillian's son,

President Jimmy Carter to a Volunteer who served later in life and whose current activities exemplify Peace Corps' 3rd goal. Peace Corps and the Carter Center will announce the awardee in Atlanta, Georgia in May. Regardless of who is honored at the May ceremony, we applaud the contributions and spirit of the San Francisco Region nominees: Sarah Adkinson (Guatemala 2005-2008), Beatrice Bostrom (Kenya 2004-2006), May Ann Luce (Papua New Guinea 1993-1995), and June Tolbert (Guatemala 1983-1985).

We very much appreciate your ongoing support of Peace Corps and the San Francisco Regional Office. Please keep telling your stories and sharing your experiences to "bring the experience home." As always, if you are interested in speaking about your Peace Corps service, helping at an event, and/or talking with those interested in the Peace Corps, please contact us at 510.452.8444 or SFinfo@peacecorps.gov

*Janet Allen (Sierra Leone 81-83)
Manager, SF PC Recruiting Office*

NorCal Peace Corps Association

The Northern California Peace Corps Association (NorCal) is a nonprofit, volunteer organization, affiliated with the National Peace Corps Association. Membership is open to the public. Board members must be paid members. NorCal has both CA and U.S. non-profit status; annual dues and other donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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