

The New Peace Treaty

by Hayward Allen (Harar 62-64)

peace: n. a state of quiet or tranquility; absence of civil disturbance or agitation; freedom from or cessation of war or hostilities; a state of friendliness; calmness of mind . . .

treaty: n. an agreement formally concluded and ratified between different states; negotiation, the act of treating for the adjustment of differences . . .

On June 18, 2000, the foreign ministers of Ethiopia and Eritrea pledged to agree to a peace accord between the two nations. On December 12, the prime minister of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Meles Zenawi, and the president of Eritrea, Isaias Afwerki, signed another paper in Algiers in which they agreed to end the war between the two nations that had begun in May, 1998. Among the witnesses for the signing were UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

Some history

The most recent war is only one of the conflicts within the region in the past 500 years and longer. Ethiopia/Abyssinia fought with the Sudan over what is now Eritrea for centuries. In the 19th century, there were armed fights by Egypt, France, and Italy over the territory with ports on the Red Sea. The border between the two has been under scrutiny and fire, beginning in the first decade of the 20th century, then the battle for the Horn of Africa began in Eritrea as Mussolini crossed to

invade what he called "Italy's breadbasket." After the Italian military were removed from both countries after World War II, there was the amalgamation of Eritrea and Ethiopia under Haile Selassie's aegis.

The Eritrean struggle for independence is dated from the day the Eritrean Parliament voted for reintegration with Ethiopia in 1962, a few weeks after the first Peace Corps Volunteers arrived in country. Some twenty years later the Eritreans threw their lot in with the revolution against the Ethiopian military dictator Mengistu who was overthrown in 1991. In recognition of Eritrea's contribution to the revolution, its position of strength in its own territory, and the reality that the new fragile Ethiopian regime was too weak to put down any further Eritrean resistance, the Ethiopians held a referendum in Eritrea in 1993 in which some 95% of the Eritreans voted for independence and a new country was born.

The agreement

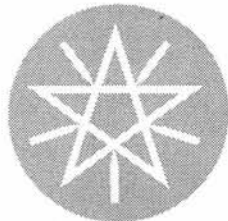
Under the "Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities Between the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Government of the State of Eritrea," as articulated by the Organization of African Unity, and "in accordance with the principles enshrined in the charters of the OAU and the United Nations," another bitter war between the two nations was formally ended. **pto >**

Inside

Summit	4
AIDS	6
Miscellany	8
Travel	10
Peace Corps	12
The 40th	14
Personal	16
Books	18
2000 reunion	21
Buna	22
The editor	24
Contacts	26

The new Peace Treaty

Continued from page 1



The language of the treaty is relatively simple and brevity its scope of persuasiveness. Paraphrased, the two countries agreed to stop all air and land attacks, begin "demining activities," and "the return of civilian administration and return of population as well as delimitation and demarcation of their common border."

The key element in the treaty provides the activation of policies to "contribute to the reduction of tension and to the establishment of a climate of calm and confidence, as well as to create conditions conducive to a comprehensive and lasting settlement" that has dealt with the border between Eritrea and Ethiopia.

The keyword of the document is "redeployment." The defining point is: "Ethiopia commits itself not to move its troops beyond the positions it administered before 6 May 1998 . . ." Eritrea agrees to "remain at a distance of 25 km (artillery range) from positions to which Ethiopian forces shall redeploy This zone of separation shall be referred to . . . as 'the temporary security zone.'" (It should be noted that the 25 km limit was first proposed by EEE RPCVs.)

Overseeing the resolution of the six-hundred-mile border war is a Peacekeeping Mission created by the United Nations, under the direction of the OAU. UN cartographers will eventually determine the line that separates the two nations. The number of UN peacekeepers is as yet undefined, but it is estimated that more than 4,000 will be sent to oversee the treaty's enforcement. According to the *Washington Post*, Richard C. Holbrooke, the then-Ambassador to the United Nations, believes that half that number would be sufficient.

Leo Cecchini (Asmara 62-64) has led EEE RPCVs Peace Initiative Team in an ongoing campaign for the peaceful cessation of the war. Cecchini spoke with Eritrean Ambassador to the U.N. Haile Menkarios shortly after the treaty signing. UN peacekeepers from Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, and Italy had already arrived. Cecchini noted that the ambassador "is glad the long agony is over and believes this settlement will work. His only reservation is that some in Ethiopia may argue what has the country gained after the loss of so

many lives and wealth." Cecchini also spoke with the Ethiopian ambassador to the U.S., who was "a bit more confident about the accord."

San Francisco Chronicle writer Lewis Dolinsky notes that there were three Peace Corps "alumni" present for the Algerian signing ceremony: "For three private U.S. citizens in attendance — Chic Dambach, John Garamendi [Metu 66-68] and Michael McCaskey [Fiche 65-67] — this was the true end of the war, a moment they had prayed for and worked for as friends of both sides. Former Peace Corps Volunteers talking to leaders who had studied under Peace Corps teachers, they had offered proposals, nudged whoever was recalcitrant, and asserted privately and publicly that the terms, available in June 1999, when they visited both countries, would be the terms whenever the fighting stopped. They were right."

According to Cecchini, the terms of the 1999 proposal were not the terms of the 2000 peace accord. He believes that, unfortunately, Garamendi's presentations to the Eritreans were misconstrued to mean that the US had the Ethiopians on board in the peace process and would forestall them from further military action, but the actual situation was that Ethiopia used the period from the Garamendi visit in May 1999 to May 2000 to prepare a brutal attack in June of that year that totally destroyed the Eritrean forces. Most expected the Ethiopians to march right through to Asmara and toss out the Eritrean government. Cecchini believes they did not do this as the Ethiopians had repeatedly made assurances to him that they had no intention of reclaiming Eritrea. "The Ethiopians do not want to go back to a protracted liberation struggle with the Eritreans" said Cecchini.

President Clinton was quoted at the time, saying "This is a breakthrough which can and should end the tragic conflict in the Horn of Africa. It can and should permit these two countries to realize their potential in peace, instead of squandering it in war."

It is difficult to find how many lives were lost and how much money was spent on what was called "Africa's Forgotten War." One UN dateline notes "tens of thousands of soldiers and civilians" had

died. At one time, it was estimated that one million Eritreans were forced to flee the war.

The *Washington Post* reported, "The war had involved some of the most high-tech military weaponry ever used in sub-Saharan Africa, straining the treasuries of the impoverished Horn of Africa neighbors at a time they are facing a deadly drought."

Even if there were a way of adding up the monetary costs of the two-year battle, it will be years before external humanitarian and economic aid will meet the needs of the two nations. Cecchini reports that he has seen accounts that various countries would provide at least US\$400 million in aid once the accord was ratified. He notes that there is no defined timeline, but "I assume this is for several years."

John Rude, (Tessenei, Adi Ugri 62-64), has his own opinion, "There's one fact that can't be denied . . . although we have to treat it with delicacy. Both nations were coerced into signing the treaty by the threat of withdrawing aid. This threat had more weight in Ethiopia, and will probably lead to more resentment and possible unraveling of the treaty."

Attempts at healing begin

On December 18, three air corridors opened between the two countries. The *Addis Tribune* reported December 29 that, as part of the UN Mission, their helicopters were patrolling the border flying between Manda, and Assab, Adigrat and Adi Keyih, and Shiraro and Shembako, Ethiopia and Eritrea, respectively.

Christmas Eve weekend, the International Red Cross overseers accounted for the repatriation of 360 Ethiopian and 359 Eritrean prisoners of war. According to the *Addis Tribune*, the sick and wounded soldiers were the first to be exchanged, although a mechanical problem with the chartered plane held up the process. Eventually, three trips were made between Asmara and Addis.

The *Tribune* notes, "Anxious journalists at the airport were not allowed to speak with the POWs."

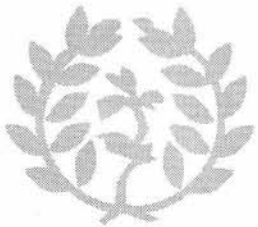
According to the 1949 Geneva Conventions — part of the Ethiopia-Eritrea treaty — all prisoners of war and detainees will be released. The Red Cross has determined that there are about 2,600 POWs in Ethiopia and 1,000 in Eritrea. The *Tribune* remarks that the ending of "the spat between the two Horn of Africa nations" has also freed 1414 Ethiopian civilians from Eritrea.

"Tens of thousands of Ethiopian troops Saturday [December 30] received a hero's welcome on return to their respective hometowns upon demobilization, following the end of the bloody border conflict with Eritrea," reported the PanAfrican News Agency in Addis. Celebrating towns included Addis, Ambo, Ghimbi, Bahr Dar and Jimma. Eventually, more than 150,000 troops will go home.

Visafric News reports from Asmara that Eritrean business investors are being encouraged by Yemane Gebreab, advisor to Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki, to "actively participate in the revitalization of their nation's economy." He praised the contributions of Eritreans living outside the country for their support "during its critical crisis" which "boosted the spirit of the nation's defense forces as well as the population at large." Speaking to an Eritrean group in Oakland, CA, he stressed that people "should not assume that Ethiopia's leaders have exhausted their desire for war . . . Ethiopia's acceptance of the peace plans had to do with various domestic and international considerations, including the abysmal state of its economy."

On December 29, Ethiopia accused Eritrea of breaking the conditions of the peace treaty, according to the PanAfrican News Agency reporting from the *Ethiopian Herald*. Eritrea was blamed for the failure of a one-day session in Nairobi because of a dispute over the repatriation of the towns of Badme, Zalambessaa, and Bada and what the UN delegation called an inability to agree to a redeployment of forces and a "rearrangement plan" of military forces.

"Ethiopia and Eritrea are America's friends," President Clinton concluded. "If they are ready to take the next step, we and our partners in the international community will walk with them." •





Donaldson attends the National Summit on Africa

Ray represented E&E RPCVs at a conference

Ray Donaldson, who served in Ambo and Debre Berhan, Ethiopia, from 1962 to 1964, represented E&E RPCVs at last year's fifth annual National Summit on Africa (NSA) in Washington, DC. The following article is based on Ray's report to the E&E RPCVs Steering Committee:

The five-day conference was attended by 7,500 delegates and participants. The program included "high-profile events," deliberative and education break-out sessions, seminars, roundtable discussions, plus special events and Africa-related entertainment.

The goal of this and previous National Summits on Africa is to create "a constituency for Africa" in the United States.

Speakers included President Bill Clinton, who delivered the keynote address, Vice President Al Gore, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, former UN Ambassador Andrew Young, Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi, Nigeria's Alhaji Abubakar Atiku, Jesse Jackson, and Ron Dellums, as well as representatives of the US Congress and international aid organizations like Bread for the World, Africa-America Institute, WorldSpace and Africare.

Speakers' remarks

President Clinton's remarks included a five-item list of needed US efforts: an open-world trading system through a bipartisan Congressional Africa Growth and Opportunity Act; debt relief to African nations "committed to sound policies," and recognition that countries working toward democracy "should not have to choose between feeding and educating their children."

Another of Clinton's points was a commitment to education and literacy. He endorsed the HIV/AIDS battle, but also encouraged the fight against malaria and tuberculosis. He concluded with the need to work to "build on the leadership of Africans to end the bloody conflicts." He spoke of the war between Ethiopia and Eritrea in his remarks, as well as the fighting in Sierra Leone, the Sudan, and the Congo. He endorsed America's peacekeeping role in Africa.

Within Albright's speech was the admonition for the US's ignorance and ignoring of the horror of Rwanda. "We must do all we can to see that what happened there is never repeated." She also endorsed, among other efforts, the work toward bringing peace to Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Al Gore refused to cross a picketline at the Hyatt Hotel where the conference was held, so he phoned in his introduction of Kenya's Moi, who, according to Donaldson, went on to give a "rambling speech" that included an attack on the media and the concept of African countries developing "their own systems of democracy. Africa is being marginalized. We are asking other nations to help us resolve our conflicts. We are not asking foreigners to die for us."

Other sessions

Five of seven deliberative sessions were held concurrently. The subjects included one of five themes: economic development, democracy and human rights, sustainable development and environment, peace and security, and education and culture.

Samara contribution

Donaldson emphasizes the contribution early in the NSA conference made by Noah A. Samara, of WorldSpace Corporation. He was born in Africa of a Sudanese father and an Ethiopian mother. His family was living in Addis Ababa when the Organization of African Unity was started. He came to the US only a few weeks before the revolution began. "Change does not begin with declarations, legislation, and grand action," he said, "but always first in the minds of people." Samara also quoted Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Closing comments

In the closing presentations of the NSA were comments circulated by the New York delegation co-chair, Mojubaolu Olufunke Okome, who asked for signatures supporting her views. They included the need for balanced and open debate at the

conference, the quest for a "democratic and transparent process" of decision making, economic justice, corporate responsibility, and the workers' right to organize. "A framework of 'Guiding Principles' that enshrines the above values must be developed in a transparent and participatory manner," she wrote.

"The statement presented by Dr. Okome addressed many of the issues related to the overall question about what happens next now that the original mission of the National Summit has been completed," Donaldson comments. "Critics implied that the National Summit had assumed a leadership role advocating for Africa that it did not deserve. It was accused of not being sufficiently inclusive and being indebted to the existing power structure.

"A large number of diverse people and organizations gathered for the Summit. Let's hope we'll be pleasantly surprised to see how all these groups will be able to work together in the future for the benefit of Africa and the world," he concludes.

EDITOR'S NOTES: The full text of Ray Donaldson's report to the E&E RPCVs Steering Committee may be found at the E&E RPCVs website: www.geocities.com/eerpcv/summit.htm.

Participating in a panel at the National Summit entitled "Peace Corps Alumni: Paths of Peace in the New Millennium" were, among others, Leo Cecchini of E&E RPCVs Peace Initiative Team and Mel Foote (73-75) who was part of a John Garamendi effort (See previous article.) Moderating the panel was NPCA President Dane Smith (Asmara 63-65). •

HIV-AIDS in Africa and Ethiopia

by Hayward Allen (Harar 62-64)



In Ethiopia

"We have to make clear to our children and the youth that God has created them for a purpose and meaningful life and therefore they should not give their precious life away in vain. We have to teach them about the deadly disease that does not yet have a cure," Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus Reverend Yadessa Daba told Yohannes Ruphael of the PanAfrican News Agency.

In a December article, datelined Addis Ababa, Ruphael stated that at least 2.6 million people out of a population of 63 million are infected by HIV. "In the capital, Addis Ababa, alone," he writes, "which has an estimated population of four million, one out of six persons is HIV-positive."

A year-end conference, organized by the Christian Relief and Development Association and the [Ethiopian] National HIV-AIDS Council, dealt with the pressing problems of drug availability, drug affordability, and how to access them when needed. The conference, Ruphael noted, made priorities of mother-to-child transmission, as well as the disastrous statistics regarding the 700,000 orphans generated by loss of parents to AIDS. Also, the group discussed care for infected persons, the success and failure of voluntary testing, and the avenues of counseling.

A nurse at an AIDS counseling service in Addis said, "Every day as many as 30 young boys and

girls between the ages of 18 to 30 come to us for counseling. They are sad and angry with themselves. Some are ashamed, while some of them even contemplate suicide."

Another nurse, who has worked at a rural health facility told Ruphael that the use of condoms goes against traditional practices. "It is really hard to convince rural people to use condoms. They just dismiss it as against nature," she said.

Mebrat Gebre Meskel, an ex-prostitute who works for the Evangelical Church as a counselor, said, "When ten of us women working in bars were tested for the virus, only one of us tested negative."

Ruphael also interviewed Daniel Hailu. He and his wife tested HIV-positive three years ago and are now part of a national awareness program. "It was not easy at first, but as time passed, people, in the urban areas especially, started giving due attention to what we say about AIDS and its consequences. However," Daniel said, "there is still a lot to be done."

A former student leads awareness program

Frances Scura (Addis Ababa 67-68) writes *The Herald* that one of her former students, Negussa Teferra, whom she knew in Addis in 1967, is

"heading a team of researchers who are working on formative research related to media communications, HIV/AIDS awareness and behavioral change. It is the first of its kind in Ethiopia."

Aided by the Packard Foundation and the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Negussie will deal with the distribution of the research findings in Ethiopia and the rest of Africa.

Negussie, Scura relates, has a B.A. in political science from Addis Ababa University and a Ph.D. in communications in England. He recently retired as one of Ethiopia's representatives to the U.N., after serving a quarter-century in the country's government. Scura also notes that his daughter, Yeshet Amba, a recent graduate from Addis Ababa University with a degree in international relations, spent time helping a U.N.-sponsored pan-African HIV/AIDS conference in Addis.

At the National Summit

President Clinton, at last year's National Summit on Africa, held in Washington, D.C., said in his keynote address: "AIDS will soon double child mortality and reduce life expectancy by 20 years. In Africa, there are countries that are hiring two employees for every job on the assumption that one of them will die. We need to support efforts that keep people from getting the HIV virus in the first place."

Former U.S. Representative Ron Dellums, who now heads Healthcare International Management Company, said at the National Summit, "Africa is dying of AIDS. It is immoral that the world is standing by and doing nothing about it . . . An AIDS Marshall Plan is needed . . . AIDS can't be treated in a vacuum . . ."

The Peace Corps response to AIDS

Peace Corps Director Mark Schneider announced last June that the agency would make a major effort to help stem the disease that plagues Africa. In the agency's bulletin, *Hotline*, Crisis Corps Director Joan Timoney (Senegal 78-80) notes that the United Nations Joint Program on AIDS has reported that of the 34 million people infected worldwide, 25 million are in Africa. "Thirteen

million children — the majority of them in Africa — have lost either a mother or father or both parents to AIDS," she writes.

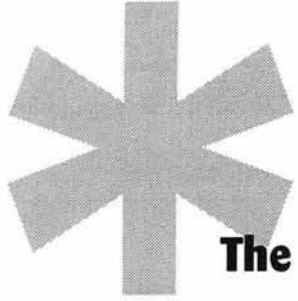
Director Schneider has signed-off on a program to train the 2,400 Volunteers currently serving in Africa, as well as all incoming Africa PCVs, in HIV/AIDS education. "Whether their primary assignment is agriculture, business development, education or health," Timoney notes, "all PCVs will have the tools they need to share education and prevention messages with their counterparts and communities."

One of the Peace Corps' Crisis Corps commitments will be the assignment of at least 200 RPCVs to fight against the disease. While the previous duties of the Crisis Corps Volunteers has largely been devoted to natural disasters or "humanitarian crises," Director Schneider commented that "there is no more lethal or prolonged a disaster than HIV/AIDS."

The Crisis Corps has sent a mailing to 16,000 RPCVs who served in Africa seeking applicants. The ideal volunteer would have spent two years in sub-Saharan Africa, had some HIV/AIDS experience, and be willing to serve a six-month tour. (For more information, check out the Crisis Corps website, www.peacecorps.gov/crisis Corps or call 800-424-8580, ext. 2250.)

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has provided the Peace Corps with a half-million dollar grant to create effective educational materials, and the Packard Foundation has contributed \$250,000 to the effort. USAID has also delegated funds to the program.

Crisis Corps Volunteer Leigh Ann Evanson, who served as a PCV in Gabon from 1996-98 and is preparing for a CC assignment in Togo, said, "With all the recent press on AIDS in Africa, some people have said to me, 'It's so depressing; I don't see how you can do it.' My response is that I don't see how I can't." •



The Unofficial Ethiopian and Eritrean miscellany

And now for a change of pace

The Sheraton Addis was the venue for 5,000 guests for a gala 2001 New Year celebration, which included, according to the PanAfrican News Agency, "another dazzling display of fireworks with culinary bash and musical extravaganza, second only to the millennium celebrations a year ago hosted by the same hotel."

The guest list included "cabinet ministers, members of the diplomatic corps, international civil servants...as well as leading Ethiopians in various fields," the article notes. The cost was US\$126 a head.

The Sheraton is located on a hill between the old National and Grand Palaces. Two open-air stages featured "bands and lead singers of 'boney' from Europe." The buffet included dishes from Ethiopia, Europe, and Africa, as well as Arab and Indian offerings.

It is noted that the ten-minute fireworks display did celebrate the "European new year." In Ethiopia, the new year, 1993, based upon the Julian calendar, was honored September 10, 2000.

Oh, yes, something quite different

The East African Kick Boxing Championship was held in Addis, February 10. The African Martial Arts Academy and Kick Boxing International will sponsor bouts between four Kenyans and four Ethiopians, the Addis Daily Monitor reports.

The competition has been going on for two years between the two nations and the Academy looks to expanding its range of competitors to Thai and Canadian kickboxers. Academy chief Puro Okello, commented, "I hope this event will earn a good name for Ethiopia other than drought and war."

Read all about it in the local papers

The Internet Public Library has links to online newspapers from most countries. Check it out at www.ipl.org/reading/news/

Worldspace.com on-air, in space

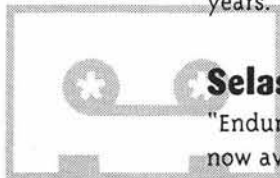
Noah Samara, head of Worldspace Corporation, born of a Sudanese father and Ethiopian mother (see "Summit" article, page 4), and raised in Addis when the Organization of African Unity was formed, has announced his company's three communications satellites that target developing countries. Clare Shea (Debre Marcos 65-67), writes that the Worldspace ventures in space broadcast radio around the world. "Hope some of Bill Gates' Foundation donation of \$100 million for Botswana AIDS prevention might find its way to Worldspace for programming," Clare writes *The Herald*. Visit Worldspace at www.worldspace.com.

Ethiopian government announces development plan

Ethiopia's minister of works and urban development, Haile Asgida, estimates that the country will need US\$4.9 billion for the construction of vital services, such as roads, power and health, over the next decade," was reported in the Amharic language daily, *Addis Zemen*, according to the PanAfrican News Agency.

Haile Asgida's comments were taken from a speech made to the Ethiopian Association of Civil Engineers, December 18.

"However," the news agency notes, "the report did not indicate where the government would get the funds to finance the proposed high socio-economic development projects in the coming ten years."



Selassie video at Amazon.com

"Endurance," a video about Haile Gebre Selassie is now available from Amazon.com (price: \$17.99), reports Frances Scura (Addis Ababa 67-68). She also notes that Reel.com advertises "Endurance" for \$13.99 but has no copies in stock.

"In any event," she writes *The Herald*, "I am thrilled to have the video to see Addis and the countryside of Ethiopia any time I want."

Corruption Perceptions Index

In September, the anti-graft group of Transparency International's annual Corruption Index was published in Berlin. According to Reuters, the index is based upon three-year averaging of surveys involving business people, risk analysts, and the public. Based on a range from 10 ("highly clean") to zero ("highly corrupt"), Finland was the only nation to earn a perfect score. Nigeria scored the lowest of the 122 nations with a 1.2 evaluation.

The USA made it to #14 with a 7.8 score, while Botswana had the highest African rating at 6.0. Other African countries included were Namibia (5.4), Malawi (4.1), Ghana (3.5), Zambia (3.4).

Ethiopia was rated at 60th place, along with Thailand, at 3.2.

Eritrea was not included in the survey.

The African nations that followed Ethiopia were Burkina Faso, Zimbabwe, Cote d'Ivoire, Tanzania, Uganda, Mozambique, Kenya, Cameroon, and Angola.

Dire Dawa-Addis train wreck

A year-end disaster on the railroad tracks between Dire Dawa and Addis Ababa caused the deaths of at least thirteen people, with ten others sustaining injuries. The freight train broke into three parts near the town of Meisso, about 180 miles west of Dire Dawa.

According to a local policeman, "An unspecified number of persons was said to be travelling illegally onboard the train's freight compartments," the Ethiopian press reported. Officer Haile Cekadu added that freight trains were not allowed to carry passengers, and those who traveled illegally risked their lives.

The injured and dead were taken to the hospital at Asbeteferi, not far from Meisso. •

John Graham's Travels in Ethiopia

Annotated with commentary by Hayward Allen

Richard Crepeau (Dessie 63–65), an indefatigable and most appreciated supplier to *The Herald* of across-the-sea coverage of things Ethiopian and Eritrean, has included among his clippings a series of travelogues from the *Addis Tribune* by John Graham, who describes his "Travel in Ethiopia." In four recent articles, the traveler goes to Axum and Adua, and then in another article he describes going to the Afar Lowlands of the Danakil.

While I don't know John Graham, I do know something about travel writing. He is not Paul Theroux or de Toqueville. "Travel in Ethiopia" will bring to mind many of our images and recollections of Ethiopia and Eritrea. His impressions and explorations are articulated in this lengthy series, and while many

are well-written and even researched, there is a tenor to many of his comments that is not unlike fingernails scratching a blackboard.

With that in mind, here are some excerpts *Herald* readers might find interesting:

"From Mekelle to Adua" is his first installment: Of the travel between Adigrat and Axum, he writes "The best part of the view is the odd shaped mountains which hove into view in the west. I have no idea what geological process form these odd shapes, but it must be unusual for the scenery is unique. Mountains tilt and jut at odd angles on the horizon . . . I feel cheated that no one had told me about the spectacular view on this road before I traveled on it."

At Debre Damo, he notes, after he visits the famed monastery: "If you are male, and you pass the cross examination on your Christian beliefs, then the monks will haul you up on a rope to visit the monastery. The forty foot ascent looks ominous,

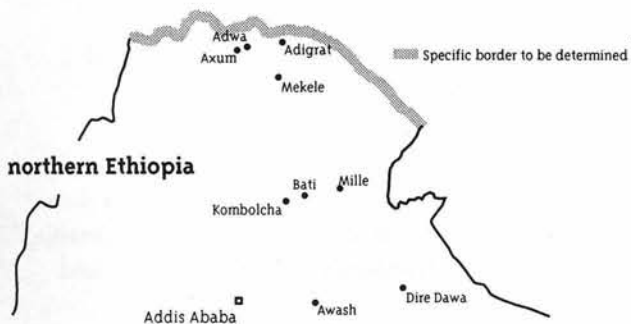
but the monks ascend with the speed and grace of monkeys. For those of us less gifted, the strong arms of the monks reel you in on a rope like a great fish."

At Axum he reflects: "archaeology has been repeatedly interrupted by pesky wars. As Axum nestles on the border with Eritrea, the warfare between 1998–2000 closed the area for all but the most determined visitors. There was only eight years of peace before that, during which teams began to make some important discoveries. For twelve years before that, essentially 1978–1990, Axum had been rendered unsafe by the battle between the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front (TPLF) and the Derg government. Earlier excavations had stopped with the overthrow of the Emperor in 1974."

His encounter with the Ark of the Covenant is oddly honest: "I had a moment of excitement at St. Mary Zion. On one of my visits I was leaning against a fence that overlooks the back of the famous church. I noticed a cloth-covered object at the back . . . a large yellow box with poles sticking out the back, covered with a white blanket . . . I stopped a passing priest and asked him what it was (I was being sarcastic, I'm afraid). To my amazement he looked over and said it was the Ark of the Covenant. I held my jaw up long enough to ask what the Ark was doing outside. He shrugged and said that they brought it out sometimes for air. I took a picture."

Sheba's Reservoir at Axum is similarly described, "On the edge of town is Sheba's Reservoir, a large stone lake which probably has nothing to do with the Queen of Sheba, but is a nice place to visit. There are stairs for locals to climb down to take water or participate in ceremonies . . . People swim in the reservoir, but there are reports of fairly frequent drownings."

His visit to Dongur Ediface, or Sheba's Palace, is noteworthy: "Archeologists date the structure as about 1500 years younger than the time of Solomon and Sheba. Regardless of the source of the ruin, it is large and fascinating. It is difficult that this was completely undiscovered and dug up



Map is not precise, but provided to give a rough idea of location

less than 50 years ago . . . Small boys . . . eagerly guide you . . . [trying] to sell you rocks with crystals inside. These are fabulous stones, ordinary looking on the outside, but when broken open they reveal different colored crystals, with their sharp and intricate designs . . . For only five or ten birr you can pick up many of these rocks. However, transport of minerals out of the area is carefully monitored. At the Axum airport your bags and hand luggage are searched, and any crystals found are confiscated. There are big buckets in the corner of the ramshackle check-in room filled with crystals. A cynic would expect them to find their way back into the hands of the little boys to be sold to the next set of tourists!"

On the Axum-Gondar leg of his journey he writes of the bottom of the Tekkeze, including the Shire reservations: "To be honest, this is not a place to make a special trip to see, especially when the wonderful Simien National Park is so nearby. The other trip is from Adiarkay to the monasteries of Waldiba or Woldeba. This is a trip that can only be taken by foot or mule, and I admit I haven't made it there yet. I've been told the trip to the closest one is a nice, if somewhat long day trip."

Graham takes a ten-league leap **to the Afar Lowlands**, a "desert like area [that] stretches through the northeast of the country north of Awash and Dire Dawa, east of Wolo and Tigray. This fierce land, which includes the Danakil Depression, one of the hottest spots on the planet, also has gentle oases, rivers and lakes. The Afar people also have a reputation for fierceness, which has kept intruders as well as visitors off their land, but also are well known for their gentleness and hospitality."

Like other travelers, including Wilfred Thesiger seven decades ago (*The Danakil Diary, Journeys through Abyssinia, 1930-34*), Graham is intrigued by the river that doesn't reach the sea — the Awash. Graham, however, has some reservations about such explorations: "I always feel uncomfortable with the notion of Europeans going off and 'discovering' something which of course the locals knew about all along . . . Although Thesiger comes across as a bit of a colonialist and an old 'pip and all that' type of Brit, he is genuinely sensitive to the local culture, and obviously much more comfortable in a tent in a desert than in a house or a car."

As he nears the end of his travels he goes from Mille to Kombolcha, and it is this trip that seems to mature Graham's prose, as with describing the salt plains or the Saturday market days, but also reveals his own amazement at the resilience of desert people. He is fascinated by the colorful dress of the men and women in the market.

However, as he stops at Bati, on the frontier between Arar and Wollo, he writes in his bifurcated style, "This is an interesting place to stop only on market days, in my opinion. It is a dusty place, with quite a lot of local hotels and restaurants. In 1984-85 it was a major epicenter of the famine, and the site of a major Save the Children (UK) feeding program. Fortunately, the camp was closed as soon as possible, although food distributions through the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission continue on an annual basis in greater or lesser amounts."

Graham at the time did not realize that one of the road's destinations was the site of the remains of "Lucy," aka "Denkenesh," a 3.8 million-year-old Australopithecine woman. He relates his experience in reference to the site. Brian Barr, "a well known and respected road engineer with many years of experience in Ethiopia," had told Graham how far the site was off the map, warning travelers how they will "eventually end up following tracks down dried riverbeds at a place called Hadar. A palaeontological team is normally there, so the tracks in the river are the ones you follow. I don't think they appreciate casual visitors, and souvenir hunting is definitely out of the question! Brian told me that he and his group were welcomed, and they were recruited into a bone search party before long . . . Brian tells an amusing story about a frustrated palaeontologist explaining the features of a fossilized hyena jaw he found, and how it differs from humans!"

I am certain that readers of the *Addis Trib* find fascinating John Graham's reflections and observations of two of the great, historic sections of their country. It is possible that no other nation, apart from Egypt, has been so analyzed, trespassed, and mis-interpreted by *ferengis* whose concepts of travel, culture and science still escape the people whose living lives and long past are being put under one microscope or another. •

John Graham may be contacted at: jgraham@telecom.net.et

The full text of the referenced articles can be found at <http://archives.geez.org/>

AddisTribune/Archives/2000/

Their publishing dates are

12/1/2000, 12/8/2000,

12/15/2000, 12/22/2000 and

12/29/2000.

Links to other installments of

"Travel in Ethiopia" can be

found at the E&E RPCVs web site

at: [http://www.geocities.com/](http://www.geocities.com/~eerpcv/travels.htm)

[~eerpcv/travels.htm](http://www.geocities.com/~eerpcv/travels.htm)



At the Peace Corps

Honoring PCVs who died in service

Memorial Day, 2000, was commemorated by Peace Corps Director Mark Schneider at the agency's Shriver Hall in Washington, DC. The names of the 246 Volunteers who have died in service were read by Peace Corps staff who served as PCVs in the four decades the deaths occurred. Schneider concluded the memorial service with a reading of JFK's favorite poem by Robert Frost, "The Road Not Taken."

Another name was added to the honored ranks less than one month later when on June 23, Judith Passmore, 60, of Portland, Oregon, died in Lesotho, where she was serving. Judith and her husband Paul were in their second year serving as Volunteers in Morija, Lesotho. Her work was with the Ministry of Agriculture, specifically helping develop model farms and more efficient local institutional management. She died of natural causes and is survived by her husband, five children, her mother and sister.

Former Peace Corps Director Paul Coverdell dies

Senator Paul Coverdell (R-GA), the eleventh director of the Peace Corps (1989-91), died of a cerebral hemorrhage July 18. Among his accomplishments as director were the projects developed for Eastern and Central Europe, following the end of the Cold War. He also reopened programs in Africa and Asia. Another achievement was the creation of the World Wise School program that linked US students with Volunteers overseas.

A memorial tribute was held at Peace Corps headquarters September 19. Among those speaking were RPCV Sen. Chris Dodd (D-CT), Director Schneider, Romanian Ambassador Mircea Geoana, former PC Chief of Staff Jody Olsen, and World Wise teacher Mary Nasibi.

Dane Smith (Asmara 63-65), president of the National Peace Corps Association, has written: "Senator Coverdell very capably led the Peace Corps at a time of significant change...He was a champion of the Peace Corps in the Senate, particularly in the difficult budget process...He will be greatly missed."

Former PC Director named as Bush Labor Secretary

Elaine Chao, Peace Corps director from 1991-1992, was selected to replace Linda Chavez as Bush administration nomination for Secretary of Labor and approved by Congress in January. The 47-year-old Asian-American nominee emigrated to the US from Taiwan as an eight-year-old, graduated from Mount Holyoke College in 1975 and holds an MBA from Harvard. Prior to the Peace Corps directorship, she was a deputy secretary of the DOT and then chairwoman of the Federal Maritime Commission. Since her service with the Peace Corps, she has headed the United Way and since 1996 served as president of The Heritage Foundation.

Chao is married to Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY).

RPCV Donna Shalala moves on

As she described last year in *Mirabella* magazine, from 1962-1964, Donna Shalala lived in a mud house in an Iranian village. She was an English teacher primarily, but in Peace Corps tradition had additional chores, like latrine building and working at an agricultural college, called "the Harvard of southwestern Iran." Among her project's objectives was "to help them modernize the archaic farming economy in Iran." Most recently, Shalala worked for eight years as the US Secretary of Health and Human Services and became one of President Clinton's longest-serving cabinet members, along with Attorney General Janet Reno. Shalala is moving on to become president of the University of Miami in Florida, returning to the academic community she left behind when she left the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1991.

"The [Peace Corps] experience...provided me with tremendous self-confidence at an extraordinarily early age. It taught me self-reliance, that I could literally be dropped anywhere on earth and figure out how to survive and thrive....It created a group of young people with a deeply ingrained commitment to the rest of the world."

Western Illinois University looking for RPCVs

Thom Anderson (Morocco 91-95) has sent an announcement for the Peace Corps Fellows program at Western Illinois University in Macomb, Ill, for this spring semester, as well as those that follow. "With our programs focusing on rural community development, Fellows can earn a master's degree," he writes. Among the academic departments are the MBA program, health and education promotion, geography, political science and public administration, as well as recreation, park and tourism administration.

"WIU Fellows receive a graduate assistantship during their campus coursework, and will be provided a stipend while performing a one-year internship with a rural community. The internship involves full-time work on various local development projects . . . The skills Fellows gained during overseas Peace Corps experience, combined with new knowledge make these individuals very effective community development professionals," Anderson states.

For more information, contact Carolyn Lawrence at CA-Lawrence@wiu.edu or at 800-526-9943. Thom Anderson's email address is: TKAnderson@wiu.edu. •

Peace Corps Fellows programs: There are fifty American colleges and universities awarding graduate degrees that have involved RPCVs through the Peace Corps Master's International Program. Fields range from forestry to public health, from business administration to civil engineering, agriculture, creative writing, agronomy and animal sciences, to ecology and natural resource planning. For information on the schools and their offerings, check out the Peace Corps website, "www.peacecorps.gov" •

40th Birthday Party

The Launching

The official launching of the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Peace Corps in took place October 13-14, 2000, at the University of Michigan. On that date in 1960 John Kennedy suggested the idea of a "moral alternative to war" to students as part of his presidential campaign. It has long been considered a seminal event in the history of American volunteerism that created the Peace Corps. Among the ceremonies were the award of the Peace Corps flag and a trophy to the UM president in front of 110,000 homecoming fans at the UM stadium.

Peace Corps Day

Thursday, March 1, 2001, is designated the fourth annual Peace Corps Day and will honor the 40th anniversary of the signing of Peace Corps' Executive Order establishing the agency. RPCVs are urged to go into the classrooms in their communities and share with the youth of America their insights into the countries where they served and the people around the world the grew to love.

The Peace Corps has a packet of materials to support Peace Corps Day efforts. To receive one, or for more information, send email to pccday@peacecorps.gov, or call 800-424-8580 and ask for the Peace Corps Day office.

National Volunteer Week

From March 2-9, 2001, regional RPCV groups are encouraged to plan community service activities at part of the continued celebration. Contact the group in your city or area to participate.

Gala

There is to be a fundraising gala in Washington. According to the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA): The show will be an entertaining look at the Peace Corps' first forty years and will include the honoring of the founders and ideals that make it just as relevant today as it was at its founding.

E&E RPCVs and the RPCV National Conference

The 40th anniversary conference of RPCVs will be held in Washington, DC, September 20 to 23. Along with the many activities planned by the sponsors — the NPCA and the Washington RPCV group, E&E RPCVs will host several special events. Reunion Chair CJ Smith Castagnaro and those on the committee — Courtney Arnold and Judy Smith (Asamara 63-65) are planning for injera, wat, country updates, embassy receptions, reunions with friends and couple of special events still in the works. They will also be recommending one designated conference hotel to facilitate reconnecting.

Stay tuned for more information about the gathering in DC September 20-23, 2001.

(If you have email and do not currently receive Updates from E&E RPCVs, send a message to mhbeil@servtech.com so that you will receive Conference info as soon as it is firmed up.)

Putting it on tape

As part of the 40th Peace Corps Anniversary, Stuart Gold (Jimma 73-74), of Shadow and Light Productions in Berkely, and John Coyne have begun a talent search for E&E RPCVs who would like to be involved in the creation of "An Oral History of the Peace Corps in Ethiopia and Eritrea."

"This video will become an archive of our work in these countries," Coyne said, "and of our lives and experiences as Peace Corps Volunteers. It will provide a view into these countries that most in the United States will never be able to experience first hand."

Copies will be given to the Peace Corps Collection at the Kennedy Library in Boston and made available to the Peace Corps for historical and recruiting use.

A committee has been formed to launch the project. "They will establish such things as basic forma, questions to be asked, editing, funding and equipment needs, potential uses and how to make it happen," said Marian Haley Beil, chair of E&E RPCVs Steering Committee. There is a special need for those with fundraising/grant writing skills to join the committee.

If you would like to work on the project, which has potential for becoming a model for other RPCV groups to emulate, please contact the project chairs: John Coyne at jpcoyne@cnr.edu and Stuart Gold at stuart@shadowandlight.com.

Those on the committee are:

Judith Nordblom Alger (Asmara 63-65)
Joshua Brackett (Addis Ababa 64-66)
Babette A. Brackett (Addis Ababa 64-66)
Joyce VanDoske Coker (74-75)
Cynthia Tse Kimberlin (Adi Ugri;
Asmara 62-64)
Anne Fitzgerald O'Neill (Addis Ababa 68-69)
Christine Pattee (Dire Dawa 66-68)
Gina PerettoButajira (Ethiopia 97-99)
Jim Skelton (Makalle, Addis Ababa 70-72)
Jocelyn Songco (Ethiopia 96-98)
Michael E. Stichick (Adowa 64-66)

Looking for writers to read or vice versa

PeaceCorpsWriters.org and the newsletter precursor, *RPCV Writers and Readers*, will stage a series of readings around the country by writers who have served in the Peace Corps. The program is being offered as a celebration of the work of Peace Corps writers over the past 40 years by John Coyne (Addis Ababa 62-64) and Marian Haley Beil (Debra Berhan 62-64), who have energized the [PeaceCorpsWriters.org/RPCV W&R](http://PeaceCorpsWriters.org/RPCV_W&R) for more than a dozen years. With the help of a grant from The Florence and John Schumann Foundation and support from of the National Peace Corps Association, and the Peace Corps, PeaceCorpsWriters.org will organize the events.

"We hope to schedule these readings in colleges, high schools, local libraries and community centers," Coyne said, "where [the writers or their readers] can educate, delight, and impress a wide variety of audiences."

The plan is to have the writers read from their own works or have RPCVs reading from personal favorite writers who served in the Peace Corps. "We expect to stage at least one event per month starting in January and continue until the NPCA 40th Anniversary Celebration in Washington in September," Beil noted.

At least 450 RPCVs have had their works published since leaving the Peace Corps. Among them: Paul Theroux, Norm Rush, Mary-Ann Tirone Smith, Kinky Friedman, Richard Lipez (Debre Marcos, Addis Ababa 62-64), Mike Tidwell, Kathleen Coskran (Addis Ababa; Dilla 65-67), Kent Haruf, Lawrence Grobel, Richard Wiley, Bill Barich, Malanie Sumner, P.F. Kluge, Lawrence Leamer, Eric Lax, Peter Hessler, as well as Coyne himself.

Award-winning RPCV author Bob Shacochis has written about the value of the books and their sources: "We are torch-bearers of a vital tradition, that of shedding light in the mythical heart of darkness. We are descendants of Joseph Conrad, Mark Twain, George Orwell, Graham Greene, Somerset Maugham, Ernest Hemingway, and scores of other men and women, expatriates and travel writers and wanderers. [The RPCVs] have enriched our domestic literature with the spices of Cathay, who have tried to communicate the 'exotic' as a relative, rather than an absolute quality of humanity."

For information regarding this literary legacy given by men and women who served, as we all did, far from home, far from our native language and culture, and came to know new homes and new languages and cultures, check out the Peace Corps Writers website: <http://peacecorpswriters.org>. Coyne notes that a special section has been added that details "The 40 Years of Peace Corps Writers Tour." For information about taking part in the readings, he can be reached at jpcoyne@cnr.edu.

"The efforts Marian and I have made were inspired by the Third Goal of the Peace Corps: 'to bring the world back home,'" Coyne concludes.

Celebrate the 40th in Asmara

Laurie Kessler (Adi Teclesan 64-66), who returned with her husband Wayne (Adi Teclesan 64-66) to Eritrea to work, has extended an invitation to RPCVs to recognize the Peace Corps' four decades by traveling to Eritrea. She would like "to celebrate the anniversary here with all the RPCVs and Eritreans who remember Peace Corps," she writes. "That can include our very own former students and others." Laurie may be contacted at wayne@gemel.com.er.

Getting Personal

The Russells move to UAE

Dannie and Daryl Russell, who taught in Addis from 1963 to 1965, are now in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Daryl is the superintendent of the Emirates International School. Dannie is leading two creative writing courses and involved in community work. Their daughter and her husband, and the Russell grandchildren live in Dubai. The Russells's son and his wife work at the American School in Shanghai, China. Dannie writes: "We have all become global nomads, and none the worse."

Their contact address: DannieGold@aol.com.

The Kesslers return to Asmara

Laurie Kessler, who served in Adi Teclesan, Eritrea from 1964 to 1966 has returned to her position as director of the Asmara International Community School, with a 63-student body from fourteen countries. Their son Colin served on the faculty of the school previously. Her husband Wayne works at the Pavoni Social Center and has co-authored a chicken-raising handbook for the Center's rural enterprise unit. "He is just starting a contract with the United Nations," she writes, "to work on the annual assessment of humanitarian needs, and with about a million displaced, deported, and drought-affected [people], there's lots of need."

Seal recently knighted

E. David Seal, who served in Debre Berhan and Asmara, from 1964 to 1966, has written that he is "very involved in a number of causes related to Ethiopia. I was recently knighted to the post of Knight Grand Cross, Imperial Order of the Holy Trinity by Prince Ermias Sahle Selassie Haile Selassie. We are working to find ways to get a democratic administration installed in Ethiopia. It will not be easy, but it seems to be the only hope for Ethiopia."

Seal is looking for others' opinions and may be contacted at interbiz@sound.net.

Fahey Named editor of *Mindprints*

Paul Alan Fahey, who served in Asmara from 1968 to 1971, has been appointed editor of *Mindprints*, a literary journal for writers with disabilities. The publication is also open, he notes, to all writers with an interest in the field. The first issue came out last autumn.

Time's Muller retires

Henry Muller, who served in Holetta and Ambo, Ethiopia, 1968 to 1970, recently retired as editorial director at Time, Inc. He also was the magazine's managing editor between 1987 and 1992.

A question of Italian cartography

Mary Schultz sent *The Herald* an explanation of how the town of Mendefera, where she served between 1965 and 1967, became mistakenly identified: "A bit west of Mendefera is a village called Adi Ugri. Some Italians were making a map of the area and wandered a little bit off the main drag and asked the name of the town. They were told Adi Ugri. So Mendefera was named Adi Ugri on the map, and therefore also by the post office and also by the Peace Corps."

In Vermont, the farmer said, when asked where a town was, "You can't get there from here."

In training, Ethiopia PCVs were told the linguistic legend of how "babur" became Amharic for "train," wherein a French speaker was asked about the train's engine and mistakenly assuming the inquirer was asking about the steam cloud, replied, "Vapour." Trainees weren't told how "can opener" or "church key" became Amharized into "muckafutchu," but there is a certain American GI keyword that linguists no doubt consider.

Steering Committee additions

Gerry Hoffman (Mekele 63-65) and Judy Smith (Asmara 63-65) have joined the Steering Committee of E&E RPCVs. We welcome their talents, and generosity. Thanks, Gerry and Judy.

Looking for . . .

Ms. Ann and Ms. Marline of Endasselassie

Haregeweyn Demoz, nee Teklehaimanot Tecolla, wrote searching for "my two lady teachers who taught me Ms. Ann. English and Ms. Marline, biology in Endasselassie . . . [who] left when the new military government overthrew Haile Selassie's government. I always think about them alot. They can't seem to be out of my mind even for a week."

She also noted that her husband, Hagos Demoz, was an Amharic language instructor for the Peace Corps. Haregeweyn's email address is: haregu.demoz@dha.state.tx.us and her mailing address is: 5307 Long Creek Lane, Houston, TX, 77088.

Jennifer St. Laurent

Tasew Dejene writes: "Would you take your precious time to find me a friend of mine who was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ethiopia in the year 1998?" Her name is Jenefer or Jennifer St. Laurent and she is from Rhode Island, and Tasew is looking for her. His email address is t188937@hotmail.com and his mailing address is: Xylofoon pad 11, 6544 VE Nijmegen, Netherlands.

Claudia Childs, Catalin Kaiser, Ali Kincaid, and Justin Spence (Eritrea 96-98)

Barbara Macy, who taught at Nefasit, Eritrea, between 1997 and 1998, is looking for Eritrea 2 RPCVs Claudia Childs, Catalin Kaiser, Justin Spence, and Ali Kincaid. Barbara may be reached by email at: macy@cnetco.com or written to at: 817 E. Aztec Ave. Gallup, NM, 87502, or called at (505)836-8856.

Thomas Catucci of Hirna

Israel Dessalegne has written *The Herald* and he is looking for his teacher in Hirna, Ethiopia, from 1968-1970. "It is exciting to reconnect with teachers who have played a vital role in shaping our life," he writes from Gambia, where he is working for the UNDP. His email address is: israel.dessalegne@undp.org and his mailing address is: United Nations Development Program, PO Box 553, Banjul, The Gambia.

Finding . . .

Haskel Ward, Mark Foster, and Willie Hall

Solomon Gebreab wrote: "A few years ago a group of nearly 80 PCVs who originally had served in Ethiopia and Eritrea decided to have their 30th reunion in Ethiopia, and I, as a travel agent at that time, was priviledged to handle their travel arrangements. Unfortunately for me there was no one in the group who had been my teacher . . . The leader of the group was Haskel Ward. I have been trying to contact him ever since I came to the US about a year ago."

Solomon also was interested in contacting Mark Foster, who taught at Tafari Makonnen School in Addis in 1967. He recalls that he "taught us literature from a book which had a selection of poetry. Although I still remember some of those poems, and recite them to my children from time to time, I would like to know the title and author of the book."

He also wanted to renew contact with Willie Hall, who taught at Tafari Makonnen School in 1965.

"Like so many thousands who have been touched by [Peace Corps Volunteers], I still cherish the memory of what now seems an enchanted, mythical period of innocence and idealism," he wrote.

*Editor's note: the three were contacted through the EEE RPCVs and reponded to Solomon. If we didn't know how to contact them we would put a note in this column. See how it works? **

In Memorium

June Clifton, who served in Makelle from 1962 to 1964, died September 12, 2000, after a long fight with breast cancer in Wilmington, NC. As a PCV June taught business courses at Makele Secondary School. She is survived by her husband, Don Taube, and her daughter, Jessica. They ask that any donations be made in June's name to a shelter for victims of domestic violence.

Albert Ornstein, who served in Ethiopia from 1964 to 1966, died in New York City. He was 88 years-old.

Tom Dassel, who served in Gondar from 1968 to 1970, died of cancer in December 1999. After his service in the Peace Corps Tom returned to his home in New Orleans, where he taught accounting in junior college.

Recent Books by Ethiopia and Eritrea RPCVs

Editor's note: The online bookseller amazon.com — which alerts E&E RPCVs about titles of interest — provides readers' reviews, comments, and space for readers to add their own reviews for each book. Some of these titles were found through www.peacecorpswriters.org.

Dialectics and Deconstruction in Political Economy

by Robert Albritton (Harar, Asmara 63–65)
St. Martin's Press, \$69.95, 240 pages, 1999

The Great Blue Heron

(reprinted for the National Wildlife Federation)
Hayward Allen (Harar 62–64)
NorthWord Press, \$16.95, 175 pages, illustrated, 2000

Major McKinley: William McKinley and the Civil War.

by William H. Armstrong (Ethiopia staff 66–68, PC Dir./Swaziland 68–71)
Kent State University Press, \$18.00, 248 pages, 2000

Yvette in America: A Sequential Novel

by John Goulet (64–66)
University Press of Colorado & Ft. Collins: Center for Literary Publishing, \$22.00, 160 pages, 2000

Ethiopia: Traditions of Creativity

Edited by Raymond A. Silverman, Neal Sobania (Addis Ababa 68–72)
University of Washington Press, \$40.00, 308 pages, 1999

In this collection of essays on the artistry of the crafts in Ethiopia, Neal writes "Sorghum Surprise: The Models of Tolera Tafa" about a young Ethiopian who has prospered by building models of famous buildings and other monumental structures using pith, the inner portion of sorghum.

Ethiopia: A Post-Cold War African State

by Theodore M. Vestal (Ethiopia Staff 64–66)
Praeger Publishing, \$59.95
November, 1999

The Quotable Executive

by John Woods (Jimma 65–68)
McGraw-Hill Professional Publishing, \$14.95,
214 pages, 2000

Recent books about Ethiopia and Eritrea

Notes from the Hyena's Belly: An Ethiopian Boyhood

By Nega Mezlekia
NY: Picador USA, \$24.00, 355 pages
Highly praised in the *NY Times Book Review*, 1/21/01.

The Ethiopian State at the Crossroads: Decolonization and Democratization or Disintegration

by Leenco Lata
Red Sea Press, \$24.95 (paperback), 304 pages

Land and Society in the Christian Kingdom of Ethiopia: From the Thirteenth to the Twentieth Century

by Donald Crummey
University of Illinois, \$60 (hardcover), 416 pages
Subjects range from land tenure to social aspects of Ethiopian life.

Demobilization in Sub-Saharan Africa: The Development and Security Impacts

edited by Kees Kingma
St. Martins Press; \$65.00 (hardcover), 256 pages.

Layers of Time: A History of Ethiopia

by Paul B. Henze
St. Martin's Press, \$35.00 (hardcover), 320 pages

Adventures in the Bone Trade: The Race to Discover Human Ancestors in Ethiopia's Afar Depression

by Jon Kalb
Copernicus Books, \$29.00 (hardcover), 400 pages

Bibliography of the Earth Sciences for the Horn of Africa, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, and Djibouti, 1620-1993

by Jon Kalb
American Geological Institute, \$74.95, 494 pages
Contains 10,250 titles.

A Review

My Ethiopia: A Memoir

by Stephanie Thompson Vance and Abigail Moyle Steidley

Second printing by Morris Publishing

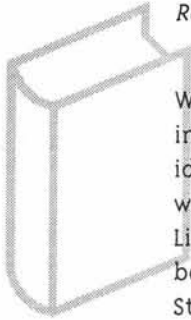
3212 East Highway 30

Kearney, Nebraska 68847

phone: 800-650-7888

147 pages

Reviewed by Hayward Allen (Harar 62-64)



When Stephanie Thompson Vance went to Ethiopia in 1956, an amazing world opened to the eyes and ideas of a young mother from Oklahoma traveling with her teacher-husband to the Kingdom of the Lion of Judah. Bill Vance was part of what would be a sixteen-year connection between Oklahoma State University and Ethiopian agricultural education. Over that period more than 200 OSU faculty spent teaching and research time in Ethiopia.

Mrs. Vance spent six years in Ethiopia, first in Jimma for two years, then Dire Dawa for a year, and finally Alemaya for three years. She was packing to go home as the first PCVs were in training to take the Ethiopian educational system to another, different level.

This a memoir, lovingly edited by Mrs. Vance's granddaughter, who shares the by-line and is the primary reader to whom Stephanie addresses her thoughts. As memoirs go, *My Ethiopia* is honest, naive, and wholesome.

"Abigail, one of my most vivid memories is of our first night in a hotel in Addis Ababa. Here we found ourselves swatting at buzzing bugs with mosquito-like wings, and fat bodies larger than horse flies; some unknown menace flying higher than our reach before they disappeared in the gloom near the ten-foot ceilings. I wasn't about to let one of those things bite our one-year-old [daughter] Willie," the memoirist opens the first chapter, entitled "Creepy Crawlies."

We've been there.

In the morning she "discovered flies of a different temperament. They clung to the corners of eyes or mouth in the sun, but flew away when people went into the shade. I was repulsed by the sight of small children wearing clusters of nasty flies on their faces!"

We've been there, too.

At first, the book critic and the RPCV-Ethiopia veteran in me saw this as a little book, dressed out in a border of Victorian embroidery on the cover instead of a glorious Ethiopian painting, and it conjured up my own memories of Alemaya Agricultural College down the road from Harar. For some reason—probably deep in the core where USAID and USIS were persona non grata, and Peace Corps Rules!—I wanted to go for the jugular vein of the authors. It is not "real" literature, I bemoaned, just the longago memories of almost a half-century ago, and then whoa! those folks from OSU were so "American" it was pitiful.

But as I think back, recalling the neat bungalows, mown lawns, and friendly invitations to PCVs in Dire Dawa and Harar for Thanksgiving Dinner, and ice cream, and a glimpse of home, I began to balk at being picky. I felt magnanimous, so forgive, and be gentle. But I cannot forget, how one Halloween, one Alemaya houseparty dressed up in white sheets, looking remarkably like the KKK. Most of us never went back to Alemaya. Years later, I realized the costumes were a gaggle of Okie ghosts.

This little book is often embarrassingly confessional, so Middle-American in its judgements and misinterpretations of Ethiopian culture, and so decent in its descriptions. Yet at the core of it all is a remarkable existence and experience of exactly that — a portrait of decent Middle Americans who are part of something larger than themselves, and for six years, with a young family.

And I feel disappointed with my easy prejudice.

Actually, for memories forty to fifty years-old, Mrs. Vance is remarkable. Her experiences in Jimma,

pto >

My Ethiopia - a review

continued from previous page

Dire Dawa, and Alemaya will ring bells in most minds. From their house being robbed on their very last night at Alemaya with their little children asleep in their beds, to the attempts to understand their purpose for being where they were, to the details of markets and housekeeping, to the wild animals and rough roads, weather and worries about health—her six-year stay was not so different from our much shorter one.

Maybe many of us wrote letters home, reflecting our amateur idealism and our awesome Ethiopian encounters, and our overall disbelief about being where we were. We were so far away from what we grew up with. No doubt that is maybe why we have been asked by our kids and their kids what it was like to have done what we did. If they know to ask.

I don't know how many times I've been asked to tell about Harar's scab Hyena Man (the real one was in jail for not paying taxes) and how one night I drove Harris Wofford, Kennedy speechwriter Dick Goodwin, and the future ambassador to Ghana to see the Hyena Man's show, and the old Blue Jeep wouldn't start, and how we all had to push it down a little hill, toward the hyenas, which had just bitten the faux Hyena Man...

You know the drill. We all have our little dramas to describe.

Well, Mrs. Vance's *My Ethiopia: A Memoir*, as folksy and benign as it reads, not only gives her family an exotic slice of her life, but I'd bet injera to wat it could serve as cue cards for us E&E RPCVs. Her Ethiopia is not all that different from our own. •

Peace Corps Writers

PeaceCorpsWriters.org

John Coyne (Addis Ababa 62-64) and Marian Haley Beil (Debre Berhan 62-64) are constant promoters of the website they created to promote books by RPCVs, so always check out: <http://peacecorpswriters.org>.

Published in the November, 2000 issue of Peace Corps Writers, is "A Letter from Ethiopia" by Kathleen Coskran (Addis Ababa, Dilla 65-67). The letter was written by Kathleen to her mother at the time of the tragic death of Ethiopia PCV Bill Olson, which she witnessed. A follow-up article by Steve Buff, "Remembering Gambela" is in the January, 2000 issue. Check the Site Index under "Ethiopia" to go to both articles.

Also publish under the title of "A Letter from Ethiopia" in the July, 2000 issue of Peace Corps Writers, Kathleen Moore (Emdeber 64-66) explains why many of us didn't write home very often. Also to be found under "Ethiopia" in the Site Index. •

New in the E&E RPCVs library

Members can borrow at no cost. Contact librarian Joe Ciuffini, 188 Cabot St, Newton MA 02158; 617/244-0463; jmciuffini@aol.com. Check our web site for full contents: www.geocities.com/~eerpcv TRUST is the library card.

Videos

"Endurance" about world-class runner Haile Gebrselassie, 83 minutes. Great shots of the country side. Rated G.

"Ethiopia: World's Greatest Train Ride Videos" — Addis to Djibouti, 53 minutes.

A tour of Addis by Almaz Sullivan (Aleta Wendo, Ethiopia 96-98) with a delightful running commentary.

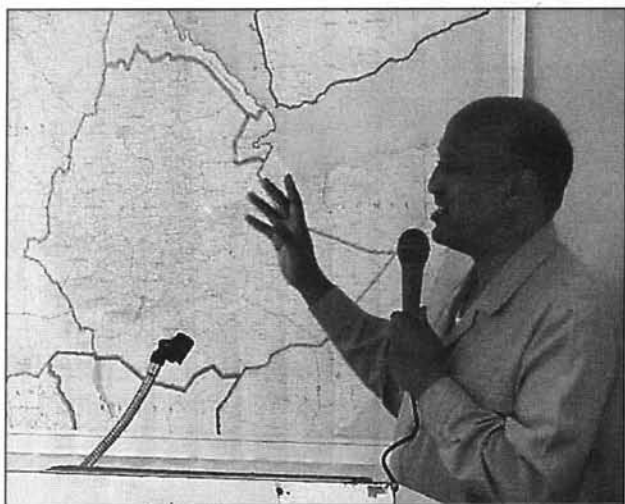
Peace Corps promo: Today Show 3/22/00, interview with grandmother and granddaughter PCVs. 5:13 minutes

"Time to Kill," 110 minutes. Set in 1930's Ethiopia. Story of an Italian army officer (Nicolas Cage) with rape, murder and leprosy. Rated R. •

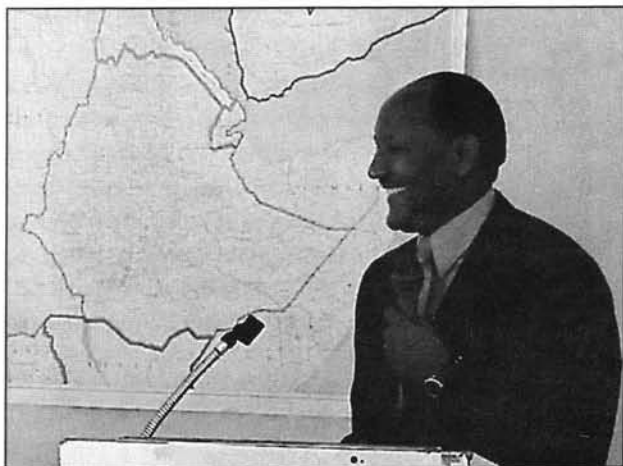
Delightful days on the Delaware

The 2000 E&E RPCV reunion

The reunion at Shawnee-on-Delaware in August, 2000 was great fun. More than 50 RPCVs and Ethiopia staff plus their family and friends attended. The event started with a welcoming reception held on the wide porch of the old Pocono hotel — "What a joyous reunion! We were all like one big family with so much in common to talk about," wrote C.J. Castagnaro (Harar; Debre Zeit; Addis Ababa 65-66, 67-69), organizer of the event.



Eritrean Ambassador to the USA, Semere Russom



Minister Counselor Fisseha Adugna of the Ethiopian Embassy

For the next two days, we dined together, caught-up on each other's lives, and were brought up to date on events in Ethiopia and Eritrea, E&E RPCVs with presentations to the group. Leo Cecchini (Asmara 62-64) spoke of the activities of the Peace Initiative Team, Ray Donaldson made a presentation on the National Summit on Africa, Mary Gratiot Schultz (Mendefera 65-67) presented a remembrance of Bill Olson, who died in service, and others told of personal experiences and current interests.

Our group was honored to have distinguished speaker from both Eritrea and Ethiopia — the Eritrean Ambassador to the USA, Semere Russom, spoke at a luncheon on Monday and Minister Counselor Fisseha Adugna of the Ethiopian Embassy spoke at our luncheon on Tuesday. With the peace talks ongoing, both spoke enthusiastically of the future and their countries plans and needs. Each also spoke warmly and at length of their thanks to the Peace Corps Volunteers who had served in their countries. They had both had Peace Corps teachers, and they spoke of them with great fondness. In both cases, the speakers invited us to have a reception at their respective embassies during our celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Peace Corps.

We also enjoyed viewing several videos: "Endurance" about world-class runner Haile Gebrselassie (which included great shots of the country side that brought back many memories — with all of us shouting out so that the other's wouldn't miss a detail); "Ethiopia: World's Greatest Train Ride Videos" — Addis to Djibouti; and a video tour of Addis made by Almaz Sullivan (Aleta Wendo, Ethiopia 96-98) with a delightful running commentary.

Getting together with Peace Corps friends is an unparalleled delight, and those who attended our Shawnee reunion began making plans to attend the 40th — and for gatherings just for our group in subsequent years. Don't miss out on the pleasures of getting together with those who truly understand the Peace Corps experience and who love our countries of Ethiopia and Eritrea. •

Buna – A Full Circle Healing

by LaDena Schnapper (Dessie, Awassa 63–66)



LaDena surrounded by many items from her collection of Ethiopian artifacts.
Photo by Andy Goldman

WITH TREPIDATION, I SAID YES! The emotions resurrected might be overwhelming, but there was no way out. I knew it was time for this particular full circle experience.

So I agreed to present a travelogue on Ethiopia enacting the coffee ceremony at the Iron County Medical Care Facility in Crystal Falls, Michigan, where I now reside. Doesn't sound so outrageous, does it, especially as I had presented this cultural program many times over to various public groups.

Ah, but two challenges faced me this time. The facility was once my family residence. My father was the administrator of this nursing home from 1943 through his retirement in 1974. This was my home until I left for college! Memories pour out of its rooms, stairwells and grounds. After each visit, though basked in the rich reminiscence of a warm loving family/institutional life, I always need to do a bit of mourning for a father who died prematurely and whom I miss dearly.

In honor of my father, with the love of Ethiopia in my heart and hopes of deeper integration of myself, I schlepped half my Ethiopian belongings

to the facility. Gloria, a friend, who assisted, asked me, "Why all the stuff for here?" I explained I have a great need to really connect with the audience whoever they may be and the clinical therapist in me believed I might be able to create a therapeutic experience for the group.

This was the second challenge. These were nursing home residents, ages 65 to 90, who for the most part had mild to moderate dementia and Alzheimer's Disease. Their cognitive abilities were significantly impaired. As the Older Adult Services Worker for the county's mental health center, I had learned that cognition may decrease, but senses stay sharp. On a visceral level, real healing experiences can still occur. In fact, studies suggest that creative art therapies may be the only effective and meaningful treatment outside of basic needs care, that can be provided for persons diagnosed with progressively degenerative dementia.

Dressed in flowing white *habasha lebs* (Ethiopian dress), I created a virtual Ethiopian setting that had the audience looking and asking, "What are all those strange things?" My purpose was to penetrate their senses with the shapes, forms, colors, smells, tastes, sounds and feels of Ethiopia. We passed around *mosebs* (tables), *sefets* (baskets), *teras* (wooden pillows), *chira* (horsehair whisks), *shakla* (pottery) and let people touch *tere buna* (unroasted coffee). This was the first time they had seen raw green coffee beans. I roasted the beans and encouraged each person to draw in the smoke with their hands and smell the delicious aroma. "Ummms" and nods of approval were evoked. Stored in the big *Gurage jebena* (coffee pot holding 75 cups), *buna* made in early morning

was poured into paper demitasse cups and passed to each resident with a piece of Ethiopian bread I had shipped in from Washington, DC. A few residents requesting seconds said, "Why can't we have this kind of coffee all the time?" In asking the group, "What do you know about Ethiopia?" memories of the war with Italy, Haile Selassie and images of the famine were remembered.

Naturally, Ethiopian music played in the background; I danced the *iskesta* inviting the group to move their shoulders and voice the *elelelele*. Broad smiles, deep laughs and a few "Oh my, how can they do that?" indicated I was getting through as was later demonstrated by one of the residents who wrote a glowing article about the event. I knew that in my sharing of Ethiopia and the coffee ceremony, I had touched these people in a meaningful way.

Yes, afterwards I cried in gratitude for a father who taught me to care about the elderly; for the incessant creative experiences I have with things Ethiopian; and for another full circle healing through the coffee ceremony. •

EDITOR'S NOTES: LaDena will be presenting a traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony for members of Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs as part of our celebration of the 40th Peace Corps Anniversary, September 20 to 23.

In the "Our Stories" section of the E&E RPCV website, LaDena has an essay entitled "The Magic of Buna: A Ferengi's Healing Ritual in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan" that describes the coffee ceremony. You can read it at: <http://www.geocities.com/~eerpcv/coffee.htm>

Editor's Note

The last issue of *The Herald*, "Winter 1999–2000 — Number 21, Part 2," carried a banner headline on the front page, "I AM TIRED — WE NEED A NEW EDITOR."

Marian Haley Beil, who served in Debre Berhan from 1962 to 1964, wanted to step down from doing something she had done for a decade. For no pay, no glory, no compensation other than the satisfaction that words about Ethiopia and Eritrea were getting to the people who had spent time there in Peace Corps over the years.

It's a small world.

About a year ago, my wife Ronda and I moved to Rochester, New York to be closer to family and back where both of us had deep roots. One day, I found in the mail a print-piece forwarded from our previous address in Flagstaff, Arizona. It was the announcement of a reunion of Ethiopia and Eritrean RPCVs on the shores of the Delaware River in September sent out by Marian.

Sounded interesting, about a day's drive. Might be nice to see folks I'd not seen in almost 40 years . . . then I looked at the return address: I knew the street as one I walked our dog down, the street that was literally just around the corner. After all these years . . .

Since then

When I left Harar in 1964, I knew whatever I was going to do it would involve writing. And it has, for 35 years, at least. It's been nickel-dime journalism, for the most part. It has never been for glory or money: there is so little out there for writers; mainly, it has been because there are things and people to write about.

Conservatively, for example, I've probably written about a brigade of people, about a cotillion of subjects from saints to septic systems, and about a thousand reviews of books, plays, movies and art stuff. Plus three books under my byline and a few ghostly ones. And about a half-dozen newsletters.

So, I says to Marian one spring evening, "Ya wan' some help, hey?" (That's the years in Wisconsin coming out.). She says, "Absolutely."

Now

Which brings me to this slot in the masthead.

I should have started out the column with something like "Marian Haley Beil Agrees to Pass Baton to Guy Who Was Editor of The National Locksmith," which is true, once upon a starving time. But honesty will out.

Ethiopia and the Peace Corps were probably my definitive years, just as they were for many Ethiopia and Eritrea RPCVs. I thought so at the time, and my letters home, which my mother saved, speaking in beatitudes of what I thought were part of the language of the New Frontier. Reading those epistles now makes me cringe: damn, I was full of platitude and a whole pile of sanctimonious rubbish.

But I meant well. I just didn't know the right words to describe what being in the Peace Corps, in Harar, Ethiopia. And I hate to feel that I should present my credentials to you like some passer-by with an engraved, impressed card. But, as my uncle in Tennessee said, "Never buy a pig in a poke sack."

Marian's editorship and publication of *The Herald* has been remarkable, and I insist she remain its publisher. I am not about to assume that my knowledge of sources and my use of their information will come close to hers. However, "I will," as Ben Stein says, "do my best."

First, there probably should be some qualification of perspectives. Mine is probably left-of-center. For a dozen years, I worked with credit unions/cooperatives in developing economies. The Peace Corps got me there and kept me, even though I worked for an NGO. I find I am committed to the same ideals that I subscribed to when I was a naive graduate student at the University of Colorado in 1961.

"Ask not..." were his words at the inauguration. I haven't.

So, where does that take EEE RPCVs with me here at the helm of *The Herald*? It is not inflation, but it is quite probably the most significant publication associated to the people of and the people who served in Ethiopia and Eritrea.

There are those groups and writers who will gloss over the various points of view that our countries of service face. There are those that will advocate positions innocently, obscurely, obviously that run with the folks that determine American foreign policy. There are those that will sustain radical depositions against US or UN policy.

I see *The Herald* as being a forum for those views. However, I must admit that there will be times when my own bias will infiltrate either the editing or the inclusion of various points of view.

For me, the people come first. That is why I joined the Peace Corps. I thought I might make a small difference, that I could be taught something, that I could, maybe, bring something back home that would prove people are okay beings, just trying to get by and get somewhere. It's only governments and vested interests that screw the whole thing up.

Whatever. The name seen on various bylines and in the masthead as editor of *The Herald* comes not without its prejudices and preoccupations. But it also comes with honesty and an eagerness to listen and to respond and reciprocate others' ideas and concepts, directions and analyses.

Excuse my transliteration, but "Igzyaber y'istellin" and "Bet'am tru-noe."

THE HERALD

Editor: Hayward Allen (Harar 62-64)

Design & distribution: Marian Haley Beil (Debre Berhan 62-64)

Contributing editor — Richard Crepeau (Dessie 63-65).

Those who have shared articles, ideas and efforts for this issue — Leo Cecchini (Asmara 62-64), John Coyne (Addis Ababa 62-64), Ray Donaldson (Ambo, Debre Berhan 62-64), Laurie Kessler (Adi Teclesan 64-66), LaDena Robichaud Schnapper (Dessie, Awassa 63-66), Clare Shea (Debre Marcos 65-67).

THE HERALD wishes to thank them all. They are greatly appreciated.

If you would like to submit an article to be considered for publication, it would be appreciated if it is submitted digitally — via email or on disk (labeled as to software and computer used and with a hard copy). Any articles of interest to RPCVs who served in Ethiopia and Eritrea are most welcomed.

Photo submissions are also welcomed. They should be clear, with images large enough to be easily discerned. All photos will be returned.

Send all to:

Hayward Allen
264 Garnsey Road
Pittsford, NY 14534.
email: halleno2@rochester.rr.com

E&E RPCVs Steering Committee

Marian Haley Beil
(Debre Berhan 62-64)
*Chair, database,
treasurer*
4 Lodge Pole Road
Pittsford, NY 14534
716/223-1155
fax 716/223-1158
mhbeil@servtech.com

Susan Hundt Bergan
(Bahar Dar 66-68)
7144 Parman Terrace
Madison, WI 53711
608/264-6032
shbergan@itis.com

C.J. Smith Castagnaro
(Harar; Debre Zeit;
Addis Ababa 65-66,
67-69)
Reunions
3642 North Garey #1
Pomona, CA 91767-1100
909/392-9734
cjsmithc@earthlink.net

Leo Cecchini
(Asmara 62-64)
Peace Initiative
GIA
PO Box 3274
McLean, VA 22103-3274
718/871-4248
leoc@hotmail.com

John Coyne
(Addis Ababa 62-64)
*Steering Committee
Book Locker Project*
99 Reed Avenue
Pelham Manor, NY
10803
914/738-8212
fax 914/738-8211
jpcoyne@cnr.edu

Gloria Gieseke Curtis
(Asmara 63-65)
Membership renewals
15670 W 64th Place
Arvada, CO 80007-6937
h & w: 303/422-3742
Don_Curtis@msn.com

Dave Gurr
(Addis Ababa 62-64)
enCORPS
4311 Loyola Ave
Alexandria, VA 22304
703/370-2553
fax: 703/370-1861
dgurr@cns.gov

Gerry Hoffman
(Mekele 63-65)
445 Third Street
Brooklyn, NY 11215-2983
718/768-8518
ghoff@attglobal.net

Judy Smith
(Asmara 63-65)
7628 17th St NW
Washington DC 20012
202/882-3021
smarmayor@aol.com

Jim Solomon
(Massawa, Jimma 63-
65)
28484 Mission Blvd
#304
Hayward, CA 94544
510/538-9889
lsj63@ix.netcom.com

Support officers

Hayward Allen
(Harar 62-64)
Newsletter editor
264 Garnsey Road
Pittsford, NY 14534
716/264-9162
hallenoz@rochester.rr.com

Joe Ciuffini
(Harar 64-66)
Librarian
188 Cabot St
Newton, MA 02158
617/244-0463
jmcuffini@aol.com

Dennis Ekberg (Ghion
62-64)
Webmaster
3130 NW Nyssa Court
Beaverton, OR 97006
503/690-0447
fax: 503/690-2495
dekberg@teleport.com

Wayne Kessler
(Adi Teclesan 64-66)
*enCORPS Eritrea repre-
sentative*
PO Box 2967
Asmara, Eritrea
phone & fax: 291 1125145
wayne@gemel.com.er

Other contacts

Embassy of Eritrea
1708 New Hampshire
Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20009
202/319-1991

Embassy of Ethiopia
2134 Kalorama Road NW
Washington, DC 20008
202/234-2281
fax: 202/483-8407
e-mail:
ethiopia@tidalwave.net
www.nicom.com/
~ethiopia

**National Peace Corps
Association (NPCA)**
1900 L St, NW, Suite 205
Washington, DC 20036
202/293-7728
fax: 202/293-7554
email:
rpcvmem@aol.com
www.rpcv.org

Peace Corps
1111 20th St NW
Washington, DC 20526
800/424-8580
www.peacecorps.gov

**Returned Volunteer
Services** — 202/692-
1430; **Fellows/USA** —
202/692-1440,
fellows@peacecorps.gov;
Crisis Corps — 202/
692-2250; **Post-
service medical
benefits** — 202/692-
1540

**Ethiopia & Eritrea
RPCVs**
c/o Marian Haley Beil
4 Lodge Pole Road
Pittsford, NY 14534-4550
716/223-1155
email:
mhbeil@servtech.com
www.geocities.com/
~eerpcv

Peace Corps Collection
John F. Kennedy Library
Columbia Point
Boston, MA 02125
617/929-4524

Books for Africa
5233 Silver Maple Circle
Minneapolis, MN 55343
email: bfa@mtn.org
www.booksforafrica.org

Decoding the mailing label

The date on the mailing label indicates when your membership in ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs (E&E RPCVs) expires.

Recently returned PCVs receive one year free membership. Their label will have a date followed by "New RPCV" — the date being when the free membership expires.

"Expired" means your membership has expired since the publication of the previous issue of *The Herald*. PLEASE renew and support the group.

"Trial #22" indicates we thought you might be interested in learning what E&E RPCVs does and in seeing our newsletter. Perhaps you'd like to join us?

Married couples — One of your names has been arbitrarily selected to receive the newsletter to save duplication. Please don't feel left out if your name isn't on the label.

Send your email address to E&E RPCVs

Facilitate communication, especially for reconnecting with friends and former students, and to receive occasional news updates.

Send your email address to:
mhbeil@servtech.com

Visit our website

Dennis Ekberg maintains an extensive website for our group at www.geocities.com/~eerpcv. Find "Our Stories," links to news sources, announcements and a listing of those who served as PCVs in Ethiopia and Eritrea by their training group to facilitate reconnecting.

ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs membership

Name _____

Address _____

City, state, zip, country _____ E-mail address _____

Name when in the Peace Corps if different from above _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____

Home fax _____ Work fax _____

Dates of Peace Corps—Ethiopia or Eritrea service _____ City/town of service _____

Group # _____ Training site _____ Type of program _____

Other Peace Corps service - as staff or Volunteer - and dates _____

\$40 Annual Dues (which include \$25 National Peace Corps Association membership dues)

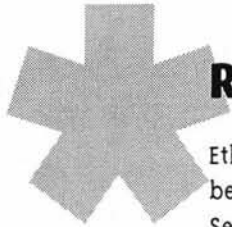
\$15 If you are *currently* a paying member of the National Peace Corps Association

1 year free membership to newly returned RPCVs

Make your check payable to:
Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs

Please send to:

Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs
c/o Marian Haley Beil
4 Lodge Pole Road
Pittsford, NY 14534-4550



Reserve a room now for the 40th

Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs has selected the **Hotel Washington** to be its recommended hotel for the 40th Anniversary Conference September 20 to 23. The hotel is centrally located at the corner of 15th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue just a block from the White House. It has also been designated "Conference Central" for the hosting group, the National Peace Corps Association. It has wonderful rooftop terrace that overlooks the White House on one end and a great view of the Washington monument at the other.

Room rates: \$119 for a single and \$145 for a double.

To get this special discount rate, and make reservations, **contact Meeting Solutions**, Monday — Thursday, 8:30 am — 5:30 pm, and Friday 9 am — 5:30 pm, eastern time.

Call toll free: 1-800-503-3330

Email: dbinette@formeetingsolutions.com

Let them know you are with the NPCA/Peace Corps group.

Do not contact the hotel directly. You will not get the special rate.

For more about the conference see "40th Birthday Party" on pages 14 to 15.

Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs

c/o Marian Haley Beil
4 Lodge Pole Road
Pittsford, NY 14534-4550

Address service requested

FIRST-CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Leesburg, FL
Permit No. 1040