

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL PEACE CORPS ASSOCIATION

WORLDVIEW

\$4.99

Fall 2011

worldviewmagazine.com

Vol. 24, No. 3



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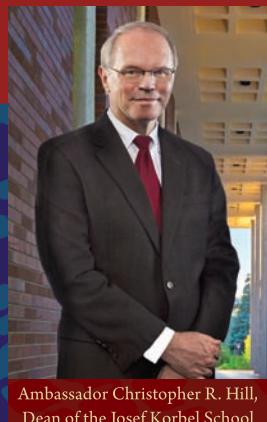
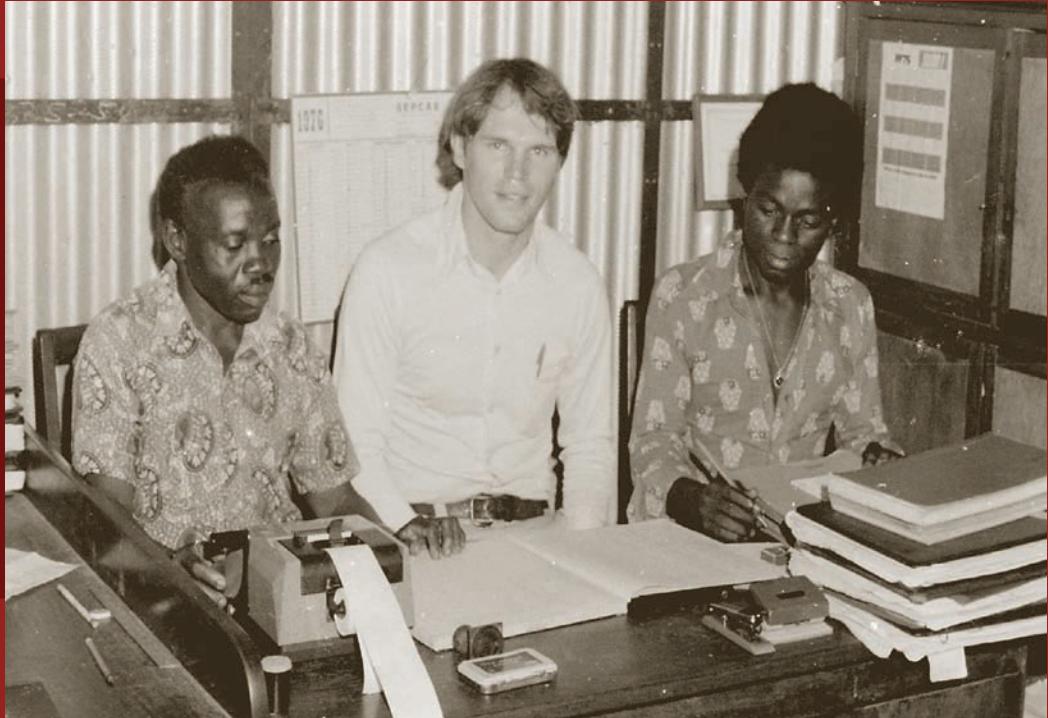
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WorldView (ISSN 1047-5338) is published quarterly by the National Peace Corps Association to provide news and comment about communities and issues of the world of serving and returned Peace Corps volunteers. WorldView © 1978 National Peace Corps Association.

Periodicals postage paid at Washington, D.C. & additional mailing offices.

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Please send address changes to
WorldView magazine
National Peace Corps Association
1900 L Street NW, Suite 404
Washington, DC 20036-5002

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Magazine subscriptions may be purchased from the National Peace Corps Association by check or credit card. Prices for individuals are \$25 and institutions \$35 [add \$10 for overseas delivery]. Order forms are also available on the NPCA website at www.peacecorpsconnect.org or www.worldviewmagazine.com.

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Letters to the editor are welcomed. Unsolicited manuscripts, photographs, or other illustrations will be considered. The editors prefer written proposals before receiving original material. Send queries or manuscripts to the editor at news@peacecorpsconnect.org or by mail to the NPCA address.

All inquiries can be addressed to the appropriate person at NPCA by fax at 202 293 7554 or by mail to NPCA, or through the NPCA website at www.peacecorpsconnect.org or www.worldviewmagazine.com

Fall 2011

Volume 24 Number 3

WORLDVIEW

PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL PEACE CORPS ASSOCIATION

Green Building

FEATURES

Green Buildings:

Good for planet, people and profit
by Jane Healey

24



David Lena

Full Circle:

Lessons from Afghanistan
by Robert Hull

25

Sustainable (Re)building Solutions for Haiti

by Martin Hammer and Andy Mueller

27



NPCA

DEPARTMENTS

FROM THE PRESIDENT

50th Anniversary: A Call to Peace
by Kevin F. F. Quigley, John Bridgeland, Harris Wofford

6

YOUR TURN

Readers Write Us: Letters to the Editor

10

AROUND THE NPCA

Group News Highlights

12



BWB

*The Serving Volunteer Advisory Council:
Connecting the NPCA to Volunteers in the Field*
by Alice Pettway

14

*2011 Shriver Award Winner is Sam Goldman,
Founder of D.Light Design:
Benin RPCV is on a path to eliminate the kerosene lantern*

COVER

A Call to Peace: Perspectives of Volunteers on the Peace Corps at 50. Read more at www.peacecorpsconnect.org. Photo by Cross Cultural Solutions.

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WORLVIEW

PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL PEACE CORPS ASSOCIATION

Departments

50th ANNIVERSARY

*Perspectives of Volunteers on the Peace Corps at 50:
Largest survey of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers*
by Jonathan Pearson

17

NPCA



*Smithsonian Folklife Festival Highlights Peace Corps Community:
Carrying out the Third Goal in the heart of the nation's capital*
by Erica Burman

18

*Santa Fe Hosts Final Expo:
Last of nine Peace Corps 50th anniversary events around the country*
by Erica Burman

20

COMMENTARY & OPINION

*The New, the Old, and the Timeless: An RPCV reconnects
with his host community—and a new generation of Volunteers*
by Timothy Cook

30

A Guinea Worm Success Story: Togo twenty years later
by Susan Henderson, MD, MPH

32

*Joy Against the Rain: Winning essay in the NPCA/SEVEN Fund
Enterprise Solutions to Poverty Contest*
by Becky Straw

34

LETTER FROM MADAGASCAR

*The Way to Santa Fe: Madagascar Silk at the Santa Fe
International Folk Art Market*
by Sara LeHoullier

36

BOOK LOCKER

*The Taiwan Problem: An excerpt from Kosher Chinese: Living,
Teaching and Eating with China's Other Billion*
by Michael Levy

38

PROFILES IN SERVICE

Promise Kept: After 50 Years, finding a brother's crash site in Colombia
by Simon Romero

40

CAREER CORNER

*Job Search Tips For Returning Volunteers:
Peace Corps Volunteers show off your marketable skills!*
by Mrim Boutla PhD

42

COMMUNITY NEWS

Edited by JoAnna Haugen

43

ADVERTISER INDEX

45



Tim Cook



NPCA

THE PUBLISHER

The publisher of *WorldView* magazine is the National Peace Corps Association, a national network of returned Peace Corps volunteers, former staff and friends. The NPCA is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) educational and service organization which is independent of the federal agency, the Peace Corps.

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50TH ANNIVERSARY: A CALL TO PEACE

A letter from the NPCA president... and friends

by Kevin Quigley, John Bridgeland, Harris Wofford

Fifty years ago, the dream of sending thousands of Americans abroad to foster peace and prosperity became reality with the signing of the Peace Corps Act on September 22, 1961.

In this anniversary year, we enlisted Hart Research to survey more than 11,000 Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, representing the 200,000 who have served in 139 countries since the first volunteers left for Ghana and Tanganyika in 1961. We wanted to understand what inspired them to join; how they advanced the three Peace Corps goals; how their service transformed their lives; and what ideas they had to improve the Peace Corps.

More than 80 percent said their service was effective in promoting a better understanding of Americans in the communities where they served and an almost equal number said their service helped promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans. After 9/11, deliberate efforts were undertaken to deploy more Peace Corps Volunteers to countries with significant Muslim populations to help promote cross-cultural understanding — today, nearly 1,900 or 22 percent of all Peace Corps Volunteers serve in 18 predominantly Muslim countries.

Strong majorities believe the Peace Corps boosted perceptions of the U.S. globally, helped the U.S. adapt to globalization, and improved U.S. foreign policy. More than half believed the Peace Corps improved U.S. national security. Those who went on to serve in government or the military felt more strongly about these effects.

These outcomes weren't always certain and the Peace Corps story is one of contrasts. The idea emerged late in the

1960 presidential campaign, yet ignited an instantaneous response. It tapped a spirit of youthful idealism, while generating controversy among seasoned policymakers. It was a risky experiment, but transformed how millions of people abroad viewed America and how hundreds of thousands of Americans engaged in the world. It is the most enduring legacy of John Kennedy's short-lived presidency.

But the picture isn't all rosy. Our survey also showed that Volunteers believe the Peace Corps has been less effective in meeting the need for trained workers in developing countries and urged the Peace Corps to do more to define assignments and document its effectiveness.

The Peace Corps experience also significantly influenced their choice of careers, views of politics, and rates of volunteering back home. Remarkably, given the harsh conditions in which some of them lived and the loneliness they often experienced, nearly all of them (98 percent) would recommend the Peace Corps to their child, grandchild or other close family member. Two percent of men and 5 percent of women felt unsafe during their term of service, rising to 8 percent of women as the proportion of volunteers flipped from two-thirds men in the 1960s to two-thirds women in the 2000s.

Two months after 9/11, the first Peace Corps Director, Sargent Shriver, said, "I'm not defending the old Peace Corps, I'm attacking it! We didn't go far enough!" President Kennedy said that the Peace Corps would be serious when 100,000 Volunteers served abroad every year (today there are only 8,600), learning new languages, understanding other cultures and building a more informed U.S. foreign policy. Only one element of Shriver's

five-point plan for the Peace Corps was implemented, even though he envisioned big roles for colleges and universities and non-government organizations with overseas programs.

Kennedy and Shriver's dream can still be fulfilled in an increasingly dangerous world, as a coalition of more than 300 colleges, overseas employers, and nonprofits has emerged to support it. "Volunteers for Prosperity" authorized with bipartisan support is already enabling 43,000 skilled volunteers each year to work on issues such as HIV/AIDS and malaria in Africa. Global Service Fellowships envision tapping 10,000 Americans for up to one year of service, with Members of Congress nominating outstanding individuals from their districts and states, much like they do for the military academies. And the Peace Corps should be doubled to 15,000 as both George W. Bush and Barack Obama have urged.

In this year of Sargent Shriver's passing, his words at the 1994 Yale Class Day Speech still echo — "I hope you remember to believe in things 'til you die. I hope you remember to be guided by beliefs powerful enough to change the world. I hope you remember the example of the Peace Corps Volunteer, the Head Start parent, the Special Olympics athlete. They each in their own way are waging peace." Let's fulfill the original promise for the Peace Corps and do more to wage peace around the globe.

*Kevin Quigley, John Bridgeland and Harris Wofford are co-authors, together with Jessica Milano, of a new report – **A Call to Peace: Perspectives of Volunteers on the Peace Corps at 50**, found at www.peacecorpsconnect.org.*

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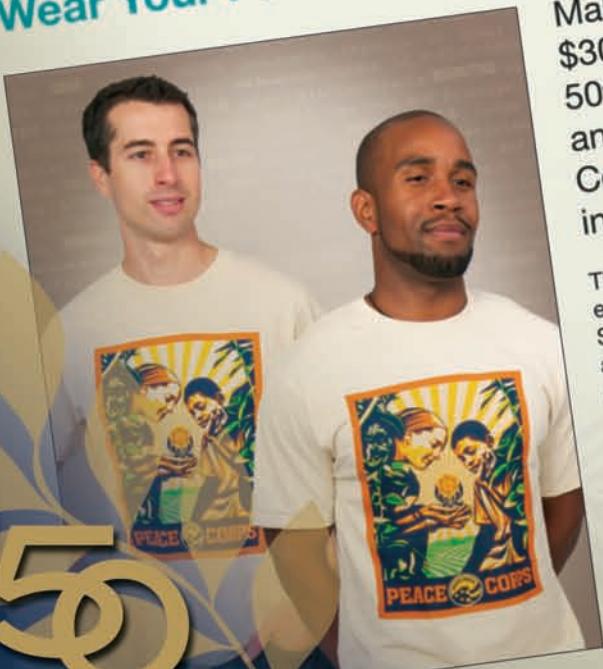
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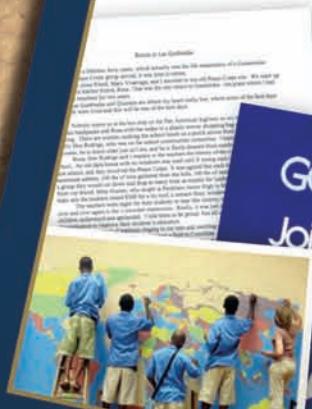


Speakers Match helps to connect returned Peace Corps Volunteers with those who want to hear about Peace Corps experiences. The Speakers Match program can help you share your Peace Corps story in your community. For more information, go to: peacecorps.gov/wws/speakersmatch

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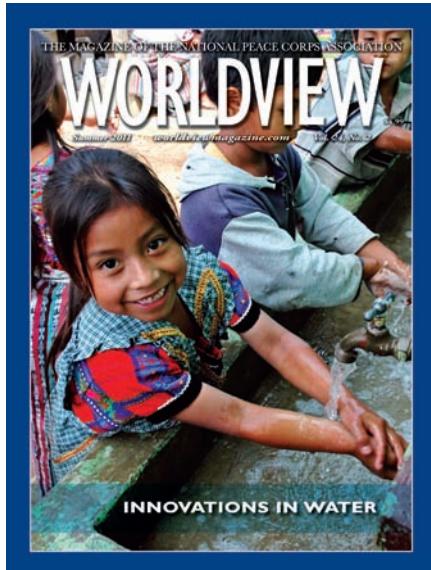


READERS WRITE US

Letters to the Editor

I am a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer who became chronically sick from my overseas service. There are many others out there in my situation who have had no one to advise them when they returned home with illnesses or injuries and have fallen through the cracks. Many of us have struggled for years to obtain benefits to which we are entitled. Some have merely given up in defeat. Most are left uninsurable in America. A few have ended up homeless. This is wrong.

In January 2011, women who were sexually assaulted while in the Peace Corps bravely came forward, and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee under the guidance of Senators Isakson and Poe gave unanimous approval to the Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act on July 26, 2011. This should create legislation to strengthen training and support of Peace Corps Volunteers who are subjected to violent crime — including and especially sexual assault.



But, many of us are not victims of violent or sexual crimes. Rather we contracted illnesses or other injuries as a result of our service and have not been helped by the Peace Corps upon our return to navigate the complexities of the Department of Labor. We were not

just at risk “while in the field” but here in our own country upon our return. The Puzey Protection Act is extremely significant, but it does not help those in our position.

I am wondering if anyone out there is still struggling with these same issues. I feel that the time is right to bring our experiences to the surface.

I have positive feelings about my service overseas, attended the 50th anniversary reunion in Washington, D.C., and feel that the Peace Corps has had positive global impacts; but if it is to expand and truly succeed, volunteers must be properly cared for when we return home sick and disabled. For me, the struggle continues and the treatment we have all received both by the Peace Corps and the Department of Labor has not been sufficient. You may email me confidentially at: fourdirect@aol.com.

Nancy Tongue
Chile 1980-82

Whether you served as a Volunteer or are still serving, there are some commonalities that we all share. And chances are, there is a group on the National Peace Corps Association Ning Online Community to help you connect with other people who share those interests.

- Perhaps you Married a Host Country National during or after your service.
- Or, want to see what it's like when Job Searchers of the World Unite to discuss how Peace Corps fits with the search.
- Maybe you're planning a trip and seeking Couchsurfing/Hospitality opportunities from fellow RPCVs.
- It's possible you want to see how other Health Volunteers are managing their projects in country.

If your group hasn't been created, why not add it? You never know who you'll find when you reach out and start.

Visit The National Peace Corps Association Online Community at: <http://community.peacecorpsconnect.org>



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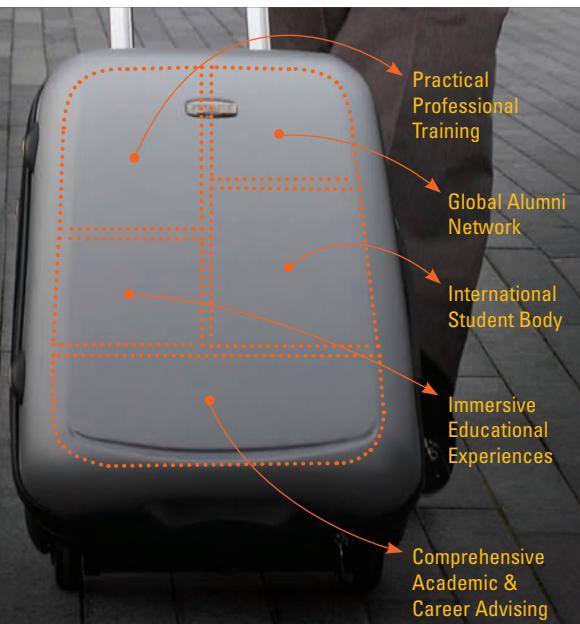
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GROUP NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

A look at what NPCA member groups are up to

FRIENDS OF FIJI

This July, 30 members of Friends of Fiji traveled back to their Peace Corps host country—some for the first time since they arrived 40 years earlier. The purpose: to participate in a Habitat for Humanity building project, and to mark the 50th anniversary of Peace Corps and the 20th anniversary of Friends of Fiji. The volunteers rehabilitated two houses in Rewa province near the capital Suva. Pat Milliren, who volunteered with the Peace Corps from 1969 to 1970, said: “The Habitat build has given us an opportunity to come back to Fiji, when we might not have been able to come otherwise.”

FRIENDS OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

To honor the enduring legacy of more than 4,000 Peace Corps Volunteers, their Dominican partners, and their 50 years of work together, the Friends of the Dominican Republic is holding a 50th anniversary conference in Santa Domingo on February 7-10, 2012. The conference will include a full day of events hosted by current Peace Corps Volunteers, a discussion panel with former Country Directors, keynote and activities focusing on Peace Corps’ Third Goal, a Fiesta de Amistad, opportunities to return to sites and reconnect with Dominican family and friends, and much more. For further information, visit <http://www.fotdr.org>.

FRIENDS OF KOREA

The photo exhibit now touring the U.S., titled “A Story of Volunteerism,” chronicles the Peace Corps volunteer experience in the Republic of Korea from 1966-1981. The exhibit also features Korea’s volunteer agency, the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), aka the Korean Peace

Corps, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary. “A Story of Volunteerism” debuted in Honolulu, Hawaii and then moved on to two locations in Washington, D.C. beginning September 12, 2011. The exhibit will travel to New York City, Chicago and close in Los Angeles on January 26. A preview can be seen at www.friendsofkorea.net.

PEACE CORPS FRIENDS OF IRAN

This August 220 Iran Returned Peace Corps Volunteers journeyed from across the U.S. and as far away as Australia to reconnect, reminisce, and revitalize. The reunion, held in Portland, Oregon on August 5-7 was conceived to coincide with the Iranian Festival held every year on the Portland State University campus. On Friday, workshops, panels, and documentary films covered topics like “Environmental Issues in Iran,” “Travel to Iran,” and “Finding the Peace in Peace Corps.” A continuous slideshow of Peace Corps Volunteer photos played in the background and oral history interviews were conducted. Saturday’s activities focused on the Iranian Festival, with a Persian banquet and Persian breakfast, and organizational meeting rounding out the weekend. You can read more about the reunion at www.peacecorpsconnect.org.

ATLANTA AREA RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS

Atlanta Area Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (AARPCV) and the Rollins School of Public Health (RSPH) have been working together to sponsor a Habitat for Humanity renovation in South Atlanta. Through their summer fundraising efforts, AARPCV contributed \$2,500 to the sponsorship fee. RSPH contributed an additional \$2,500 and a generous Habitat for



Humanity Board member matched their donations to bring the total to \$10,000. AARPCV also provided direct volunteer support and on Saturday September 11, members participated in their final workday and a dedication ceremony, timed to coincide with the National Day of Service and Remembrance, commemorated each year on September 11.

IDAHO RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Peace Corps in the Gem State, Idaho Returned Peace Corps Volunteers joined forces with the Idaho State Historical Museum to create an exhibition, “Idaho Celebrates 50 Years of Peace Corps Service,” which was displayed at the museum from March 1 to May. The exhibit included objects and artifacts provided by group members as well as descriptions of the kinds of services provided by Peace Corps Volunteers. Over the course of the exhibit, there were cultural events such as an Ethiopian coffee ceremony and the making of Ukrainian Easter Eggs, and international drumming, as well as a brown bag panel of RPCVs. All told, close to 9,000 people viewed the exhibit, including 2,000 school children. Videos of the exhibit can be seen on NPCA’s YouTube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/peacecorpsconnect>.

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THE SERVING VOLUNTEER ADVISORY COUNCIL

Connecting the NPCA to Volunteers in the field

by Alice Pettway

When I first heard that the NPCA was putting together a council of serving volunteers my first thought was -- Wow! How is that going to work? Eleven volunteers, all serving in different time zones, some in remote locations, some without electricity, and others with a variety of limitations, make for a communications nightmare. But, the idea was too great to pass up, so I applied.

A year later, the inaugural NPCA Serving Volunteer Advisory Council (SVAC) is going strong. Communication is indeed a challenge; however, through Skype chat we have been able to meet once a quarter and build a strong foundation. Whether it's getting up at 4 a.m., hooking a computer to a car battery, or riding a night bus home after the meeting, council members do what it takes to connect. But why, when most Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) already face so many daily challenges, would we choose to add one more? I suspect the answer is slightly different for each council member, but we all agree that the

SVAC provides an opportunity to effect positive change in the Peace Corps community on a global level.

The SVAC connects the NPCA to the serving volunteer community, increasing the NPCA's ability to provide more resources to serving PCVs. As members of the SVAC, we have the opportunity to provide the NPCA with insight into the ever-changing needs and interests of

serving PCVs. The topics discussed at SVAC meetings are wide-reaching and diverse. Less than a year has passed since our first meeting, and already we have examined topics ranging from couch-surfing opportunities and PCV networking to more serious issues like communicating with friends and family about the risks of Peace Corps service and international funding opportunities.

THE SVAC NEEDS YOU AND YOUR FEEDBACK!

In an effort to represent serving PCVs more effectively, we're putting the word out — send us your thoughts or concerns, and we'll include them in the upcoming meeting agenda. There are lots of ways you can get in touch — and stay in touch — with the SVAC. We look forward to hearing from you!

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2011 SHRIVER AWARD WINNER IS SAM GOLDMAN, FOUNDER OF D.LIGHT DESIGN

Benin RPCV is on a path to eliminate the kerosene lantern

by Erica Burman

The Sargent Shriver Award for Distinguished Humanitarian Service is awarded by the National Peace Corps Association to a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer who continues to make a sustained and distinguished contribution to humanitarian causes at home or abroad or is an innovative social entrepreneur whose actions will bring about significant long-term change. The award was named to recognize the tremendous contributions of the first Peace Corps Director, Sargent Shriver, in the founding and development of the Peace Corps.

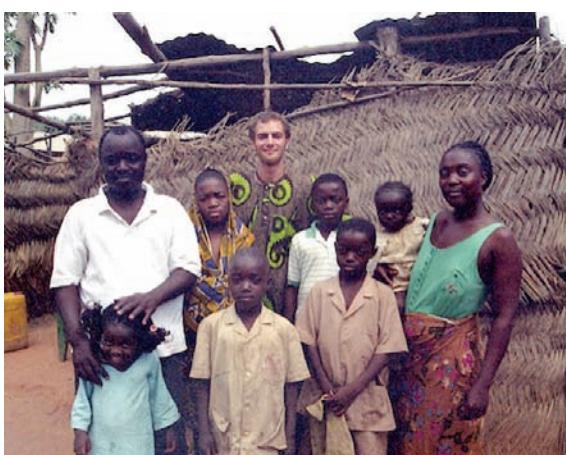
The 2011 winner of the Shriver Award is **Sam Goldman** (Benin 01-05). Goldman is the founder and CEO of d.light design (www.dlightdesign.com), an international consumer company whose mission is "to enable households without reliable electricity to attain the same quality of life as those with electricity." The company aims to improve the lives of 100 million individuals by 2020, beginning by replacing every kerosene lantern with revolutionary energy and lighting solutions that are affordable, durable and energy-efficient.

During Goldman's Peace Corps service in Guinagourou, Benin, the son of one of his neighbors



Sam Goldman (center) accepted his award at the National Peace Corps Association's The Promise of the Peace Corps Gala. Here he is congratulated by journalist Chris Matthews (Swaziland 68-70) and NPCA President Kevin Quigley (Thailand 76-79).

was badly burned by a kerosene lamp (one of many thousands of such accidents around the world). Goldman vowed to find a way to provide people in the developing world with safer, brighter, and more affordable lighting.



Peace Corps Volunteer Sam Goldman.

David Lena

Upon his return to the U.S. Goldman enrolled in Stanford Business School and it was there that d.light design was born.

Since founding d.light design in 2007, Goldman has raised over \$11 million in funding, started the India sales and marketing division, and overseen multiple product launches including the award-winning S250 and S10 solar lights. As a result of his leadership, Sam has been selected as an Ashoka Fellow and World Economic Forum Young Global Leader.

Goldman has said that "one of the most amazing phone calls" he has ever received was when the same boy who had been burned by the kerosene fire, called from Guinagourou, Benin, to tell him that he had received a d.light lantern through the Peace Corps Volunteer network. "He had gotten my phone number and wanted to call personally to thank me for the light."

Past Shriver Award winner David Schweidenback, founder of Pedals for Progress and one of this year's judges said, "The traits which brought Sam Goldman to the forefront were great ingenuity and a true global perspective."

Goldman received a \$1,000 award plus paid travel expenses to Washington, DC to receive the prize at the Promise of the Peace Corps Gala, on September 24, 2011.

PERSPECTIVES OF VOLUNTEERS ON THE PEACE CORPS AT 50

Largest and most comprehensive survey ever of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

by Jonathan Pearson

In this 50th Anniversary year of the Peace Corps, the National Peace Corps Association, Civic Enterprises and Peter D. Hart Research Associates collaborated on an unprecedented nationally representative survey of more than 11,000 Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs), to gain further insight into the volunteer experience over the decades. The results were both surprising and uplifting. The impact of the Peace Corps has been most deeply felt through the relationships and common understanding it has fostered among Americans and people from 139 countries the Peace Corps has served. Peace, more than development, has been its overriding purpose and those who have served in the Peace Corps believe they have been most effective in advancing the two goals related to promoting mutual understanding.

Among the survey findings:

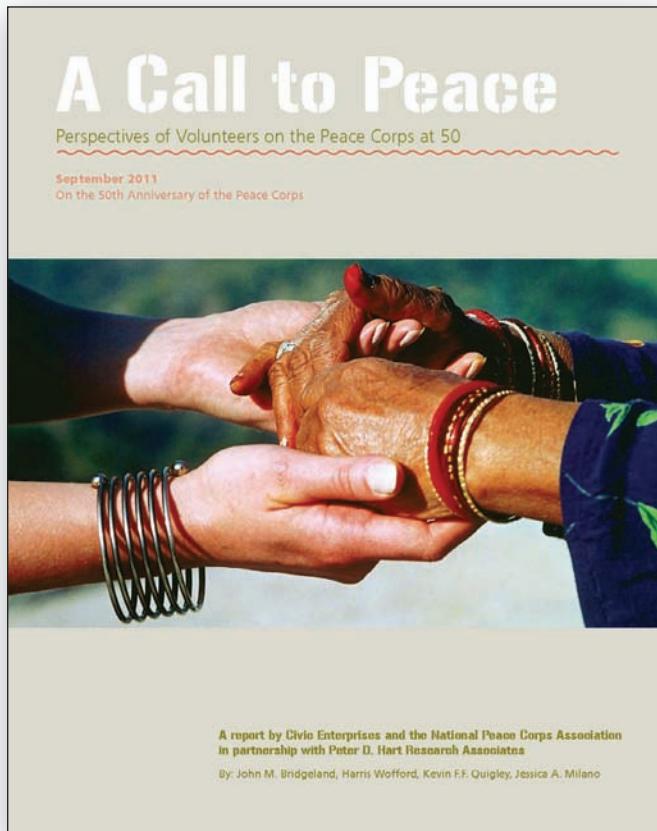
- **A Highly Positive Experience Recommended to Others:** 90 percent of RPCVs rated their Peace Corps experience as excellent or very good and 98 percent would recommend the Peace Corps to their child, grandchild or other close family member.

- **Building Understanding Overseas:** 82 percent of RPCVs said their service

was very or fairly effective in helping promote a better understanding of Americans in the communities where volunteers served, with one-third reporting it was very effective.

- **Building Understanding Here at Home:** 79 percent of RPCVs rated their service as very or fairly effective in helping promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans, with 34 percent saying it was very effective.

- **Contributions to Global Development:** 59 percent of RPCVs say their service was very or fairly effective



in helping people of interested communities to meet their need for trained workers.

- **High Levels of Ongoing Service Here at Home:** 55 percent of RPCVs reported that they regularly volunteer in their local communities, more than double the national rate for volunteering in the United States.

- **Safety and Security:** Less than three percent of RPCVs reported feeling unsafe in their communities as a major problem during their Peace Corps service. However, as the demographics of Peace Corps Volunteers shifted from nearly two-thirds men in the 1960's to two-thirds women by the 2000's, the percentage of women feeling unsafe also rose from two percent in the 1960's to eight percent in the 2000's.

The report also includes an account of the grassroots history of the Peace Corps, case studies of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and a section on Unfinished Business, which lays out principles and recommendations for Peace Corps' next 50 years.

*To read the full report, **A Call to Peace – Perspectives of Volunteers on the Peace Corps at 50** (September 2011) please visit www.peacecorpsconnect.org.*

Jonathan Pearson is the Advocacy Coordinator for the National Peace Corps Association.

SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS PEACE CORPS COMMUNITY

Carrying out the Third Goal in the heart of the nation's capital

by Erica Burman

"Wouldn't it be cool for Peace Corps to be part of the Smithsonian Folklife Festival on the National Mall in 2012, to mark the 50th anniversary?"

Eight years ago, brainstorming together at a staff retreat, the staff of the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) said just that. We were dreaming big. We believed that Peace Corps' 50th anniversary would be a milestone event warranting national attention. And through the years we took it as our job to steadily nudge relevant institutions to think about the 50th, and urge our community to reflect on how to mark this important occasion.

NPCA discussions with Peace Corps headquarters leadership resulted in the designation of a committee within Peace Corps to initiate planning for the 50th. The committee met with increasing frequency and on July 3, 2008, NPCA and Peace Corps staff members joined Smithsonian Folklife Festival staff to do a walk-through of that year's festival, to envision what a Peace Corps exhibition might look like. In 2010, with the Peace Corps exhibition greenlighted, and the anniversary date drawing near, NPCA took part in several joint brainstorming and planning sessions with Smithsonian curatorial staff.

Which is why it was an especially sweet moment for countless individuals to attend the opening ceremony of the 2011 Smithsonian Folklife Festival and to see, for the first time, those dreams and plans made physical.

From June 30-July 4 and July 7-11 on the National Mall in front of the Smithsonian Castle over one million visitors learned about the Peace Corps in a vibrant and interactive exhibition area that included demonstrations, discussions, performances, presentations of food and cooking traditions and hands-on educational activities. Tourists and locals alike had the chance to meet serving Volunteers and host country nationals—flown to the U.S. for the Festival—as they shared their projects and what it means to be, and work side by side with, Volunteers. Returned Volunteers were also out in full force, both as exhibit participants and volunteers, and at an “RPCVillage” tent devoted to reunions, connection and the opportunity to reflect on what the Peace Corps experience has meant going forward. Among the RPCV participants: Stuart Conway, the 2010 winner of NPCA’s Sargent Shriver Distinguished Humanitarian Award.

Online, you can learn more about Peace Corps at the Folklife Festival by visiting:

- <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/search.smithsonian+folklife+festival>
- <http://www.festival.si.edu/2011/PeaceCorps/>
- <http://www.peacecorps.gov/index.cfm?shell=about.fiftieth.folklife>





All Photos NPCA

SANTA FE HOSTS FINAL EXPO

Last of nine Peace Corps 50th Anniversary events around the country

by Erica Burman

While the state of New Mexico is known as The Land of Enchantment, Santa Fe, its capital is known as The City Different. Put those two things together—enchantingly different—and the phrase perfectly sums up the final NPCA / Peace Corps 50th Anniversary Around the World Expo. This Expo—the last of nine joint events held around the country this past spring and early summer—took place on July 7, 2011 in Santa Fe's Railyard Park in conjunction with a community-wide launch party for the 8th Santa Fe International Folk Art Market (www.folkartmarket.org)

The Market is the brainchild of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCV) Judy Espinar, and from its earliest days it has been embraced by the New Mexico Returned Peace Corps community, which devotes countless hours year-round to every aspect of the Market, from artist selection, to making travel arrangements, securing sponsorships, setting up booths, hosting artists and ringing up sales.

In many ways the Market parallels all three goals of the Peace Corps:

- It provides sustainable livelihoods, this year to 132 artists from 50 countries. Prior to the actual two-day market artists participate in the Artist Training Program where they receive training in finances, marketing, and other business skills. This year, artist sales topped \$2.3 million.
- Artists come to Santa Fe and interact with Americans and one another. For many it is their first time outside of their country, and they return to their communities energized with creative new ideas.
- During the course of the two-day Folk Art Market—now the largest in the world—over 22,000 Americans interact with the artisans, learn about their countries, their communities, their art. The market pours an estimated \$16 million into the local economy.

So it was only fitting that the kickoff party for the 2011 Market throw a spotlight on the 50th anniversary of the Peace Corps and serve as the culminating Around the World Expo event. International food carts, a story-telling area, a performance stage and a tent dubbed “Peace Corps World,” were set up in the Railyard. New Mexico Peace Corps Association coordinator Alan Burrus was on the site from 10 a.m. Fifty Peace Corps photos showing New Mexico RPCVs during every era of service were hung on bright yellow walls, a big screen TV was brought in to show Peace Corps video clips and red burlap-covered tables were available for RPCVs to share information about current projects.

Starting at 5 p.m., RPCVs and members of the public streamed through the tent. An hour later it was time for the Artist Procession. Led by a spectacular group of folk dancers and musicians from Oman, 132 Market artists, all in colorful national dress, paraded into the Railyard to be welcomed by the New Mexico community and officially open the Market.

**To see more photos of RPCVs and the Santa Fe International Folk Art Market,
visit our Facebook photo album <http://www.facebook.com/peacecorpsconnect>**





All Photos NPCA



PHOTO © SCOTT FAIA 2009



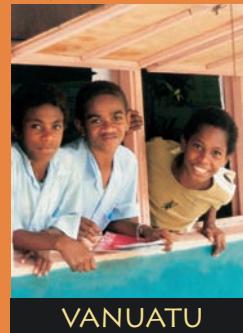
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PHOTO © CRYSTAL PILON 2008

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1961

In Pursuit of Peace • BEAN BY BEAN • VOLUNTEER BY VOLUNTEER • CALENDAR BY CALENDAR

COVER PHOTO: PANAMA © LEO REDMOND 2008 FOLDED CALENDAR SIZE = 12 1/4" x 9 3/8"

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SWAZILAND

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UKRAINE

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GEORGIA

Calendar by calendar

Twenty-five years ago a small group of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers in Madison, WI, had a dream. They wanted to tell the stories of the people and cultures they had gotten to know during their Peace Corps service. The idea for the International Calendar

began to take shape. It was a way to share their experiences with a larger audience and meet the third goal of the Peace Corps: *Bringing the world back home.*

No one imagined when they planted this small seed the extent to which it would take root and

become a perennial labor of love for so many volunteers. No one dreamed the calendar idea would still be growing after 25 years or that it would generate more than a million dollars for education and development projects.

But that is exactly what has transpired. While the amount of

money raised and donated over the years is truly impressive, the calendar's most valuable contribution may be the way it tills the soil for peace by linking people across cultures ... *year by year... volunteer by volunteer... and friend by friend.*

— RPCVs of Wisconsin-Madison



ECUADOR



GHANA



PERU



CONGO

Featured photos and countries in the 2012 RPCV International Calendar

25 years and still growing . . . \$1 million and still giving!

SINCE 1961 almost 200,000 Americans have spent time serving in communities overseas. Many came home wishing they could do more. For the past 25 years, RPCVs in Madison, Wisconsin have been doing just that! A group of dedicated volunteers have been producing the International Calendar and donating all net proceeds from calendar sales—**more than \$1 million since 1988**—to support education and development projects.

Types of projects funded include:

- clean water
- sanitation projects—latrines and composting toilets
- textbooks and teacher training; girls' education
- school construction
- libraries and science labs
- beekeeping and business courses
- HIV/AIDS education
- rural health clinics
- fish farming improvements
- chicken coops and seed storage
- solar panels for medical clinics
- community centers

FOR THE PAST 25 YEARS our commitment to the Peace Corps goal to “bring the world back home” has succeeded in large measure from the dedication of many local volunteers. But our thanks also go to a larger circle of friends. We are especially grateful for the pictures we receive that connect us with other cultures and make possible our annual contributions to projects in local communities.

You can help by sending your pictures! If you have photos from a country where Peace Corps Volunteers have served, they qualify for consideration. A photo's visual appeal, quality and the story it tells are important too. Each January Madison-area volunteers view submissions and vote for the ones they'd like to have in the calendar. We'd love to see your photos and learn about your experiences living or working in another country.

—RPCVs of Wisconsin–Madison

2012 PRICE LIST

QUANTITY	PRICE PER CALENDAR	SHIPPING*
1-5	\$12.00**	included
6-24	\$7.00	\$11 per order
25-49	\$6.00	\$13 per order
50-99	\$5.50	\$18 per 50
100-299	\$5.00	\$18 per 50
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500-999	\$4.00	\$18 per 50
1000+	\$3.75	\$18 per 50

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Please contact us for rates to other destinations.
** No credit cards for orders of 1-5 calendars.

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To ensure delivery by the first of the year,
place your order by November 15th.

For more information, contact us at:
calendarmail@rpcvcalendar.org
TEL 608.829.2677

PHOTO SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Eligible countries Photos must be from a country where Peace Corps Volunteers have served (past or present). See calendar.

Format To qualify, submit a quality 5x7 print or a high-res JPEG from a 5 MP camera or better. Five photos per photographer maximum. Originals can be color prints, digital images or transparencies. Submitted pictures will be retained in an RPCV image library. If your photo is selected, you may be asked to supply your original for use during production.

Quality Submit clean, focused images with realistic color. No B&W, framed or mounted photos, or images with dust or scratches will be accepted.

Do not touch up or resample digital images.

Documentation A completed Photo Form with signed authorization **must** accompany your entry (see website). For prints, write photographer's name & country where photo was taken on back of **each** photo in non-smudging ink. For JPG submissions, file name should be in the format [country/entry#. name]. Example: Morocco1.jsmith. Send **current** address, phone and e-mail where we can contact you from January to March if you win.

Winners Those who submit qualifying images will receive a complimentary calendar, 5 calendars go to small photo winners, and 25 to large photo winners.

Mail to Photo Coordinator, RPCVs of WI–Madison
PO Box 1012, Madison WI 53701
Must be postmarked by Dec 31, 2011

Online to submissions@rpcvcalendar.org

Complete details on website:
www.rpcvcalendar.org

2012 CALENDAR ORDER

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STATE _____

ZIP _____ - _____ PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____ New contact information or first order.

No. _____ calendars x unit cost _____ = \$ _____

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GREEN BUILDINGS

Good for planet, people and profit

by Jane Henley

Just south of Cairo, an exciting national project is underway. Egypt's first eco-village is being constructed to demonstrate how green building principles can not only address global climate change, but also deliver on a range of social priorities.

The Egyptian Government, together with the Egypt Green Building Council, is currently designing and planning an entire green village which will directly tackle one of Egypt's greatest challenges: homelessness. Sustainable technologies and techniques will be used to develop a safe community where homeless citizens can regain their place and make positive contributions to Egyptian society.

Within this model, the proposed eco-village is expected to provide community members with guaranteed health care, basic education, religious guidance, effective social assimilation, work training and skill development. In return, the community will produce food, energy and engage in numerous cooperative enterprises.

This is just one of dozens of examples that highlights why the green building movement is gathering pace. Sustainable building is not just about reducing our global carbon footprint—it can also help build better societies as well.

The growth of the global green building market is underpinned by the increasing understanding of the long-term value of green building. Buildings are no longer viewed as simple "services," but rather, as central to business performance, community development and a nation's ability to provide a high-quality life for all its citizens. Green building councils around the globe are at the forefront of this paradigm shift.

As the largest international organization influencing the global green building market, the World Green Building Council (WorldGBC)

is the collective voice of more than 86 green building councils (GBCs) around the world.

Green building councils in each of these countries work with industry, government and civil society to unlock the building sector's potential to reduce energy consumption and improve environmental outcomes from buildings, while also meeting a wide range of social and economic local priorities.

Last year, the WorldGBC released a report, *Tackling Global Climate Change, Meeting Local Priorities*, which highlights how green buildings can play a valuable role in meeting local needs worldwide, while providing the most cost-effective way of tackling climate change. The report can be downloaded from the WorldGBC website: www.worldgbc.org.

The WorldGBC recognizes that the priorities identified by our GBCs are not homogeneous. While the business case for green building has been clearly established in mature markets such as the United States, UK, Australia and Canada, in developing countries the shift to green must be balanced with the need to address the legitimate aspirations of millions of people who still have no access to electricity, clean water or adequate shelter.

The Kuyasa Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) project in South Africa, for instance, has seen the retrofitting 2,300 homes in an established, low-income housing area of Cape Town. The project involved installing ceiling insulation, energy efficient light bulbs and solar water heaters to reduce energy consumption and improve the social, health and economic wellbeing of the residents.

The project is South Africa's first internationally registered CDM project under the Kyoto Protocol and the first

Gold Standard project to be registered in the world. Carbon credits were sold, with the intention of using the revenue to establish a trust to employ and train local residents to provide ongoing long-term maintenance for the solar water heaters.

The South African GBC is currently exploring how these issues could be incorporated into a formal rating tool that would enable it to expand its effectiveness to meet the major developmental challenges faced in South Africa and other developing countries.

Green building rating tools and systems have contributed enormously to driving higher environmental expectations and are both directly and indirectly influencing the performance of buildings. In India, for instance, the Indian Green Building Council is developing customized rating tools for a variety of building types. India has more than 1,135 registered green building projects amounting to over 731 million square feet of green building footprint with projects spread across the country. Green building rating tools in India encourage the use of building materials and products that are manufactured regionally. This has provided impetus to the local community to develop green products and technologies that in turn enhanced the employment opportunities and paved the way for the creation of many new green jobs.

Governments are beginning to understand the potential of green buildings to meet environmental, economic and social objectives. But we have only just stepped out on what will be a very long journey towards true sustainability.

Jane Henley is the Chief Executive of the World Green Building Council.

FULL CIRCLE

Lessons from Afghanistan

by Robert Hull FAIA

When I left Afghanistan in 1972 after four years building schools, it was a peaceful, yet extremely poor country. It was still a kingdom. The people were kind and tolerant of foreigners, and looking back, much more tolerant than many Americans.

The Afghan civilization is an ancient culture. Since its beginning the people knew how to capture passive solar, prevailing summer winds, and protect themselves from the harsh environment without power. Building materials were simple: mud, stone, brick and very little concrete. Glass and steel were expensive because they came from Iran and Russia.



Clinic under construction.

So what did our team of six Peace Corps architects learn from that experience? Interestingly, aside from a few articles in 'The Whole Earth Catalog,' Americans and the rest of the world were not even thinking about sustainability in 1968. It turned out to be a necessity for Afghans. Afghan schools had neither power nor heating systems. It was quite a surprise that our Afghan counterparts became our source of information.

There were several design concepts that permeated our school designs. First, because of the lack of heating systems, school was conducted outside in the courtyards during winter. This seems counter-intuitive at first but the reason

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was that walled courtyards provided wind protection and the sun provided the warmth by having classes backed up to south facing mud walls (think in terms of bright clear Colorado winters). Second, classes moved inside when the summer heat forced students into the cooler thick mud walled classrooms. Depending on local conditions, cool prevailing summer winds could also be captured to augment cooling. In summer the southern deserts created plumes of vertically rising thermals that drew in cooler air from the north from the Caspian Sea near Iran, and southern Russia. These cool winds (known locally as the 120 day winds) were captured and brought into the classrooms. When approaching villages, these scoops mounted on the tops of mud domed roofs and vaults created incredible vernacular compositions.

Their architecture was beautiful and rooted in their culture. Their structural systems were rationally based arches, domes and vaults and constructed of local materials. All of this plus their blue clad mosaic tiled Mosques were set against the backdrop of the desert and mountains. Then came the wars...

That brings me to today. Now, I am designing a village health clinic outside of the town of Herat where I was a Peace Corps volunteer. Health care is practically nonexistent and the statistics are grim—especially for women and children. I am working with Sadiq Tawfiq, an Afghan who grew up there but now lives in California and has built several orphanages and a blind school. He tracked me down,



View of Herat.

remembering a building I had done in Herat. We, along with the Afghan Amity Society (<http://afghansociety.org>), a cadre of caring individuals, are on a mission to build a clinic that provides villagers with basic health care and yet is sympathetic to the culture and architecture of the country. All those past experiences wash over me as I continue to use those basic principles of sustainable design.

The clinic is to be strategically located in the desert between villages. The design concept uses an old idea of the walled “caravanserai” which historically was located on trade routes (the silk route), spaced out into one day journeys by caravans. It was a symbol of a haven for the weary traveler. The reason we are using it is to create security, to protect from the harsh desert and as a place of comfort for those in need of medical care.

Inside the protecting walls we are judiciously using water to drip irrigate green gardens to create passive natural cooling. Aside from the surgery area we are still using wind scoops for natural cross ventilation. We are using a bank of passive solar hot water heating panels to augment a hot water boiler system. Thick walls for mass, brick vaults seismically strengthened, and mud-beautiful mud walls are still our architectural vocabulary.

It is not lost on me that this experience brings me full circle. As my office continues to explore new directions in sustainable design, including the Living Building Challenge, net zero buildings, LEED certification, sophisticated mechanical systems and of course, our constant battle with our arch enemy carbon, we still rely heavily on those basic sustainable principles that humanity throughout history has always known.

Robert Hull

Robert Hull FAIA, is an architect and founding partner of the Miller Hull Partnership in Seattle, Washington. From 1968 to 1972, Hull served in the Peace Corps in Afghanistan, where he designed and built the headquarters for the National Tourism Agency and helped establish a school of architecture at Kabul University. In early 2010, he and his partner David Miller (RPCV Brazil) were selected for the 2010 AIA Seattle Medal of Honor in consideration of their extraordinary lifetime collaboration and the achievement embodied in their work.



Sketch of the village health clinic.

SUSTAINABLE (RE)BUILDING SOLUTIONS FOR HAITI

by Martin Hammer and Andy Mueller

Almost two years after the earth shook beneath Haiti's most densely populated region, killing over 200,000 and leaving an estimated 1.4 million homeless, remarkably little rebuilding has occurred. After a largely successful emergency response in the three months following the January 2010 earthquake, donor nations and institutions that pledged over 9 billion dollars have released little of those funds—by many reports reluctant to do so with Haiti's government in transition. However, with its new administration now finding its feet since the April election of President Michel Martelly, that is expected to change.

Of the small amount of the rebuilding that has occurred, or the solutions shown at Haiti's Expo that opened in July, very little is what anyone would call sustainable. Haiti is a nation that before the earthquake suffered extreme deforestation, with as little as 2% of its original forest intact, and virtually all wood for construction imported. The predominant modern building materials of reinforced concrete and concrete block use imported cement and steel. The sand and gravel for these materials is taken from and damages Haiti's riverbeds, or is a weak crushed limestone from quarries that noticeably scar Haiti's mountainsides. Most solutions offered at the Home Expo are prefabricated with materials and labor from outside Haiti, subverting the potential for the reconstruction economy to benefit Haitians themselves, most of whom are in desperate need of employment.

BUILDERS WITHOUT BORDERS AND THE TI KAY PAY

At least one organization is taking a decidedly sustainable approach with the building systems it offers. A small group of architects, engineers and builders from Builders Without Borders (BWB)

(www.builderswithoutborders.org) is promoting safe, affordable, sustainable shelter by using in-country materials

and labor that strengthens or creates local industries, and with designs that are responsive to Haiti's climate and



"Where There Is No Doctor was my bible. Anytime someone from my village came to me with a health question or ailment, I would just run and get my book; it was like a doctors' bag."

— Jersey Garcia, RPCV Honduras, 1998–2000

How did you use *Where There Is No Doctor?* Share your story!

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culture. In the process of building, BWB trains the local population to build in sustainable ways, empowering them with skills to start their own businesses and build their own shelters.

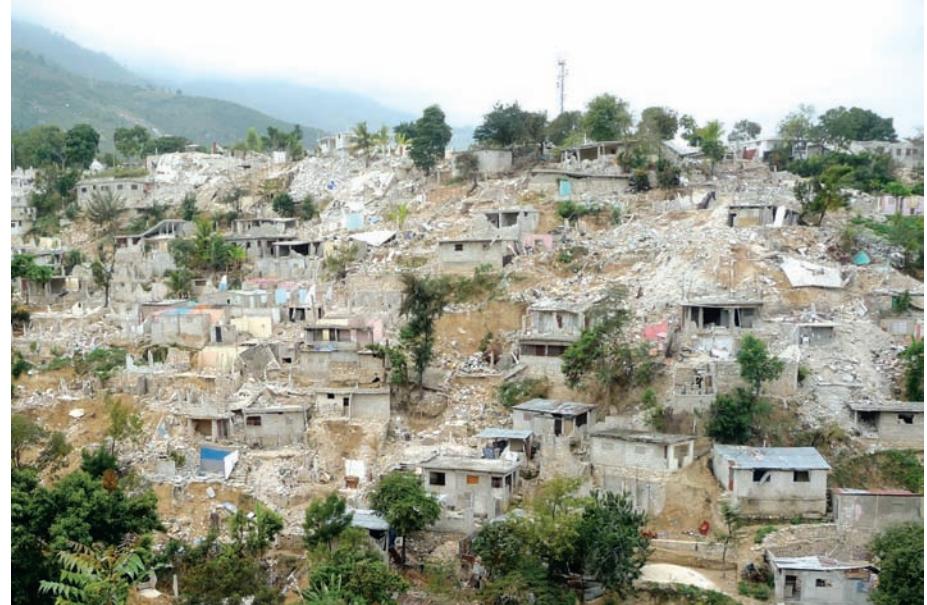
Builders Without Borders' first project was the construction of a model home in Port-au-Prince. It uses the traditional *ti kay* (small house) as the basis for its design. The two-room house plus *galri* (veranda) is the fundamental living unit for rural and sub-urban Haiti. It can be expanded to the rear or either side as the need for space increases. BWB's *Ti Kay Pay* (Small Straw House) uses baled rice straw, bamboo, steel wire, and earthen plaster for its wall system.

STRAW BALE BUILDING HISTORY

Straw bale buildings enjoyed a rebirth in the American southwest in the 1980s, and have since been constructed throughout the U.S., and in over 45 countries in every climate throughout the world. They use an agricultural waste product, baled straw, as building blocks for wall systems that are reinforced in various ways and covered with plaster. Some of the earliest such buildings in the state of Nebraska are over 100 years old. The *Ti Kay Pay* was derived from a system developed by California engineer Darcey Donovan in 2006 for post-earthquake Pakistan (www.paksbab.org). Architects Martin Hammer and Dan Smith, engineer Henri Mannik, and lead builder Andy Mueller, used their extensive experience with straw bale buildings in the U.S., and adjusted the Pakistan system to the circumstances and available materials in Haiti.

TI KAY PAY

The *Ti Kay Pay* begins with a rubble trench foundation and courses of gravel



Earthquake devastation.

bags for the stem wall. The rubble and gravel are produced with a manual rubble crusher using concrete from collapsed buildings, and the gravel bags are sewn from discarded tarps. Although a result of the tragic earthquake, rubble from collapsed buildings and tarps from emergency shelters are now seen as a resource in Haiti.

The foundation stem wall is encased in a layer of mesh-reinforced cement plaster, and the manually-made straw bales are then stacked, and topped with a wooden plate. The bales are reinforced with opposing lengths of bamboo that are through-tied. The corner wall panels use steel wire in an 'X' configuration to resist seismic forces, and polyester packing strap ties the roof structure to the foundation to resist hurricane winds. The roof trusses are made of either wood from deconstructed pallets (another new in-country resource) or construction-grade bamboo, which is being promoted as a way to stabilize Haiti's deforested mountainsides, as well as providing a rapidly renewable building material.

Corrugated steel is used for the roof,

which, although imported, is readily available and provides a light, strong, and durable roof. Earthen plasters, using clay-based site soil, crushed rubble, and chopped straw, are used to coat and protect the straw bales and a similar mix is used for the earthen floors. There is a well-established tradition of earthen plasters and floors in Haiti's rural areas, but they are made more durable in BWB's buildings with a glue coat or lime wash.

COOL BUILDINGS AND ASSOCIATED TECHNOLOGIES

The *Ti Kay Pay*'s well-balanced wall system of mass and insulation helps keep the building cool, and its generous door and window openings provide natural ventilation. Its attic is also well ventilated and uses ceiling insulation of straw and clay to shield the interior when the roof becomes warm. The building is complemented with other sustainable systems such as rainwater catchment for potable and non-potable water, and a simple photovoltaic system for lighting. Future buildings will include efficient



A *Ti Kay Pay* house rises from its foundation.

cooking stoves, and dehydrating or composting toilets that turn human waste into agricultural fertilizer.

NEXT PROJECTS AND OTHER SUSTAINABLE SYSTEMS

The BWB team will soon embark on designing and overseeing the construction of a school and cafeteria in Port-au-Prince and a rural school on Haiti's south peninsula. In addition to the use of straw bales, other sustainable building systems will be considered. These include minimal wood frame with light straw-clay infill, the use of Haiti's ubiquitous plastic bottles in a mesh-reinforced cement plaster wall, and a wall system using cement blocks made with crushed rubble along with a braced bamboo frame. The latter system is being developed by a team from the Ecological Building Network (www.ecobuildnetwork.org).

Although the 2010 earthquake devastated Haiti beyond what can be imagined or described, it has also created a unique opportunity for this country that has struggled for much of its 200-year history. Haiti now has an opportunity to increase employment and improve its economy, mend its natural environment, and become more self-sufficient by utilizing its own human and material resources. Sustainable principles and methods of rebuilding are vital to achieving those ends, and for setting an example for the rest of the world.

Martin Hammer is an architect in Berkeley, California, and team leader for Builders Without Borders in Haiti. He has also worked in Haiti with the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute and the World Monuments Fund. Martin has been involved with the design, construction, and testing of straw bale buildings since 1995, and helped introduce straw bale building to post-earthquake Pakistan with Pakistan Straw Bale and Appropriate Building.

Andy Mueller is a designer and lead builder for Builders Without Borders in Haiti. He is principal designer and builder for the GreenSpace Collaborative in Massachusetts and is co-founder of Natural Builders Northeast. He has a master's in Landscape Architecture from the University of Massachusetts.



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THE NEW, THE OLD, AND THE TIMELESS

A RPCV reconnects with his host community—a new generation of Volunteers

by Timothy Cook

Back in 2008, when Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Dan Webber (Swaziland 79-81) did a Facebook search for Peace Corps-Swaziland Volunteers that might know something about his old host community, he had no idea what he would find. He wondered if anything remained of his service projects—or if his old friends and counterparts were even still alive. Over the decades, Dan had followed with horror the catastrophic rise in Swaziland's HIV/AIDS rate (now the highest prevalence in the world, hovering around 24%). He feared that everyone he'd known there was dead and gone.

Little did Dan know that, back in the rural Chiefdom of Zombodze, hanging on a wall inside the carpentry workshop he helped to build, was a black and white picture of him, in his 20s, framed with care and placed there by Mkhulu Twala, the grateful carpenter whose business was

still thriving after all these years.

And little did my wife and I know that, when we walked into that carpentry workshop for the first time to introduce ourselves as Zombodze's newest Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs), the smiling young man in that picture was now asking questions about Zombodze on Facebook. We didn't know Dan yet, but thanks to his work, Mkhulu Twala and many others in the community didn't just welcome us—they welcomed us back. Dan's legacy of service was alive.

It wasn't long after we saw that photo that Dan found us online, and a long-distance friendship was born. We helped Dan exchange gifts, cards and photos with his long-lost friends, and he helped us connect to our new community's past in a meaningful way. This kind of connection would have been improbable—even impossible—just ten years ago. But now, thanks to ever-growing online social networks, it's not only possible,

it's remarkably easy. With the National Peace Corps Association's online community, Facebook, blogs, Google Groups, and other popular networking tools, there are more ways than ever for RPCVs like Dan to reconnect—and for current Volunteers to go beyond the usual site-history sources and explore the deeper ties that their host community might have with the Peace Corps.

For us, the benefits of this cross-generational Volunteer correspondence were immediate. During the integration phase of our service, we tapped into the strong relationships Dan had forged some 30 years prior (to this day, he is beloved in Zombodze). And throughout our service,

Dan and his family contributed to many of our projects, including one to put a new roof on the old carpentry workshop. But perhaps most valuable to us was the broad perspective he provided regarding our role as PCVs. As Dan wrote in one of his emails:

There is comfort in knowing that you're a link in a chain that continues to grow true to the ideals that founded it. All of us behind you... are grateful for your willingness to be the working link at this point in time. If you weren't there right now, building another link and making your own contributions to the Zombodze family, then an important part of what we did in the past would have no meaning.

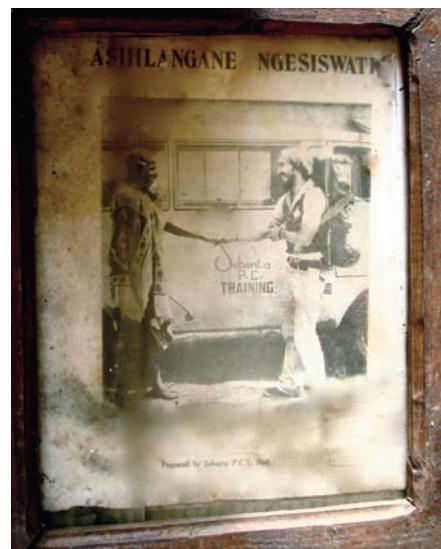
This insight shaped our approach to developing local relationships and service projects in Zombodze, helping us understand more clearly how—and why—our Peace Corps service was valuable: we were an integral part of something much larger than ourselves.



Meeting in person for the first time at Webber's home in Joplin, Missouri, February 2011. From left to right: Jamie and Timothy Cook (Swaziland, 2008-2010), Dan Webber (Swaziland, 1979-1981), Jerri Richardson (Swaziland, 1977-1979).

Tim Cook

Framed picture of Webber hanging on the wall of the Zombodze carpentry workshop he helped establish in 1980.



Framed picture of Webber hanging on the wall of the Zombodze carpentry workshop he helped establish in 1980.



Tim Cook

**Timothy and Jamie Cook circa 2010
at home in the host community of
Zombodze (Ngwane), Swaziland.**

In February 2011, two months after my wife and I returned to the U.S., we paid a much-anticipated visit to Joplin, Missouri, home of Dan and his wife, Jerri Richardson, another Swaziland RPCV. (They met in Swaziland and got married upon returning home). We greeted each other in siSwati, and spent the next day exchanging pictures and stories from Zombodze, bridging three decades of community history.

We dusted off Dan's projector and clicked through trays of old slides. We studied Google Earth's satellite image of the Chiefdom, tracing favorite footpaths with our fingers across the screen. We dug through boxes of Dan and Jerri's beautiful Swazi fabrics, still vibrant with color. And we cemented a unique bond of friendship, based upon a common service and a common love for the far-flung community that we'd each called home.

The Peace Corps mission is founded upon building relationships: fostering mutually beneficial links between people and cultures and countries. The global popularity of online social networking offers new opportunities for RPCVs and PCVs to connect directly with each other, expanding the scope of that mission in meaningful ways. The tools might be new, but the mission is old, and the results are timeless.

Timothy Cook served as a Peace Corps Volunteer with his wife, Jamie Cook, in Swaziland's Zombodze (Ngwane) Chiefdom from 2008 to 2010. As HIV/AIDS community health educators, their service projects focused on mitigating the spread and impact of the HIV pandemic, and increasing Zombodze's capacity to care for its vulnerable population. They currently live and work in Seattle, Washington.



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A GUINEA WORM SUCCESS STORY

Togo twenty years later

by Susan Henderson, MD, MPH

In 1991, I headed off as a new college graduate to work as a Peace Corps volunteer (PCV) in the recently established Guinea Worm Eradication Program in Togo, West Africa. Guinea worm was endemic in Togo and other sub-Saharan African countries. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO), Carter Center, and Peace Corps had recently launched a program with an ambitious goal of complete eradication by 1995. My days were spent in the heat biking out to villages with my Togolese counterpart where we trained community volunteers on surveillance techniques, Guinea worm disease, filter use and other prevention strategies. Those initial months were challenging as we addressed the misconception that Guinea worm was a curse from the gods while maintaining cultural sensitivity and respect. One of the highlights of my service was meeting President Jimmy Carter, when he met with Peace Corps volunteers during his visit to the capital to assess

the program's impact. In 1993, my service was over and I left, as many volunteers do, feeling as if I had learned more than I contributed. In the subsequent years since my service, the incidence of Guinea worm declined; however, it was not until 2008 when no further cases were detected in Togo.

My work in Peace Corps had stimulated a personal interest in public health. Although I initially pursued medical training and residency in internal medicine, ultimately, I returned to the idea of prevention and treatment of disease in populations, rather than individuals. In 2011, I had only been working as a Medical Officer at the CDC for six months when the opportunity arose to travel to Togo as a WHO consultant to certify the eradication of Guinea worm. It was an incredible opportunity to take advantage of; one that I would not have had in clinical medicine. In June 2011, I traveled to Togo as part of an international team that consisted of physicians, public health practitioners, interpreters,

Susan Henderson
and host country nationals. The first several days were spent meeting the team and breaking into smaller groups, reviewing the country report that had been prepared earlier in the year, and planning the trip. The next eight days were labor intensive as my group of three drove out to the villages to interview regional officials, local health

educators, and villagers on their documentation and knowledge of Guinea worm disease. I was reminded of my work as a PCV, except this time my work was more focused. We reconvened in the capital, Lome, and discussed the results of our work. All four teams visited 97 villages and interviewed 946 people. No cases of Guinea worm were observed. We prepared the rough draft of a report summarizing our findings and presented it to the Minister of Health.

Returning to Togo was bittersweet for me. On one hand, I was thrilled to see that the parasitic disease that had once plagued the villagers, among whom I lived and worked, was gone. Children were now able to attend school and farmers could work in the fields. While I was in the maritime region, I worked with the same Togolese Guinea worm representative that I had worked with as a PCV. Once again, we conducted interviews with villagers as we had 20 years prior, with me speaking French and him translating to Ewe, the local language (even though I could communicate in Ewe, it was more efficient to have him translate). I had seen the cycle of Guinea worm come full circle; it was rewarding to visit previously endemic villages where children, when shown a picture of Guinea worm, had never seen a single case. On the other hand, I was disappointed that more progress had not been made in terms of infrastructure changes. The roads and buildings had deteriorated significantly in the time since I had first lived there.

I returned to my position as a Medical Officer at the CDC and once again, experienced reverse culture shock, though not nearly



Conducting Guinea Worm Knowledge interviews with villagers in the Maritime Region, Togo.



The author with her counterpart—20 years later.

as severe as twenty years prior. At the CDC, an Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Officer had recently done a presentation about an outbreak of Guinea worm in Chad. In addition to this outbreak in Chad, only three countries in the world remain endemic with Guinea worm disease (South Sudan, Ethiopia, Mali). As Dr. Sharon Roy, the CDC Medical Officer who coordinated my visit stated, the eradication process “must be done in a vertical manner.” Having seen the progress that had been made in disease eradication first hand using this approach, I have to agree that this is the best way to accomplish this goal.

Susan Henderson, MD, MPH works in the Division of Cancer Prevention and Control, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia. The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



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JOY AGAINST THE RAIN

Winning essay in the NPCA/SEVEN Fund Enterprise Solutions to Poverty Contest

by Becky Straw

I

t didn't rain last night.

But driving over the muck and debris, it was hard to tell. The streets were so waterlogged; we eventually had to get out of our car and walk.

Kawempe is a slum situated in the lowest point of Kampala, the bustling capital of Uganda. When it rains, Ronald told us, all the water ends up here. Along with all the sights and smells of human waste. A prime spot for disease to fester, I imagine.

Winding through this vast network of small homes requires the balance of a dancer. You must squeeze through alleys and dodge puddles of muck and sewage. Children dart passed, kicking a dirty soccer ball made of rags, laughing and poking fun at one another.

Irene told us, as she bounced 7-month-old Faith on her knee, when it rains at night her family doesn't sleep.

"That's our bed, over there," Irene said, pointing to a large foam mattress, slumped over two chairs to dry in the sun. Rain means their home floods with a few feet of water.

Irene told us that it rained on Saturday.

Today's Tuesday. Her mattress is still soggy.

...

If you're living on one dollar per day, thriving is nearly impossible. We asked Joy, a health care promoter for Living Goods, about her experience here.

Years ago, Joy's husband had been stationed in the army. He died fighting in Rwanda. He left her widowed with a toddler, a baby and pregnant. Thus began the period of her life she called "survival."

She walked 10KM to a charity offering scholarships, for the chance to enroll her three kids in school. Her walking paid off, but only for one child. To eat, a kind neighbor who was HIV+ forged his test results in her name, so



Ester Havens

Joy Twinomusasizi stands proudly next to her bag of health supplies.

she could register at a clinic for free food. She traveled around Kampala, and registered herself at five.

"I have always been skinny, so everyone believed that I had HIV" she says, raising her forearm and gently circling her wrist with her index finger and thumb, so they touch in the middle. She was ashamed, but with three young children, she was desperate.

Joy Against the Rain.

Recalling those memories was easy for Joy. It wasn't long before big wet tears rolled down her checks. Joy methodically used her wide thumbs to wipe them away. One on each side, in a steady rhythm. Like fat drops of rain on a window, I thought. She didn't sniffle or heave. They just poured out.

...

Living Goods is a new organization, founded in 2007 by American entrepreneur, Chuck Slaughter. He read

an article in the New York Times about microfinance and became inspired to turn his business acumen towards social enterprise.

Every 3 seconds a child dies in the developing world because of a lack of access to basic health products – simple medicines that cost less than a cup of coffee. Approximately 270 million people in Africa lack regular access to essential medicines. Furthermore, retail prices of medicines in Africa are often sold for 350% the manufacturing costs, due to fragmented markets of resellers and a nonexistent supply chain.

Chuck became inspired by the company Avon, after learning that they started in rural America in 1876 when villages lacked access to quality goods, and women had few job opportunities. Avon is now a \$10 Billion business thriving in over 100 countries. Chuck decided that he wanted to apply the Avon model to healthcare in Africa.

Starting in Uganda, Living Goods trains female leaders in their communities to become health promoters, going door-to-door selling essential health products at affordable prices. Women earn commission off every sale, and each micro-entrepreneur serves a catchment area of 700 people. They provide expectant and new mothers with sound advice, house calls and referrals. Because Living Goods operates a strategic network of branches, they have a streamlined supply chain, selling their drugs 10-40% below market pricing.

Since opening its first branch in 2008, Living Goods and its joint venture partner BRAC have grown to 29 branches throughout Uganda employing over 650 female entrepreneurs. In the next five years, Living Goods aims to grow its network to over 5,000 franchised agents

serving over 3 million poor consumers across multiple countries. This is the beginning of company built off American entrepreneurship, scaling successfully across Africa.

...

We sat outside with Joy and sipped our Cokes. The sky looked ominous and the upper branches of a tree rustled loudly in the wind. Ronald, Joy's supervisor, assured us that it wasn't going to rain.

Joy told us the story about how she earned a job at Living Goods, because she was nominated as a leader in her community, an older mother people trust. She applied, took the health test, and was accepted. How has her life changed, we asked? Joy straightened up and spoke passionately.

"(Before) I could live in a tiny room and not look at myself. I could just go to market and not think about myself. You don't bother looking for yourself. Nobody knew me," she said.

"Now I have a name. Now they call me "musawo." Musawo is a Ugandan word for someone who treats people. "I would like to keep that dignity when I go out of my home. I changed my life totally to fit with that name musawo," Joy said, assertively, eyes beaming. "It has changed my life."

Despite the rain, the waste and the disease plaguing Kawempe slum, there's a beacon of light. Because there, amongst the muck, you can now find Joy.

Becky Straw is the Co-Founder and Chief Adventurist for The Adventure Project (www.theadventureproject.org), a new nonprofit organization building a grassroots movement to accelerate social enterprises in developing countries. Prior to The Adventure Project, Becky spent three years helping to launch Charity Water, an organization bringing clean and safe drinking water to people in developing countries. Becky has consulted for UNICEF's Division of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, and graduated from Columbia University with a Master's in Social Welfare. When not in "start-up mode" Becky writes a blog about her travels and lessons in international aid: www.beckystraw.com.

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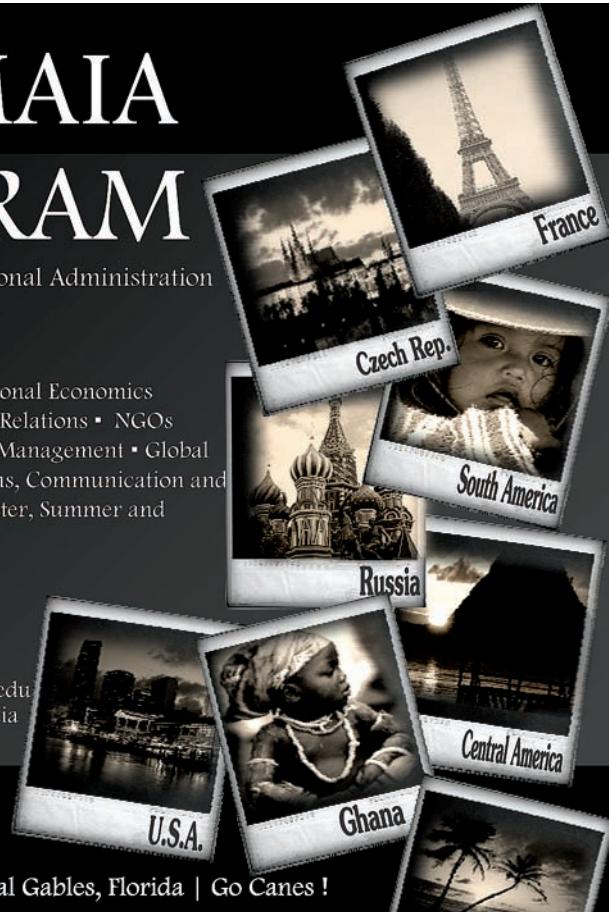
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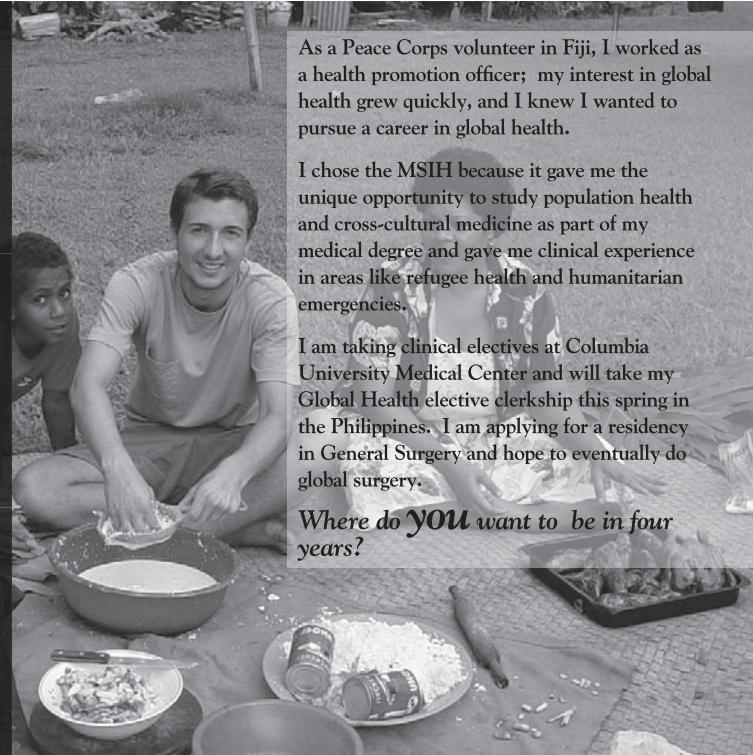
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I am taking clinical electives at Columbia University Medical Center and will take my Global Health elective clerkship this spring in the Philippines. I am applying for a residency in General Surgery and hope to eventually do global surgery.

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THE WAY TO SANTA FE

Madagascar silk at the International Folk Art Market

by Sara LeHoullier

I stood with Prisca, both of us exhausted, gaping at the astonishing scene unraveling in front of us. African drummers, almost completely hidden by a massive group of people shouting, smiling artists and volunteers from all over the world, skillfully knocked out a cheerful and complex rhythm. As we watched, enthralled, the crowd gyrated, every dancer bringing their own country's flavor to the floor—somehow it all fit together perfectly, the beating of the drums binding everyone together. A conga line formed and wound around tables of toe-tapping spectators, and the joy was palpable. After a few minutes, I reluctantly pulled Prisca away; we had to get going. Ambling out the doors, arms linked, into the evening air, it felt like rain. When we looked at each other we discovered that we both had tears in our eyes; it must have been the pure joy that had enveloped us for a few moments. The car was silent as Edward drove away from the International Folk Art Market under a darkening sky. We were all thinking the same thing: what's next?

Four days earlier, as my shuttle pulled into the Sage Inn, tardy by many hours, I was happy to behold a familiar lionine mane atop the head of a man walking through the parking lot—it was Dan Branch, Peace Corps Volunteer extraordinaire. I had last set eyes on Dan and his girlfriend Natalie Mundy in December, when I finished my tour as a Peace Corps Response Volunteer in Madagascar, while they still had another year to go. He directed me to the hotel room where Prisca, Natalie, and her mom sat amongst the silks, frantically labeling scarves, tablecloths, hats—it appeared to be a bottomless pile of merchandise. Perched at the foot of the bed, Prisca sat like a person who had always been sitting on brightly patterned polyester bedspreads, though thousands of miles

separated her from the cramped wooden house in Sandrandahy, Madagascar where I had last seen her. She looked remarkably calm and collected after a week of firsts and strange foods, though I'm sure her thoughts were racing.

We had started on the road to Santa Fe, New Mexico a year earlier, just two Volunteers trying to make a difference. When Natalie Mundy and I met in Ambositra, my site as a second-time Madagascar Volunteer, we knew we were on the same wavelength. The minute she told me about the International Folk Art Market, I jumped at a chance to help with the effort to get SAHALANDY, a federation of silk weavers, accepted. Madagascar had never been represented there, and we thought it was high time—it would be such a boon for the weavers, the country, and for us as Volunteers. In the following weeks, we'd sit for hours on the cement floor of my apartment, eating fried deliciousness and brainstorming ideas for the application. We knew we had to communicate the beauty of the silks, the deep cultural significance of the weaving process, and the way that the handicraft contributes to the livelihood of an entire community. With a lot of input from the weavers themselves, we filled in the responses, crossed our fingers and sent it off, then started hoping.

All of a sudden it happened; Natalie was in the newspaper, then Prisca was featured on the market website. SAHALANDY had made it in—and Prisca was going to Santa Fe, along with a handful of folks that included two current PCVs, one RPCV, and assorted family and friends.

Almost overnight, things got wild in Sandrandahy. Natalie told me that the pre-market process was one of the all time most uplifting things she's ever seen. After months of building up their stock for shipment and holding endless meetings

about pricing and marketing, Natalie described to the weavers the steps that needed to be taken. Then they took the reins and raced to the finish.

For five full days the weavers sat in Natalie's yard on woven mats. They inventoried, sewed tags onto each piece, stuffed plastic bags, and finally packed everything into boxes that would be weighed and loaded into a container bound for the United States. Little did we know that U.S. Customs would hold them hostage for a month in Los Angeles, citing lost paperwork and a list of other offenses. Natalie's mom, Jeecy and her husband, Edward, became the silk crusaders; they flew to L.A., rented a van and managed to cut through the red tape with just enough time to deliver our precious cargo to Santa Fe for the Market. Which is why we were up the night before the festival, still putting prices on our precious goods.

The 5am Friday wake-up call jangled everyone's brains. We rolled out of bed, barely coherent. After grabbing a quick continental breakfast surrounded by artists and volunteers from many continents, we geared up for what would be the most grueling experience of the weekend: the set-up.

When we arrived at our booth and began bringing in the boxes, we knew we had too much product. The eyes of the volunteers were like saucers as they stared as we were slowly engulfed in a growing mountain of silks: solids and stripes, burgundy cream, loose and tight weaves. A few hours in, after I had failed to make our booth look like anything other than a rummage sale, I noticed a man with black-rimmed glasses and a kind face standing next to our mess, a finger balanced on his lips. He picked up his walkie-talkie and muttered, "Send help to Booth 82, stat." Leon was our savior. Within minutes, three lovely, well-dressed



Daniel, Prisca and Natalie wearing SAHALANDY scarves.

women waded through the sea of silks, assessed the situation and got to work. It took a couple of hours, several flower pots and empty shoeboxes, some two-by-fours, but they did it – it was professional, and it showcased the work of the weavers as it was meant to be.

Over the next three days, the traffic in Booth 82 was nonstop. We folded, rolled, and folded again. We were quizzed on every part of the silk weaving process. We matched scarf to eye-color, and picked out gifts for girlfriends and mothers and grandfathers, we found hats for people with big heads and small heads, we told our story of Madagascar, the story of Peace Corps, explained what makes the silks wild, and folded and rolled some more. Children came and found Madagascar on a map, and our faithful and stalwart volunteers were cheerful and precise until the last minute of the last day. Prisca had a hard time tearing herself away from the booth—she felt compelled to work constantly, hardly taking breaks to eat and drink. At the end of it all, we had pulled in more money than we ever dreamed possible, and there wasn't an ounce of energy left in any of us.

In the days afterwards, I had a difficult time coming down from the experience, and I know that Dan, Natalie, and Prisca did as well.

When I asked Natalie to relay her impressions and to tell me about the reactions of Prisca and the rest of the weavers, she said she mostly wanted to thank everyone who helped make the weekend the wild success that it was, especially Dan and her parents. Prisca remains ecstatic about her trip to the

States, and is overwhelmed with joy about the trainings she received at the market (particularly in costing and pricing). She had never included her own salary when selling her products, and realized on this trip that she had probably been operating at a loss for years, which still brings her to tears. They're all working hard to rectify mistakes that have been made in the past, and have a very bright future ahead of them.

Prisca made a few astute observations about the U.S.—she noted that it's calm, clean, and law-abiding. Washington, D.C. was a little large for her taste, but she loved everything else. She has mastered the art of making bagels with a charcoal oven, and Natalie has vouched for their deliciousness. She also learned in the U.S. that a well-rounded diet is important, and has changed the way she cooks for

her family. She marveled at how big everything is here, from the people to the stores to the food, and she now feels that she can't judge PCVs as she did before, knowing where we came from and how hard we work as Volunteers. She also appreciates her own culture more than she ever has.

Above all, Prisca has said that she is incredibly proud of SAHALANDY for completing this daunting task and becoming famous in America. What happened in Santa Fe was beyond her wildest dreams, and ours. She has said that the market is the answer to what SAHALANDY has always been looking for—a sustainable market abroad, and a wider audience for the stories of these incredibly talented, unique, and dedicated artists.

*Sara LeHoullier (Madagascar 2005-2007, 2010) is the author of *Madagascar Travel Companion* (Other Places Publishing, 2010), and co-author of *Madagascar Travel Guide* (Other Places Publishing, 2012).*



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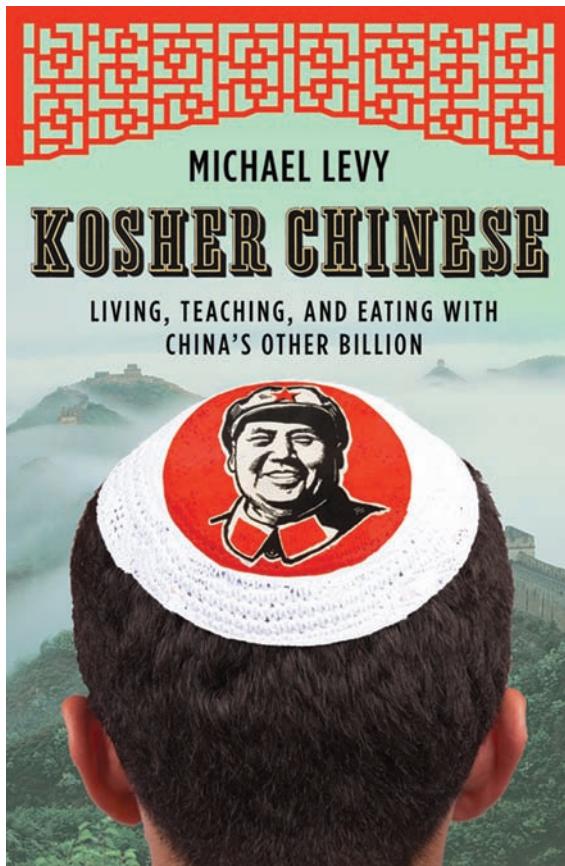
An excerpt from Kosher Chinese: Living, Teaching and Eating with China's Other Billion

by Michael Levy

Halfway through my Peace Corps service, I was recruited by school administrators to play on the Guizhou University basketball team. Our first game was scheduled for a Saturday night against a local Military Academy. We donned our yellow jerseys and boarded the team bus. It was the first hot day of the early summer so we had all of the windows lowered. Dust and gravel mixed with the cigarette smoke of my teammates. I tried not to breath too deeply.

An hour later, we arrived at our opponents' gym. It was by far the nicest court I had seen in China. The floor was made of wood (rather than the usual concrete), the rims had nets, and the baskets seemed actually to be regulation height. The gym had seating for a few-hundred spectators, and the stands were about half full. On the wall near the entrance was a life-sized photo of Yao Ming dunking on a player from the Japanese national team.

We began warming up by running laps, stretching, and shooting free throws. Eventually, our Coach—a tall Shanghai native named Qin—called us over. He had been a fairly ruthless task master during practice and had an even more serious look on his face today. He was giving complex commands and speaking rapidly. My Chinese had gaps in basketball terminology but the physical language of the sport was not lost in translation. I was never more than a half-step behind his instructions. Or so I thought. Ultimately, I was just nodding and hoping that once on the court I could figure out how to be a part of our offensive and defensive schemes.



"Take a look at the other team," Coach told us. "We will not be covering number 11." Coach Qin looked at me to be sure I understood, and he spelled it out clearly for me: "He is high up in the Communist Youth Party, so he must be allowed to score."

"I got it," I said. "Be friendly with number 11." Coach nodded at this and gave me a thumbs-up.

Number 11 would have clear paths to the hoop as a consequence of playing basketball in a place where *guanxi*—the Chinese term for relationships—ruled. *Guanxi* took precedent over winning. I had already been told to expect a sliding scale from the officials. Older players would be given more leeway than younger players and Communist

Party members the most leeway of all. Everyone else, however, could be attacked at full intensity.

Coach went on to explain our strategy for the game (aside from allowing Communists to score) and then announced the starting line-up. I prepared to take the court.

As I stepped towards the center circle for tip off, the previously noisy gym fell silent. The early summer air seemed to thicken. Fingers pointed at me and brows furled. I began feeling acutely self-conscious, which was nothing new in China, though in this case there was something sinister about the way the officials and the players on the other team were staring at me. The crowd seemed happily curious, but my opponents seemed downright hostile.

The two referees quickly held a private conference. After a few moments, they called over the coaches. After a few more moments they called over the captains from both teams. What was amiss?

Finally, after more than ten minutes, my coach broke from the growing huddle and walked in my direction. He put his hand on my shoulder.

"You cannot play here," Coach Qin said looking mildly embarrassed. "You must leave."

"Why?" I asked.

His response, delivered after a pause and with a long breath... "The Taiwan Problem."

I was taken aback. "I don't understand," I said with genuine confusion. I was, of course, well aware of the Chinese belief that Taiwan, a fully independent island-nation off China's east coast, was a renegade secessionist province. I was

also aware that this was a sensitive diplomatic issue, and was one of the "Three T's" Peace Corps volunteers were warned to steer clear of in conversation (along with Tibet, and the Tiananmen Square Massacre). Still, I didn't have a clue why Taiwan was coming up as we were preparing to tip-off.

Coach explained: "You are American, and the American military supports Taiwan. So you are not allowed to play here in this gym at the Military College." As he spoke, his mild embarrassment was turning to full-blown shame. He seemed to realize how petty this seemed.

"Oh," I said, trying to maintain a smile. "You know, I'm not in the military. I'm in something called the PEACE Corps." I emphasized the word 'peace.' Coach just shook his head, but he did call over the head referee, a Chinese version of Icabod Craine. Icabod slowly swaggered our way, jaw set rigidly in place.

"*Ni hao*," I said with as broad a smile as I could muster. My Chinese skills limited my ability to bargain, but I was determined to do my best. "I know the Taiwan issue is sensitive," I told him, "but basketball can build friendships. Please allow me to play."

Icabod was unresponsive and coach was looking more and more miserable. Any improper action on my part would reflect poorly on him, and I didn't want to get him in trouble.

"Well, never mind," I said with a wave. "I love China, and I will just watch the game."

The ref turned on his heels, and went back to the circle of men that had moments earlier enacted my ban. They chatted quietly for a few minutes as I returned to the team bench. My teammates were milling about

without looking at me. Eventually, Icabod approached me again, barely concealing a smile.

"You must leave the gym immediately," he told me. "A car will be provided to escort you from the grounds of the military school." He spun again, and Coach Qin gently coaxed me off the court. He kept his hand around my shoulder, and began quietly rambling an apology as he walked me towards the door. "I am sorry for this, but you must understand. The Taiwan problem... Military... Unification... So sorry."

When we reached the door, he sighed and shrugged his shoulders. "You'll be able to play next week. We won't be at the military school." I walked out into the now cool evening air. As the doors to the gym swung shut, a uniformed police officer standing in the evening twilight lit a cigarette, blew the smoke at me, and pointed to a car. "I guess you're my driver?" I asked him. His only response was to enter the car and start the engine.

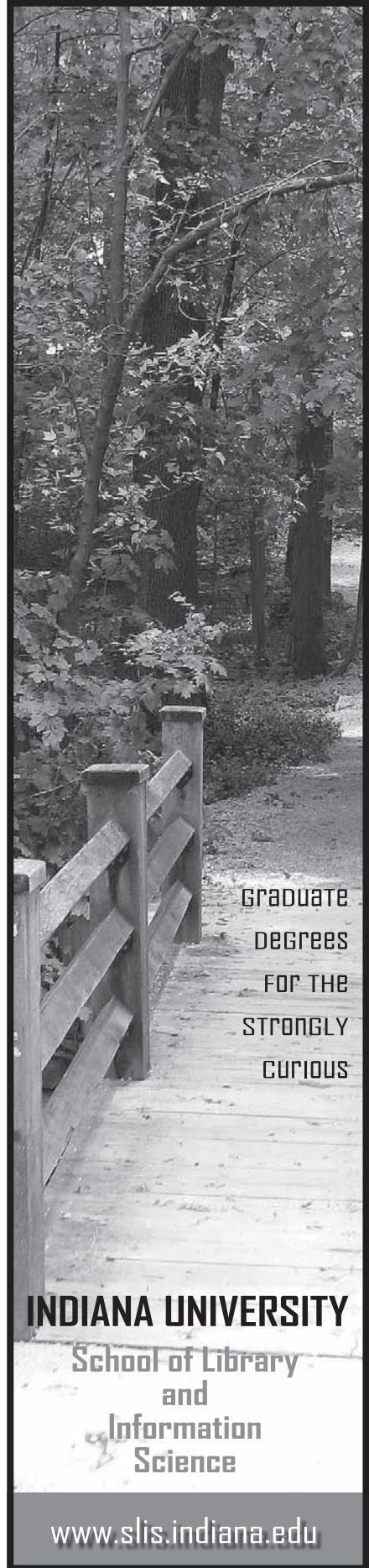
"Take me to home," I said. The driver grunted and we tore off in a cloud of dust.

I hummed the Chinese National Anthem as we drove. He didn't join me.

Excerpted from Kosher Chinese by Mike Levy Copyright 2011 by Michael Levy

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Michael Levy served as a Peace Corps volunteer in the People's Republic of China from 2005-07, teaching English at the largest University in China's poorest province. He is on the faculty at St. Paul's School. His writing has appeared in Adbusters, In These Times, and The Forward.



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PROMISE KEPT

After 50 years, finding a brother's crash site in Columbia

by Simon Romero

Gordon Radley, a member of the National Peace Corps Association Advisory Council and a Peace Corps Volunteer in Malawi from 1968-70, was profiled in The New York Times in August for his journey to the place where his brother, Larry, and fellow Volunteer David Crozier were killed in a plane crash during their Peace Corps service in Colombia.

We asked Gordon about his journey to the plane site in remote Colombia and he provided this comment:

“...getting there was equally if not more so about confirming the significance of the ideals of Peace Corps service to which David and Larry were the first to give their lives and the significance of those ideals to us as a people. It is about what these two died for and the 50 year quest to get there. It was my small attempt to consecrate that ground as sacred to America because for the first time in our history we had shed the American blood of citizen American volunteers seeking to bring people beyond our shores lives free from ignorance, poverty and disease. Those are fundamental American ideals and reaching that mountain top confirmed their pre eminence in who we are.”

All that remained here, on a drizzle-shrouded ridge in the Chocó jungle, was a rusting cross and some crumpled fuselage. No wonder Gordon Radley feared that the tragedy that took his brother's life five decades ago was at risk of being lost in the mists of time.

Mr. Radley was just 15 when his parents in Chicago were told, in 1962, that a Colombian DC-3 plane had crashed in Chocó, killing more than 30 people, including two Americans. They were the first Peace Corps volunteers

to die in service. One was Mr. Radley's brother, Larry, a 22-year-old graduate of the University of Illinois.

Of all the commemorations this year for the 50th anniversary of the Peace Corps, an institution still seen to be grasping for its identity somewhere along the spectrum between altruism and a superpower's quest for soft power, Mr. Radley's must rank among the most remarkable and quixotic.

As a grieving teenager in Chicago, Mr. Radley made a promise to himself when his brother died. He decided that the only way he could properly say goodbye, and honor his brother's idealism at a time when the Peace Corps was barely a year old, was to someday reach the remote location where Larry left this world.

“Over the years, people have asked me, ‘What are you looking for?’ and ‘What do you expect to find?’” said Mr. Radley, 65, a former film industry executive who lives in California. “And I have always answered, ‘I have no idea; all I know is that I have to get there.’”

It took years of false starts, diplomatic negotiations, reconnaissance missions by Colombia's army and an expedition intercepted by guerrillas before Mr. Radley could finally arrive at the crash site, located in an area controlled by 200 fighters from the 57th Front of the Revolutionary Forces of Colombia, or FARC, a group classified as a terrorist organization by the State Department.

At one point, Mr. Radley paid for a group of civilians from Chocó, the provincial capital, to go by canoe and on foot to the escarpment, where they confirmed that the wreckage still existed. But after being detained by the guerrillas during their journey, they warned him that he would clearly be a kidnapping target if he were to trek with them.

On an April trip to Medellín, in which he asked Colombia's military for help to reach the site, Mr. Radley was told by Gen. Alberto Mejía, the regional army commander, that it would be possible — but hardly an easy task — to get him and a few others to the site where the DC-3 had crashed.

“The way we do that is with what we call Alpha, Beta and Charlie missions,” the general said during the meeting. “Alpha is using machine guns to clear the area, Beta is to do some focal bombing and Charlie is where we use some rockets just especially to land, so that we can explode any kind of mines that we normally find in these areas.”

That was not exactly the response Mr. Radley was hoping for, given the peaceful ideals he was trying to promote. After his brother's death, he too had joined the Peace Corps, volunteering among the Sena people in Malawi, a seminal experience and the start of his long friendships with Malawians and others who volunteered in East Africa.

“Gordon lived and worked in Malawi, as I did in years of hope — before disillusionment set in,” said the writer Paul Theroux, who also served in the Peace Corps in the 1960s before being expelled from the country after he was accused of supporting an exiled Malawian rebel leader.

“I did not make a telephone call for two years,” Mr. Theroux said in an e-mail. “Gordon, a few years later, was in the most remote part of a remote country, and for that reason I envied him,” said Mr. Theroux, who recently finished a novel, “The Lower River,” set in the same area where Mr. Radley lived.

After returning to the United States, where he went into the entertainment industry and rose to become president of Lucasfilm, the production company



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founded by George Lucas, Mr. Radley became one of the Peace Corps' most strident defenders.

He supported Peace Corps budget increases and wrote essays on its ideals of promoting cross-cultural understanding. Still, he never made it to the place where his brother died, even though he came frustratingly close in April, when a Colombian Army plane flew him over the jungle where the DC-3 crashed.

He redoubled his efforts, contacting Representative Sam Farr, Democrat of California and a former Peace Corps volunteer in Colombia, to see if more could be done to secure the Colombian military's help. The army sent soldiers to secure the area (without bombing it) and, finally, a window opened for Mr. Radley to go.

One blistering day in August, he boarded a Black Hawk helicopter in Quibdó, clutching a bag holding some dirt from his family's cemetery plot in Chicago, a few stones from Jerusalem's Abu Tor district, where his sister, Elana, lives, and an old, faded photograph of his brother, Larry.

Mr. Radley, after landing on the escarpment, said he was aware of the irony of relying on military force in a nation still at war to get to a place where he could have a memorial service to promote peaceful ideals. "The challenge to get here magnifies the value of those ideals and the fact that we did get here," he said.

Fearing rebel attacks and inclement weather, the soldiers gave him just 15 minutes. He found a clearing with scraps of fuselage and a rusting cross that Chocó families had erected in the 1960s. The clouds above briefly opened, allowing rays of light to shine on the rain forest, which long ago had swallowed the remains of those killed.

Standing there, he sprinkled the dirt from his family's plot and tossed the stones from Jerusalem, which his sister had given him, over the precipice. On a harmonica, he played Beethoven's "Ode to Joy," just as the Black Hawk's roaring blades were drowning out other sounds.

He had no time to recite the lines from a poem for the departed that remained crumpled in his hand: "I am not there. I do not sleep; I am a thousand winds that blow."

Days later, remembering the humility he felt of being helped by hurried soldiers to the cathedral-like clearing atop the ridge, he surmised that the most significant moment of the whole odyssey was the embrace he received from a Colombian officer, who spoke with compassion and warmth of bringing Mr. Radley to the spot. But that insight, which Mr. Radley described as an ideal that his brother and his colleague had died for, in which "nationality, culture and language are transcended," was something that came later.

When it was time to fly away that August day, he pulled himself into the Black Hawk. Its deafening roar made conversation futile. He squinted out the window a last time at the Chocó's sea of trees. Finally, he began to cry.

Published August 24, 2011 in the New York Times. Reprinted with permission. Copyright 2011 New York Times Company

JOB SEARCH TIPS FOR RETURNING VOLUNTEERS

Peace Corps Volunteers: show off your marketable skills!

by Mrim Boutla PhD

As a returning Peace Corps Volunteer, you might struggle to explain the breath and depth of the extraordinary experience you have had abroad both to your friends and family, but especially to future employers. As you launch your post-Peace Corps job search in this tough market, you might feel that you don't have a chance, as you are competing with other candidates who have gained traditional work experience while you were serving abroad. Furthermore, you might even be questioning the value of your Peace Corps experience as compared to other service options that seem to offer more "practical" experience and skills (e.g. Teach for America or Americorps VISTA).

Well rejoice, because I am here today to tell you that your Peace Corps experience is probably one of the best investments you could make to remain competitive in the 21st Century workplace. Indeed, based on my work with hundreds of MBAs, PhDs and working professionals in the last 8 years, I can confidently tell you the skills you have developed and your global experience and your project management skills are in high demand among employers across sectors.

The need for the traits and skills you have developed during your Peace Corps experience has further been confirmed by the 2011 Graduate Management Admissions Council (GMAC) recruiter survey. This survey of over 1,500 recruiters for top companies demonstrated that recruiters want candidates that possess communication skills, strategic skills, the proven ability to perform, and the ability to manage change. Your Peace Corps experience has not only enabled you to develop all these skills, but it

also allowed you to develop them in a global context, which allowed you to also refine your ability to transcend language and cultural barriers to deliver results and complete your projects (i.e. develop persuasive cross-cultural communication skills). In addition to skills, the 2011 GMAC recruiter survey also showed that recruiters want to hire candidates who possess traits such as initiative, professionalism, motivation, integrity, and the ability to deal effectively with pressure and unexpected obstacles. You have certainly had to display many (if not all) of these traits to get your projects done during your Peace Corps service. But how can you demonstrate that you possess these skills and traits in your resume or on your LinkedIn profile? Here are a few suggestions that will help you do so effectively.

Regarding skills, using bullet points that showcase the skills and include measurable results is most effective. Examples of Peace Corps experiences that leverage skills and traits discussed above include:

- Obtained first USAID grant to Peace Corps in Mali. Won UNICEF and national government support to design, plan, and successfully implement statewide health education program that was incorporated into Mali's national high school curriculum.
 - Skills showcased include strategic planning skills, proven ability to perform and ability to manage change.
 - Traits showcased include initiative, motivation, and integrity.
- Initiated and coordinated cultural exchange program between Malian and U.S. high schools.
 - Skills showcased include persuasive

cross-cultural communication skills, strategic planning skills, and proven ability to perform.

- Traits showcased include initiative, motivation, and ability to deal effectively with pressure and unexpected obstacles.
- Successfully taught English as a foreign language to over 200 high school students at different proficiency levels.
- Skills showcased include persuasive cross-cultural communication skills, strategic planning skills, and proven ability to perform under pressure.
- Traits showcased include motivation, and ability to deal effectively with pressure and unexpected obstacles.

Of course, these skills and traits can also serve as core elements of your LinkedIn profile summary, or of your pitch for networking events. For example:

Spanish/English bilingual project management professional with extensive work and living experience in Latin America (Peace Corps Volunteer in Chile). Initiated, designed and implemented a regional co-op farming program that successfully leveraged local community assets to create a sustainable food and water supply for over 5,000 people. Excellent ability to develop and nurture relationships with constituents from diverse educational and cultural backgrounds. Proven track record of building project time tables, monitoring progress against agreed upon goals, and dealing effectively with pressure and unexpected obstacles. I am particularly interested in energy and infrastructure development in developing and emerging Latin American economies.

Continued on next page

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR COMMUNITY

by JoAnna Haugen

CHILE

Twenty-five Returned Peace Corps Volunteers gathered at Notre Dame for a 50 year reunion of Chile I, which originally numbered 45. The group is pictured with Father Ted Hesburgh, who played an important role in planning the first Peace Corps group to go to Chile and who has remained close to the Chile I volunteers ever since.



Jodi Crandall



HONDURAS

This summer, **Thomas Camero** (Honduras 78-80, Response 2000) pedaled his bike from his home in Bend, Oregon to Washington, D.C. to attend Peace Corps 50th Anniversary events. For this adventure, Tom traveled in minimalist style, saying at the beginning of his journey "I am using a Bob trailer and plan to camp as weather and body allow. I'll have my guitar, tent, stove, and minimum cooking stuff. I am a back-of-the-pack rider and often stop at brew

pubs." Upon his arrival in Washington on Sept. 21, he was greeted by the National Peace Corps Association and the Peace Corps. (You can read more on the NPCA website at www.peacecorpsconnect.org.)

Continued from preceding page

In sum, your Peace Corps service experience is one of the best foundational experiences you can leverage to compete for global 21st century careers in business, social enterprises, or in nonprofits. Showcasing the skills and traits you have developed as a global project manager is sure to enable you to

increase your chances to convert your applications into interviews faster!

Dr. Mrim Boutla is a Swiss-Moroccan brain scientist turned career coach. She co-founded and manages More Than Money Careers, which trains university staff in effectively helping emerging leaders translate their education into well-paying jobs in corporate social responsibility, social enterprise, and sustainable business.



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RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR COMMUNITY

by JoAnna Haugen

CHAD

Michelle T. Boone (94-96) recently assumed the position of Chicago's Commissioner of Cultural Affairs and Special Events. Among her many goals in this position include expanding the city's arts and education programs, and identifying and creating cultural hubs throughout the city. Boone's previous work includes time as the director of Gallery 37 (a job training program in the arts for Chicago youth) and a senior program officer for culture at the Joyce Foundation.

CHILE, BOLIVIA

Jerry Perkins (Chile 63-65, Bolivia 67-71) spent November 15, 2010, through February 20, 2011, working as a transportation operator at McMurdo Station in Antarctica to support the scientific research efforts there. For three months he transported people to and from McMurdo. Perkins, a farmer in Worthington, Minnesota, has had a sense of wanderlust since serving in the Peace Corps. He and his wife, Terry, have spent time traveling or volunteering in Chile, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Cuba, Lithuania, Bolivia and Costa Rica.

CHILE

Jan Knippers Black (62-64) has been elected to the board of directors of Amnesty International USA. She is a professor at the Monterey Institute of International Studies and longtime human rights advocate. Black's research focuses on human rights, and her most recent published book is "The Politics of Human Rights Protection."

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Delfi Messinger (84-87) is the new division manager at Escambia County's Animal Services. Prior to this position, Messinger was the director of animal

programs at the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, general curator at the Lee Richardson Zoo in Garden City, Kansas, and manager of the Animal Department at the National Biological Institute in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



GHANA

William Reinecke (05-07) has received a Fulbright scholarship to work with a rural cooperative made up of 3,500 women shea butter producers and pickers in Burkina Faso. In 2010, he returned to Ghana while working on his MBA to continue research on the potential of the African shea butter industry to help alleviate poverty and contribute to social and environmental sustainability. Reinecke received his bachelor's degree from California State University in Chico and his master's degree from the Monterey Institute of International Studies.

GHANA

Matthew C. Patrick is the new executive director of the Westport River Watershed Alliance, a non-profit environmental education and advocacy group that conserves national resources in the Westport River watershed area. Patrick has served as volunteer chairman of a non-profit organization that preserved 380 acres of the Quashnet River Valley in Mashpee on Cape Cod, co-chairman of an ad hoc coalition to create the Cape

Cod Commission and a selectman in Falmouth. From 2001 to 2011, Patrick was a state representative from the 3rd Barnstable District.

HONDURAS

Theresa Parent is one of 18 women on Costa Rica's first softball team, which recently competed in the 11th annual Central American Female Softball Tournament for the first time. She is a pitcher for the team. Currently a travel consultant for Costa Rican Vacations, Parent earned her degree from Grand Valley State University.

HONDURAS

Kathleen S. Klein (77-79) has been named as the newest forest supervisor for the Ochoco National Forest in Central Oregon. An employee of the Forest Service for 31 years, Klein has most recently been working as the operations staff officer for the Umatilla National Forest office.

IVORY COAST

Richard Greene (78-80) has been sworn in as the new Mission Director for Bangladesh for USAID, one of the largest USAID development assistance programs in the world by size and funding. Prior to this position, Greene served as the Director of the Office of Health, Infectious Diseases and Nutrition in USAID's Bureau for Global Health since 2003.

KENYA

Terrell Jones (84-86) recently became the new director of the health department in Lee County, North Carolina. Prior to this position, he worked for 13 years as the program manager for the Discharge Elimination Program under the North Carolina Department of Environment and National Resources within the Division of Environmental Health.

KYRGYZSTAN

Ailey Kaiser Hughes (04-05) has received a Fulbright grant to conduct research in Kyrgyzstan for ten months about the local infrastructure and land-use laws. She is a graduate of Western Washington University and the University of Washington.

MADAGASCAR

The Online News Association recently named Laura Amico (06-07) a 2011 MJ Bear Fellow. The award is given to journalists under 30 whose innovative work in independent, community and corporate news represents the best of new media. Amico is the founder and editor of Homicide Watch D.C., which covers every homicide in the national's capital. Amico received The New York Times Chairman's Award in 2009. She was selected for the Knight Digital Media News Entrepreneurs Bootcamp and named a Guggenheim Fellow in 2011.

MALAYSIA

Dr. Edwin C. Price has been named the first holder of the Howard G. Buffett Foundation Chair in Conflict and Development at Texas A&M University. He is currently the associate vice chancellor for international agriculture, director of the Norman Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture and a professor in the department of agricultural economics. Price has been active in conflict-prone

countries throughout Asia, Africa and the Middle East for many years.

MOZAMBIQUE

Village Enterprise has hired **Konstantin Zvereff** (05-07) as its senior director of programs and operations in Kakamega, Kenya. The company is involved with rural microenterprise development, and Zvereff will be tasked with helping to start small businesses, oversee the development of pilot projects and manage partnerships with other community-based organizations. Prior to this position, Zvereff worked as the director of operations of a Bear Stearns/JP Morgan joint venture and as an independent consultant for Developing World Markets.

NEPAL

Peter Burleigh is the new U.S. ambassador to India. He has spent 33 years as a career diplomat including posts in Iran and Iraq. He speaks fluent Hindi, Bengali, Nepali and Sinhalese.

UZBEKISTAN

Rhett Power's (00-01) science-oriented toy company, Wild Creations, has received a U.S. Chamber of Commerce Blue Ribbon Small Business Award. The company is also being listed in Inc. Magazine's 500/5000 list of fastest growing U.S. companies.

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ADVERTISERS INDEX

American University, School of Public Affairs 11
American University, College of Arts & Science 13
Antioch University, PhD in Leadership & Change 31
Ben-Gurion University 35
Boston University, International Relations 33
Brandeis University, Heller School 15
Bryn Mawr College 33
Clark University 7
Duke University, Environmental Leadership Program 25
George Mason University, School of Public Policy 29
Goucher College, Postbacc PreMed 15
Greenheart Travel 29
Hesperian Foundation 27
Indiana University, SLIS 39

Indiana University, SPEA 45
Johns Hopkins University, Postbacc Premed 43
Johns Hopkins University, School of Nursing Cover 2, page 1
Monterey Institute of Int'l Studies 11
Peace Corps 8, 9
RPCVs of Wisconsin, Madison 22, 23
Texas A&M University, Bush School 31
Tufts University, Fletcher School 5
UCSD, Int'l Relations & Pacific Studies 13
University of Denver, Korbel School 2
University of Miami, MAIA 35
Western Illinois University, Peace Corps Fellows 37
World Learning/SIT 41

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