

The HERALD

Spring 1998 — Number 18

A publication of **Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs**, an affiliate of the National Peace Corps Association

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COME TO THE REUNION

Great plans being made for gathering at UCLA
August 13-16

IF YOU ARE AN RPCV from Ethiopia or Eritrea, then come to Los Angeles this summer to help us celebrate a reunion that promises to be a unique experience.

A group of RPCV's from Southern California has held planning meetings to work out the details of this first-of-its-kind Peace Corps function so that events will be fun, informative and worth a trip to the Southland.

Many activities have already been set up —

- ▶ A Friday evening of dining and shopping in LA's "Little Ethiopia."

- ▶ A Saturday night banquet with entertainment and dancing.
- ▶ A chance to reconnect with members of your training group
- ▶ Opportunities to share pictures, slides, and stories with old friends and new.
- ▶ Updates of your knowledge of Ethiopia and Eritrea as they are today.
- ▶ Other programs of interest to all.
- ▶ A visit to the RPCV Museum
- ▶ A chance to practice what is left of your Amharic! ▶



All it takes is your commitment and a deposit.

Where

The reunion will be held at the **UCLA Conference Center** in Westwood, California. This is a great site that is centrally located, and because it was the training site for many of us, it should provide some great opportunities for flash-backs.

When

The reunion will be held Thursday, August 13 to Sunday, August 16, 1998. This date was selected because it was available at the Conference Center!

Costs

Rooms at the Conference Center are \$90 for a double with private bath per night; \$76 for a double with shared bath per night.

Breakfast and lunch meatickets will be approximately \$14 per day.

Because planning is still being done other costs for the reunion have not been set, but it is **estimated** that the registration fee will be **approximately** \$100 which will cover conference costs; Saturday night banquet dinner and entertainment; transportation to "Little Ethiopia" and Sunday brunch.

Deposit

Because E&E RPCVs must make a sizable deposit to reserve space at the conference center well in advance of the reunion, **a deposit of \$75 for each participant attending the reunion is due by April 20, 1998.**

Please send deposits to:

CJ Castagnaro
175 E Arlington Drive
Claremaont CA 91711

Lots to do in Southern California

Southern California has countless attractions that are by themselves an incentive to come to LA, such as the new Getty Center, Disneyland, the Chinese Theater, and the wild life sanctuaries of San Diego and Venice Beach. The LA Dodgers play Florida Tuesday, Aug 11, 1:05 pm and Wednesday, Aug 12, 7:35 pm and Atlanta on Sunday, Aug 16 at 5:05 pm. Call 213/224-1-HIT for tickets or visit their website at www.dodgers.com.

But the **HIGHLIGHT** of your visit will be the time spent sharing a part of yourselves with returned Volunteers who have walked many of the paths

that you have, where our Peace Corps experiences have a distinctly Ethiopian or Eritrean flavor all of their own.

What to help?

Be a training group coordinator

Volunteers have come forward to be coordinators for many of the training groups. Their goal — to encourage others of their group to be sure to not miss this great opportunity to get together with the dearest of friends.

We still need coordinators for the following groups:

- II (1963-65)
- V (1965-67)
- VI UCLA (1965-67)
- IX (1968-70)
- XI (1969-71)
- XII (1969-71)
- XIV (1970-72)
- XV (1971-73)
- XVI (1971-73)
- XVIII
- Eritrea I (1995-97)
- Ethiopia 95-07
- Eritrea II (96-98)
- Ethiopia 96-98

Please contact Marian Haley Beil if you would like to help as a group coordinator to make your group the one with the best turn-out.

Or help your coordinator

Many thanks to the following people who have volunteered to be training group coordinators for the reunion. If you would like to help in the effort to assure that as many people as possible from your group attend the reunion, contact:

- I 1962-64
Frances Fisher LaCroix
177 Blue Mountain Road
Camano Island WA 98292
phone + fax: 360 387 4089
lacroix@fidalgo.net
and
Doug Mickelson
2717 East Newton Avenue
Milwaukee WI 53211
h: 414 962 5677
dmickelson@soe.uwm.edu
- III 1964-66
Joyce & Dennis Orwin
1210 16th Street
Columbus IN 47201
phone: 812 379 1354
fax: 812 379 1357
dorwin@hsonline.net
- IV 1964-66
C. J. Smith Castagnaro
175 E Arlington Drive
Claremont CA 91711
h: 714 596 0982
- VI 1965-67 Utah
Audrey Weaver Aanes
11840 Moose Road
Anchorage AK 99516
phone + fax: 907 345 0715
dreamer@alaska.net
- VII 1966-68
Susan Hundt Bergan
714 Parman Terrace
Madison WI 53711
h: 608 238 0176
Bergas@dnr.state.wi.us
and
Leah Bogush Carlisle
250 North Catalina
Ventura CA 93011
h: 805 648 1955
and

Wyn Tunncliff
2526 5th Street
Santa Monica CA 95405
310 392 1137

VIII 1967-69

C. J. Smith Castagnaro
175 E Arlington Drive
Claremont CA 91711
h: 714 596 0982

X 1968-70 St Thomas

Audrey Weaver Aanes
11840 Moose Road
Anchorage AK 99516
phone + fax: 907 345 0715
dreamer@alaska.net

and

Charles Fischer
14 Pinehurst Drive
Granbury NJ 08512-3028
h: 609 443 6242
FISCHERHOUSE@JUNO.COM

X 1968-70 Little Bear Pond, Maine

Carl Schroeder
17495 Montoya Circle
Morgan Hill CA 95037
h: 408 779 5808
CARLJS@US.IBM.COM

XIII 1970-72

Maryann Melzl
4348 North Kildare Avenue
Chicago IL 60641
773 286 0733

XVII 1972-74

Charles W. McMillion
223 F Street NE
Washington DC 20002
cwmcmillion@IBM.NET

XIX 1973-75

Carol Randall
1226 Geneva Street
Glendale CA 91207
h: 818-547-0511
CAROLRANDL@aol.com

and

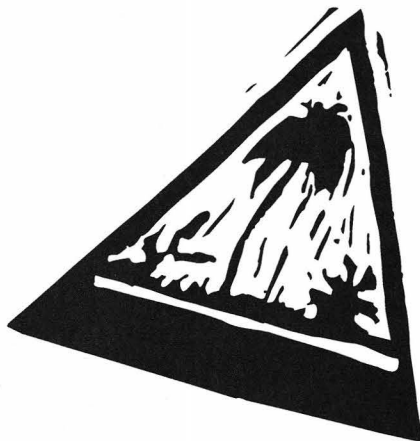
Wallace Runck
Route 1, Box 142
Fairfax MN 55332
507-426-7645

You can create a logo

The reunion committee has included a space on the registration form for you to share your artistic talents by designing a logo for the reunion. Perhaps you'll see your creation on a t-shirt!

Can't attend?

Send a message to friends at the reunion, a photo (how about one of those leftover Christmas photos of the family?), a shot of you from way back when — whatever! Send to Carol Randall.



We're looking for staff people

We would like to invite all the staff people who served in Ethiopia or worked at training programs to the reunion but we have the addresses of only a few. If you can give us names and addresses for those you know, an invitation will be extended to each. Send to: Marain Haley Beil.

Who will be there

The following RPCVs have responded to the reunion invitation, **so far**, in a positive — or at least hopeful — way:

They have said: I shall definitely be at the Summer of '98 reunion/conference barring a catastrophe.

Marian Haley Beil 1962-64
Gary Bergthold 1962-64
Linda Bergthold 1962-64
Leo Cecchini 1962-64
James J. Cook 1962-64
Bill Donohoe 1962-64
Maggie O'Brien Donohoe 1962-64
David Gurr 1962-64
Will Hall 1962-64
Peter Leofanti 1962-64
Douglas J. Mickelson 1962-64
Herbert Resnick 1962-64
Judith Hopkins 1963-65

CJ Smith Castagnaro 1965-66, 67-69
Susan Hundt Bergan 1966-68
Leah Bogush Carlisle 1966-68
Barbara Alpert Standley 1966-67
Wyn Tunncliff 1966-68
Kathleen Mahon Isaac 1968-70
Carl Schroeder 1968-70
Maryann Melzl 1970-72
Carol A. Randall 1973-74
Joel Schaffer 1973-75
Eric Bergthold Eritrea 1995-97
Jason Rothbard Eritrea 1995-97
Melissa Rothbard Eritrea 1995-97

They have said: I hope to be able to come.

Mary K. Blackmon [spouse of George Blackmon 62-64]
Susan Heck
Raymond Capozzi 1962-64, 1971-73
Joan Corboy 1962-64 Staff
Ed Corboy 1962-64 Staff
Edward B. Cross, M.D. 1962-64 Staff
James R. Doanes 1962-64
Jon Ebling 1962-64
Frank Ludwig Grossmann 1962-64
Frances Fisher LaCroix 1962-64
Richard Lipez 1962-64
Jack Prebis 1962-64
Lois Richards 1962-64
Lois Shoemaker 1962-64
Benjamin H. Thomas 1962-64
Gary Frost 1963-65
Lane Tracy 1963-65
Wayne A. Charlie 1964-66
Conrad Hirsh 1964-66
Mary Laughlin 1964-67
Cynthia LeFlore 1964-66
Dianne Plorde McCann 1964-66
Kay Norris Morgan 1964-66
Scott Morgan 1964-66
Robert Mullins 1964-66
Kay Shires Boyd Warren 1964-67
Audrey Weaver Aanes 1965-67
Barbara Baluta 1965-67
Catherine Hulder Frantz 1965-66
Charlotte B. Lockner 1965-67
James R. Thompson 1965-68 Staff
Virginia Hollins-Davidson 1966-68
Rosemary Fuller Murphree 1966-68
Christine Pattee 1966-68
Carol Scott 1966-68
Louise Weissman Siegel 1966-68
Warren Siegel 1966-68 ▶

Sally Canby Stewart 1966-68
Jonathan F. Wechsler 1966-68
David M. Disharoon 1967-69
Linda C. Gale 1967-69
Margaret Preston Kharraz 1967-69
John Knight 1967-71
Mark Paulsen 1967-70
Tony J. Rasch 1967-70
Alma Raymond 1967-69
Douglas W. Raymond 1967-69
Charles Fischer 1968-70
Elliot Kanter 1968-70
William Longhurst 1968-69
Judy Minkus 1968-71
Karen Thysen 1968-69
Steve Traylor 1968-70
Phillip B. Kneller 1970-72
Cheryl Armstrong 1972-74
Charles McMillion 1972-73
Wallace Runck 1973-75
David Philip Bratton-Kearns 1974-75
Robert Colin Ogden 1974-75

They have said: I'm not sure if I can attend, but please keep me informed just in case.

See friends names on this list? Give them a call an urge them to say "Yes, I'll go!"

Richard Burgart
Suzanne Burgart
Carleen Glamzi Busse 1962-64
John Coyne 1962-64, staff 65-67
Margaret J. Drury 1962-64
Patricia A. Farnham 1962-64
Steven J. Farnham 1962-64
H. Ernest Fox 1962-64
John Hagenbuch 1962-65
Bob Horn 1962-64
Camilla Chickering Moore 1962-64
Richard A. Moreau 1962-64, 1966-68
Carolyn A. Mulford 1962-64
J. Terrence O'Herron 1962-64

Antonio F. Clementino 1963-65
Georgiann Jody Donovan 1963-65
Fay Millett, M.D. 1963-64 Staff
Patricia Renner 1963-65
Paul Renner 1963-65
Dannie Russell 1963-65
Daryle Russell 1963-65
Kathryn H. Schultze 1963-65
Stephen Silver 1963-65
Judith Knutson Vickrey 1963-65
Patricia Krebsbach Wood Welsh 1963-65
David B. Levine 1964-66
Marty J. Merkel 1964-66
Joyce Maurer Orwin 1964-66
Judy Woods 1964-66
Charles Kerr 1965-67
Barbara J. Lenkerd 1965-67
Mary Higgins Moreau 1965-67
Leslie Rottner 1965-66
Diane Schroeder 1965-67
Sandra Larson Weck 1965
Thomas Weck 1965
Michael D. Brand 1966-68
Susan Broitman 1966-67
Marshall C. Broitman 1966-67
Gayla Vardeman Corley 1966-67
Larry R. Johnson 1966-68
Catherine Carow Lozier 1966-68
Janet Hoard Sanchez 1966-67
David R. Voth 1966-68
Myra Baughman 1967-69
Curtis N. Crouch 1967-70
Gary A. Giese 1967-69
Luke (Dusty) Golobitsh 1967-70
Lorna C. Henningsen 1967-68
Tom Lucas 1967
Alec Van Sinderen 1967-69
Barbara Anderson 1968-70
Van Anderson 1968-70
John S. Cullison 1968-70

Larry F. Guthrie 1968-70
Irene Lyons Rasmussen 1968-70
Lynda Stewart Smith 1968-70
Neal Sobania 1968-72
James Templeton 1968-70
MaryAnn Templeton 1968-70
Larry Wells 1968-70
Mark Zuckerman 1968-70
Walter Galloway 1969-71
Gary Heath 1969-70
G. Gregory Pyle 1969-72
Nancy Henke 1970-71
Alan D. Smith 1971-73
Dexter Fairbanks 1972-73
Richard Amrick 1973-75
Hinton T. Causey 1974-75
Bonnie Hash 1974-76 Staff
Mark J. Olson 1974-75
Steven Londner 1974-77

Got questions?

Contact:

C. J. Smith Castagnaro
175 E Arlington Drive
Claremont CA 91711
h: 714 596 0982

or

Carol Randall
1226 Geneva Street
Glendale CA 91207
h: 818-547-0511
CAROLRANDL@aol.com

Please send a registration form & \$75 deposit for each participant to CJ by 4/20.



POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN ETHIOPIA

AN INTERVIEW WITH NEGUSSIE TEFERRA, PH.D.

By Frances Anderson Scura (Addis Ababa 67-68)



Negussie Teferra and Frances Anderson Scura

Negussie Teferra is Head of the National Office of Population, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. I first met Negussie in 1967 when he was a student at Teferi Mekonnen High School in Addis Ababa and I was a Peace Corps teacher. Recently Negussie was in New York for a conference of the UN Commission on Population and Development and I had a chance to ask him about his job, his unique background and current conditions in Ethiopia.

The National Office of Population

In essence, the mission of the National Office of Population is to coordinate information and population programs to promote economic and social development in Ethiopian society. One of the most important factors of economic and social development in all the developing nations is population control. But in traditional societies like Ethiopia, the issues of family planning, contraception, and zero population growth are very sensitive issues and must be communicated respectfully to the religious and cultural beliefs of each community.

Negussie's office is making tremendous efforts to effectively communicate and provide population programs throughout Ethiopia through science and health education in the schools, the media, village workshops, mobile health workers, international relief workers, and even the churches.

Controlling population growth is such an important goal because the pressure of over-population is threatening public health, economic and social survival. Ethiopia is the third most populous nation in Africa, after Nigeria and Egypt. The population of Ethiopia is now 60 million and is growing by 2 million every year. At the present rate of growth, the population will double in 20 years. Ethiopia does not have the resources to feed, provide basic services or sustain this growth. With food shortages through drought and land depletion through over-use and war, Ethiopia has no choice but to control its population. Right now there is room in primary schools for only 25% of the primary age children, so 75% of the

children cannot go to school. There is room in the high schools for only 10% of the teenage population, so 90% of the teenagers cannot go to high school. Health care clinics only reach 45% of the population. Fifty percent of the population is at absolute subsistence poverty level and economic growth is slowed because of population growth.

These are the realities and challenges facing Ethiopia and the National Population Office. Negussie's Office is receiving assistance from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) as well as other UN organizations and USAID. John Hopkins University, Cornell University, other universities, and other nations are also collaborating with Ethiopian population programs. Negussie coordinates these international activities with 20 Ethiopian agencies and 10 Ethiopian Ministries in all 10 regions of Ethiopia. He travels all over Ethiopia doing workshops, lectures and working with international groups to educate the people about population issues. Negussie's job has taken him to

35 countries in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe, North and South America to attend conferences, study population problems and solutions.

Becoming a Communications Expert

Communication is really at the heart of Negussie's job and he has a unique background that gives him special expertise as a communicator and facilitator of ideas. When Negussie was in high school, he joined the debate and current events clubs. While studying political science and government at the University of Addis Ababa, he worked part time for Radio Voice of the Gospel of Ethiopia. In 1970 the radio station sent him to Nairobi, Kenya for a nine-month training program in communications. From 1971 through 1974, he was producing radio shows in Addis, reading commentary and analysis of news on radio, as well as TV, and doing investigative reporting on corruption in government. In 1975, shortly before the station was nationalized in 1976 by the Dergue, he was "called" by the Dergue, as a "duty to his country" to be chief commentator in the Ministry of Information. During the first four years of the Dergue, the "revolutionary struggle" was focused on political and ideological issues and he worked in the Ministry of Information until 1978. In 1978 there was a shift of focus and the "revolutionary struggle" seized on economic development as the next four year goal. The Ministry of Information then came under the Central Planning Supreme Council and Negussie was selected to lead the Department of Information and Communication. In 1985 he was the winner of a European Union fellowship to study in the UK at the University of Wales, Cardiff. What makes this remarkable is that Negussie did not apply for this fellowship nor did he even know about its existence until he was notified that he had won. At first his objective was to obtain a Master's Degree in Communications in two years. His Master's thesis was on "The

History of the Ethiopian Media." Then his education was extended to three years and he got his Ph.D. in Communications. His Ph.D. thesis was on "The Role of Mass Communications in Fostering Social and Economic Development in Developing Countries and the Case of Ethiopia."

**. . . HE WAS ASKED
TO CONTINUE . . .
MOST OF ALL
BECAUSE OF HIS
OUTSTANDING
REPUTATION AND
INTEGRITY.**

In 1988, within 5 months of his return to Ethiopia, he was asked to be special advisor to the Prime Minister Ato Hailu Yimenu as Chief, Bureau on Foreign Affairs, Justice and Information, with a rank of Vice Minister. He held this position until May 1991 and the revolutionary government came to an end. When the new provisional government came in, none of the senior government civil service officers thought they would have a job. However, as Negussie was packing up his office during the week of transition, a senior representative of the new government stopped by and asked if he was the same Negussie Teferra who used to be an investigative reporter in the days before 1974. When Negussie affirmed he was, he was asked to continue in his position as advisor to the new Prime Minister because of his background and expertise in communications, his education and experience in government, and most of all because of his outstanding reputation and integrity. His

new position was Chief Bureau Head of Foreign Affairs, Justice, Information and Population and Development, which lasted until 1995 when the transition government ended. The constitutional and nationally elected government that took over in 1995 established the National Office of Population. At first this was under the Prime Minister but later expanded to include economic development and in 1996 his office came under the Ministry of Economic Development and Cooperation (MEDAC).

Recent Developments in Ethiopia

The single most important difference in Ethiopian society today in the 1990s is that the civil war which lasted nearly two decades is finally over and there is peace in the country. Above all, there is a psychological relief the war is over. Parents can look to their children's future and education instead of being afraid their sons will be sent to the front. People can sleep in peace at night without the uncertainties, fears, lack of food, etc. caused by the war. The civil war was an overwhelming psychological burden on the people. In addition, the civil war was a tremendous burden on every other aspect of society as well, especially the economy. Farmers could not farm because their farms were battle fields. Now farmers are farming again and helping to feed the country. People could not work because factories were bombed and closed. Now people are working again and making and spending money. Ethiopians from abroad are returning to Ethiopia to invest and live in the country. There are many economic opportunities opening up every day.

Besides the end of the civil war, there have been other unprecedented changes in the this decade in Ethiopia. Most noticeable is the breaking up of the government's monopolies of minerals and land that had been in place for the whole history of Ethiopia. This privatization of strategic national >

resources like gold and marble mines, as well as other major industries like farming, and tanning and bottling factories, is completely new. In recent years these industries have been put up for sale and sold to private owners. Under the Haile Selassie and Mengistu governments, most land was owned by the government. But now the collective and state farms have been sold to private farmers. One of the major buyers and investors in Ethiopian resources and industries is Sheik Ala Mudhin of Saudi Arabia. The Sheik is also building a new Sheraton Hotel near the old palace and investing heavily in other countries in Africa.


Other changes in this decade include freedom to travel and freedom of the press. Under the Haile Selassie government it was difficult for people to get a passport and under the Mengistu government, it was very hard indeed to get a passport. Today Ethiopians can get a passport in 48 hours and can travel anywhere they want. This has a tremendous psychological effect in making Ethiopians feel less isolated. Even if they can't afford to travel, at least they have the freedom to do so. Also under the Mengistu and Haile Selassie governments, there was tight censorship on the press. Under Mengistu, Ethiopians couldn't even get a business card printed without permission from the government. Now the international press is available and people can watch CNN. This also helps to make Ethiopians less isolated. Additionally, there are

at least 10 private local newspapers and they can print anything they want, including criticism, insults and scandals about government officials and anyone else. As far as taste, they are sleazier than the British tabloids, Negussie said. Anyone can print anything they want

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except attacks on the constitution which involve activities to overthrow the government. Finally, the Ethiopian

government is now a government of law and if, for example, someone is arrested for breaking the law, they go through the civil justice system of the courts. This is not to say there is no room for improvement or that things are perfect. But compared to the Haile Selassie and Mengistu governments, things are better.

As for human rights and democracy, people in the world naturally look to America for leadership, so there is a need for America's foreign policy to be more consistent in this area. Negussie is glad at last to see the Peace Corps back in Ethiopia. The presence of Peace Corps Volunteers in the 1960s opened a whole new world for Ethiopian students: inspiring their desire for freedom and democracy and giving them hope to achieve their aspirations. The Peace Corp Volunteers had a great influence on the lives of virtually every government and civic leader in Ethiopia today because every educated Ethiopian had or knew a Peace Corps teacher. Now Volunteers are back touching lives and inspiring Ethiopia's youth. Negussie said, "The Peace Corps volunteers are the light in the darkness." 

Members: The Herald would welcome your "interviews" with Ethiopians or Eritreans whom you know in the States or in Ethiopia or Eritrea so we can all learn about present day life there, what the people have been through, what they are doing now and what their opinions are on the current issues. Contact Marian Beil for details.

Good Idea Department

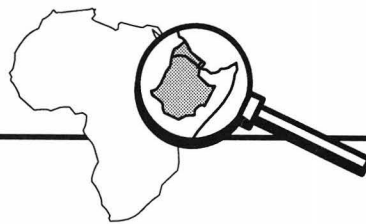


Frances Scura sent in this great idea:

Do you know about the Bargain Books Supplement from Edward R Hamilton, Book-seller, Falls Village CT 06031-5000? On the last two pages of this tabloid-newspaper-sized book catalog are listings for hundreds of books for \$1! These are great to send to friends in Ethiopia and Eritrea.

News from the Horn

compiled by John Barnes (66–68)



- ▶ 8/16/97 Weyzerit Elshaday Gebreyes was crowned America's Miss National Teenage in Nashville, Tennessee. She is a straight A student and still finds time to do charity work in tutoring and counseling children and in working in community centers. *EReg 12/97*
 - ▶ 9/97 Patriarch Paulos, trying to distinguish himself at the All Africa Conference of Churches, summoned a helicopter to drop good-wish leaflets. But the helicopter tried to land close to a tent sheltering church leaders, blowing sand in their eyes and blew apart the tent, causing church leaders to run for shelter! *EReg 11/97*
 - ▶ 10/10–12/97 Members of many Ethiopian political organizations and associations met in Atlanta to establish the groundwork for an umbrella United Front Organization. Only the Coalition of Ethiopian Democratic Forces (COEDF) sent a representative to attend. However others groups sending their blessings for the formation of the Ethiopian National Congress were SEPDC, TAND, and AAPO, North American Branch, and MOA ANBESSA. The second congress is planned for Washington D.C. in March. *EReg 11/97*
 - ▶ 11/7/97 The Solidarity Committee for Ethiopian Political Prisoners (SCEPP) has announced several instances of crimes against Oromo ethnic groups after the failure of talks between the Oromo Liberation Front and the TPLF government representatives in Germany. *EReg 2/9*
 - ▶ 11/9/97 The new birr currency notes issued by the Ethiopian government to coincide with the issuance of the Nakfa notes of Eritrea were discovered to have the word "Void" and "Yehasset" in Amharic on them. The National Bank of Ethiopia claimed these words were to prevent forgery! *EReg 12/97*
 - ▶ 11/21/97 Nine or ten men claiming to be members of the Oromo Liberation Front have admitted their involvement in the bombing of three hotels — the Belaineh Hotel in Harar, and the Tigray Hotel and Blue Tops Restaurant in Addis (a favorite meeting place of Westerners). In all, 31 were arrested as being involved in, supporting, and/or carrying out various terrorist attacks.
- Ethiopian TV played up alleged activities of the OLF, and Ato Hashim Tewfiq, legal adviser to the Federal Police Commission, proposed that police state measures be taken including body searches at the entrances of hotels and public offices, and luggage searches at hotels and registration with the government of those who lease cars and houses. *EReg 1/98*
- ▶ 11/22/97 Ethiopian Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin visited Ireland, the Netherlands and Belgium in an effort to negate the mounting criticism regarding the violation of human rights in Ethiopia. *EReg 1/98*
 - ▶ 11/22/97 Trade between Ethiopia and Eritrea will be made in terms of hard currency notes. This was necessitated by the introduction of new Ethiopian birr and Eritrean nakfa currencies. Some petty trades not involving export commodities can be transacted in nakfa and birr if less than Birr \$2,000. *EReg 1/98*
- ▶ 11/23/97 Dr. Beyene Petros, leader of the Southern Ethiopian Peoples' Democratic Coalition (SEPDC), has decided to take part in the current election of District council members. Many obstacles were employed to make registering for the elections difficult however. *EReg 2/9*
 - ▶ 11/27/97 Italy will grant \$39.5 million birr for road projects in Tigray and Wollo Regions and to strengthen Tigray's planning bureau administration. *EBir 1–3/98*
 - ▶ 11/28/97 Fire destroyed the head office of the Amhara Development Association, an NGO set up by the ANDM. It is believed that \$20 million in funds had been embezzled and that the audited records needed to be destroyed. *EReg 1/98*
 - ▶ 11/28/97 Ato Simon Mechale, head of the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) requested 572,835 tons of food assistance for over 4 million people who are expected to face severe food shortages in 1998. Unusual late rains have caused many areas to lose their crops in southern Ethiopia. Floods caused evacuations in Somali and Afar regions. Canada provided assistance in 1997 and will continue along with the U.S. *EReg 1/98*
 - ▶ 11/97 *The Ethiopian Register reported that Bishop Timotewos, head of the Development and Inter-Church Air Commission, revealed that funds collected from the faithful were embezzled and none remains. No audits were allowed under Patriarch Paulos. EReg 12/97* ▶



- ▶ Assefa Maru, a leader of the Ethiopian Teachers' Association and an activist of the Ethiopian Human Rights Council, who was gunned down by government soldiers in May, 1997, was named Ethiopian of the Year. *ERev 11-12/97*
- ▶ The struggle over the use of local languages in primary schools continues with the use of Latin script for Oromiffa and other languages of Southern Ethiopia. Opposition has overturned the ruling in Wonji, Nazareth, and Debre Zeit. Local officials in Debre Zeit told teachers that no student who studies in Amharic will get employment. However very few chose Oromiffa and the Latin script. In the South Ethiopia People *killil*, where there are approximately 70 languages, the official language for inter-zone communication and regional administration is Amharic. *EReg 12/97*
- ▶ Dr. Teshome Mebatsion of Tubingen, Germany, is at the forefront in the search for a vaccine against AIDS, as reported by Garry Nolan of Stanford University and published in *Cell* on Sept. 5, 1997, pp. 821-824. *EReg 12/97*
- ▶ In an interview with Bishop Gebriel Episcopos, a tremendous upheaval in the Ethiopian Orthodox Church has been happening because of what he considers the improper use by Bishop Paulos, who was elected Patriarch by the Holy Synod and the faithful. Patriarch Paulos has condemned the Holy Synod as "established by the Derg", and has refused to take its suggestions. When Bishop Gebriel criticized the Patriarch's abuse of the Holy Synod, he found himself transferred to North Wollo Region and has been denied food by security guards. An issue also is the Patriarch's extravagant lifestyle, his attempt to transfer \$300,000 from the World Council of Churches development fund into his personal account and a disregard for the canons and traditions of the church and for the preservations of its treasures. *EReg 12/97*
- ▶ 12/1/97 World AIDS Day was observed by informing the public about the consequences of the AIDS virus and activities for its control. *EthNews 1/98*
- ▶ 12/8/97 Representative Charles Rangel of New York City met with the Vice Minister of Trade and Industry and with the President of the Eth. Chamber of Commerce as the leader of a US presidential delegation for the Mission of Economic Cooperation to Africa. The Chamber of Commerce president stated that Ethiopia must take care of its people and the famine before talking trade partnerships on a large scale. *EBir 1-3/98*
- ▶ Congressman Charles Rangel held talks with the President and Prime Minister, and the Ethiopian business community. The Ethiopian Ambassador to the US, Ato Berhane Gebre-Christos was on hand to promote the African Growth and Opportunity Act, which will open up the US market for African commodities. *EthNews 1/98*
- ▶ 12/8/97 Secretary of State Madeleine Albright spent two days in Ethiopia as part of a six-nation African tour. She held talks with officials of the Ethiopian government and OAU. She addressed diplomats at Africa Hall on the subject of security in the Horn of Africa and Eastern and Central Africa. She held talks with Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin on the anti-Sudan alliance. *EReg 1/98*
- ▶ 12/9/97 US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright spoke to the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa. Among her remarks was "I want the people of Africa to know that the people of the United States care about what happens in Africa. We care because we have our own important interests — economic, political, humanitarian". She also met with the Prime Minister Meles Zenawi discussing "the difficulty of being able to change a government after so many years of authoritarian rule", and granted an audience to students of Entoto Secondary School (Formerly Tefari Mekonnen School) in Addis. She reminded the students that "democracy is always something in progress" She also announced that US \$8 million will be given toward primary education in Ethiopia. *EBir 1-3/98*
- ▶ 12/9/97 Peter Takirambudde, Exec. Director of the Africa Division of Human Rights Watch noted the release of a report on abusive practices of human rights. The report is called "Ethiopia: The Curtailment of Rights". He asked the United States "to use its economic and strategic support for Ethiopia to induce and to facilitate human rights improvements." *EBir 1-3/98*
- ▶ 12/9/97 Canada announced that it will provide CAN \$5 million for emergency food aid to Ethiopia. France will provide 10,000 tons of food aid. France will be involved in animal husbandry projects also. France is the second largest foreign investor in Ethiopia. *EBir 1-3/98*
- ▶ 12/19/97 The Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) has banned NGO's from employing public servants who left government positions without securing a release. This is believed to be an effort to close down many NGO's and to bring them and their funds and projects under agreements with the *killil* administrations and to regulate who works for the NGOs. *EReg 2/9*
- ▶ 12/23/97 Eritrea opposed the new economic and trade policies based on hard currency as a medium of exchange, as "an obstacle to cooperation and close relationship between the peoples of the two countries." *EReg 2/9*
- ▶ 12/97 The Solidarity Committee for Ethiopian Political Prisoners issued a press release that the government has unleashed a wave of repression against the Oromo ethnic group, citing several



persons who were shot and arrested.
ERev 11-12/97

▶ Harar Teacher Training Institute has been converted into a police training center for the Harari Region. In its 43 years it trained 11,784 teachers from all over Ethiopia. *EReg 1/98*

▶ The Addis Ababa Administration has supported a 5 year plan to reduce unemployment and to build 5-7,000 residential houses annually to relieve the severe housing shortage. The actual need is 30,000 houses over the next 4 years. *EBir 1-3/98*

▶ 1/2/98 The independent newspaper Urjii has been forced out of circulation because of the detention of all its editors. *EReg 2/98*

▶ 1/16/98 One of the last independent magazines, TOBIA has seen its editor-in-chief and acting editor-in-chief imprisoned without a court order. Later the same evening the offices were burned causing US \$45,000 damage. Ato Mulugeta Lule, General Manager of its publishing company, AKPAC, and VP of Ethiopian Free Press Journalists Assn, sent a formal protest to several human rights organizations. *EBir 1-3/98*

▶ 1/18/98 The Ethiopian Sports Federation of North America announced that the 15th annual Ethiopian North American Soccer Tournament will be held in Atlanta from June 28th to July 4th at DeKalb Stadium. The closing night gala will be held in the Georgia World Congress Center. *EReg 3/98*

▶ 1/18/98 The World Bank approved a loan for US \$309 million for road improvements. *EBir 1-3/98*

▶ 1/21/98 A total of four members of the *Tobia* staff were arrested on January 16th, six more on the 21st. *EForum*

▶ 1/22/98 The All Amhara People's Organization wrote a protest letter to Prime Minister Meles Zenawi urging immediate medical attention for

Professor Asrat Woldeyes, a world renowned surgeon who has been held in prison since June, 1994. As a result he was transferred to the Black Lion Hospital but needs expert care outside of Ethiopia for attention to a heart bypass procedure which was done in 1980, and for diabetes and loss of vision while in prison. Formerly the leader of the AAPO party, he was arrested and charged with conspiracy to incite a rebellion, and inciting armed rebellion. Ato Asrat, who is in his late 60s, is serving a total of five years in prison. Human Rights organizations are demanding his release for necessary medical attention. *EReg 3/98*

▶ 1/27/98 A lengthy article entitled "What Ethiopians Believe Is the Ark of the Covenant Rests in Aksum" by James C. McKinley, Jr published in *The New York Times* reported that many Ethiopian believe that the Ark rests in a temple next to St. Mary of Zion Church. Most historians regard the belief as legend not fact. *NYT/EForum*

▶ 1/27/98 The World Bank agreed to a total of \$605 million in loans to improve Ethiopia's infrastructure. \$309 million is for roads, \$200 million is for a hydroelectric power project, \$91 million is for health and education, \$5 is for protection of Ethiopia's cultural heritage. *ENews*

▶ 1/27/98 The President of the World Bank, James Wolfensohn, met with Ethiopian officials and visited a World Bank assisted education development project in Mekele, Tigray Regional State. He also met with the presidents of the Amhara, Oromia, Southern and Tigray regions in Bahir Dar. *ENews*

▶ 1/28/98 Ethiopia received a grant of \$509 million from the World Bank. \$309 million is for road development — 1,300 km of roads are to be rehabilitated and asphalted during the next three years. The remainder is for the Gilgel Gibe Hydroelectric Power Project. *EReg 3/98*

▶ 2/1/98 Executive Committee of The Ethiopian National Congress for the United Front adopted joint statements of principals. The United Front includes: the Coalition of Ethiopian Democratic Forces (COEDF), Southern Ethiopian Peoples Democratic Conference (SEPDC) and Tigrean Alliance for National Democracy (TAND). The statements call on all opposition forces to unite to remove the TPLF/EPRDF from power to save Ethiopia from division and disintegration. *EReg 3/98*

▶ 2/2/98 Thousands of Eritreans who have served as Ethiopian public servants demanded their pension rights after 20 years of service at the Ethiopian Embassy in Asmara and to the Ethiopian Social Security Authority. *EReg 3/98*

▶ 2/3/98 It is reported that Sudan has accused Eritrea of supporting Sudanese rebels in fresh fighting on their common border.

▶ 2/9/98 Ato Kifle Mulat, Chairman of the Coordinating Committee of Ethiopian Free Journalists Association was detained in the Maikelawi prison without a court order for issuing a press release relating to the detention of the 23 journalists in prisons. The government said the release was not correct, that no journalists were being detained without a court order and that some of the editors were terrorists, not journalists. Ato Kifle would not agree to issue a correction, saying that the government should issue its own release if it felt the release was incorrect. *EReg 3/98*

▶ 2/28/98 The new Sheraton Addis Hotel was inaugurated. MIDROC Ethiopia of Saudi Arabia is owner. Construction of the 295 room hotel took over three years to finish. Representative Charles Rangel, leader of the US Presidential Delegation, was on hand at the dedication. *ENews*

▶ 2/16/98 Abay Hailu, a journalist with the private newspaper *Agiere* and editor of the defunct private weekly ▶



newspaper *Wolafen* in Ethiopia, died after a lung ailment went untreated while he was jailed for two years. *EForum* 2/26/98

▶ 3/5/98 The Ethiopian Telecommunications Corporation plans to double its capacity to meet increasing demand for Internet service in the country from the present 5,000 to 10,000 users. More than 1,300 customers signed up during the first 7 months of internet accessibility. *EForum*

▶ 3/7/98 Female civil servants will now receive a 30-day maternity leave prior to giving birth and a 60-day leave afterwards. *EForum*

▶ 3/8/98 Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, a key player in regional efforts to

end Sudan's long-running civil war, said that Khartoum was exporting an "ideology of intolerance." *Eforum*

▶ 3/12/98 Russia will forgive over half the \$500 million Ethiopian debt run up by former dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam in buying weapons from the former Soviet Union. *EForum*

▶ Nine journalists were released on bail in the first week of March, according to the Ethiopian Free Press Journalists Association. Fourteen remained in custody. *EForum*

▶ Swine farms in Debre Zeit and Dira Dawa will be privatized.

▶ Tigray regional state will get a five-fold increase in power supply once the Bahir Dar-Mekelle electric line installation is complete. The installation, which was begun 2 years ago, was scheduled to be completed by last December but was delayed due to problems encountered by the contractors. Work on the installation from Bahir Dar to Endeselassie has already been complete.

▶ Macmillan Education Ltd., a leading British publishing house has entered

into a partnership with bagersh, an Ethiopian company, to produce educational and other literature in English as well as in several indigenous languages. *EForum*

▶ The Ethiopian Telecommunications Authority (ETA) will modernize telephone services in the rural regions of the country in accordance with a Japanese grant. *EthNews* 1/98

▶ The United States has agreed to an appeal by the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission for emergency food aid of \$25 million. US Ambassador David Shinn announced that 75,000 metric tons of wheat and sorghum will be provided. Unfavorable rains blamed on El Niño as late as November have severely decreased the harvest. The DPPC recently appealed for 572,835 metric tons of food assistance for 4.2 million Ethiopians. The government has spent 30 million birr (US\$4.5 million) on transport of 44,000 metric tons donated by the US government and \$3 million has been allocated for health emergencies. The government has taken measures to provide 10,000 tons of teff to stabilize the price which rose 30% due to poor harvests due to flooding. *EthNews* 1/98

▶ UN Assistant High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Viera de Mello, reported that over 100,000 Ethiopian refugees from the time of the Dergue regime have returned home and an additional 20,000 from Sudan will return by May, 1998. *EthNews* 1/98

▶ In a confidential memo, UN Ambassador Kofi Anan has directed those working at the Economic Commission for Africa to take security precautions in view of the situation in Ethiopia. *EReg* 2/9

▶ Italy refused to hand over three of the top Dergue officials who took asylum at its Embassy in Addis Ababa in May, 1991. They are in Italy refusing extradition to be tried on the basis of

possible death penalty which has been abolished in Italy. *EReg* 2/9

▶ Gold mining is to be explored in the northern Tigray region for the next three years by the National Mining Corporation. *EBir* 1-3/98

▶ Paris based Reporters without Borders protested the recent arrest and detention of 18 Ethiopian journalists. *EBir* 1-3/98

▶ The All Amhara People's Relief & Development Association, human rights organizations and Professor John Spencer are asking that Ato Asrat Woldeyes be released to a hospital outside Ethiopia for proper treatment of diseases he has acquired since being imprisoned since June, 1994. The Black Lion Hospital refused him a room and treatment for diabetes and failing eyesight. He is a world renowned surgeon and was a professor at Addis Ababa University. *EBir* 1-3/98

▶ Ethiopian President Negasso Gidada opened a meeting of the World Tourism Organization by supporting the need for security and tourist safety in order to develop tourism. *EthNews* 1/98

▶ The world bank approved a \$200 million loan to Ethiopia to improve electricity use and quality of service for economic growth and to improve the quality of life. *EthNews* 1/98

▶ Secretary of State Madeleine Albright stated that Ethiopia was rapidly gaining admiration for its progress in reforming, building, and reuniting the nation at home and for its efforts to promote peace as a member of the Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD) in regard to the Sudan and Somalia. *EthNews* 1/98

▶ During a visit to Ethiopia, Congressman Tom Campbell of California met with House Representatives on the regional Horn of Africa issues, the IMF and the African Development Bank.



▶ In Rome, scaffolding has been built around the Axum Obelisk in preparation for its return to Ethiopia in May. *EthNews* 3/98

▶ Over 2,000 Sudanese refugees in Addis Ababa were taken by police to refugee camps in Gambella. They were charged with living in Addis without residence permits. *EReg* 3/98

▶ The investment code has been amended to allow for private sector investment in the areas of telecommunications, hydroelectric power and defense industries. *ENews*

▶ The Africa Growth and Opportunity Act was passed by the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee. The author is Representative Jim McDermott. Congressman McDermott stated that “. . . it is hard to believe that our country has no trade policy — only an aid policy — with sub-Saharan Africa. The bill now moves to final debate in Congress. *ENews*

▶ Ethiopia plans to spend 75% of its capital budget on roads, energy and power. *ENews*

▶ A new \$10 million Moha soft drink factory will be built in Mekelle, Tigray Regional State. It will be the 4th Moha soft drinks factory in Ethiopia. *ENews*

▶ MCM, a leading Italian textiles manufacturing firm, plans a textile factory in Gondar, Amhara Regional State with a \$30 million expenditure. It is a joint venture with two local companies. *ENews*

▶ World Vision has committed over \$10 million for building food security in Ethiopia in the area of rural credit services to raise farmers' productivity. *ENews*

▶ Germany has given Ethiopia a grant of \$35 million for road rehabilitation and construction. *ENews*

▶ Sweden has granted \$6.3 million for food security projects. *ENews*

▶ Ethiopia hosted the 20th session of the Food And Agriculture Organization regional conference on Food Security in late February. *ENews*

▶ Italy agreed to reduce Ethiopia's debt by 67% to \$78 million and to reschedule the repayments at low interest rates for a long term period. *ENews*

▶ Exports of Ethiopia for 1996/1997 total 3.5 billion birr vs. a target of 3.9 billion birr. (Exchange rate as of Feb. is 6.92 birr = \$1.00 US, or approx. \$.15 US.) Coffee exports increased by 25%. Hides and skins and oilseeds and pulses were also main components. *ENews*

▶ Carol Bellamy, Executive Director of UNICEF, and former Director of the Peace Corps, was in Addis Ababa. She held talks with Prime Minister Meles Zenaw, President Negasso Gidada and Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin. She visited various UNICEF development projects. She announced that the UN would be giving priority to the development of education and health in Ethiopia. She also called for ratifying the banning of land mines law. The officials agreed to sign the measure soon. *ENews*

▶ Addis Ababa University is to be restructured to prioritize preparing students for self-employment and in skills necessary for the economic development of the country. A new one-year program for students from remote rural areas will help these students transition to the university. A target is for a 20% female student representation, and to encourage women to take all courses of study, even if traditionally male dominated. *ENews*

▶ Ethiopian banks are being allowed to determine the interest rates they will charge their clients, and the interest rates they pay. *ENews*

▶ Austria has announced a grant of \$4 million to Ethiopia — \$1.8 million for the development of tourism in the

Simian Mountains National Park, and \$2.2 million for livestock development projects in the Gondar area. *ENews*

▶ The third congress of the Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Democrat Front (EPRDF) was held in Jimma to review the progress of its five-year development program begun in August, 1996. Participating political organizations were OPDO, ANDM, TPLF, and SPDF. *ENews*

▶ Addis Ababa, the center for the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), this spring will host the International Gender Conference, entitled “African Women and Economic Development: Investing in Our Future.” *ENews*

▶ Long distance running champion, Haile Gebreselassie broke his own world record for the 3,000 meters in Karlsruhe, Germany with a time of 7:26:14. This was 4 seconds better than his previous world record. *ENews*

ERev = *Ethiopian Review* (1 yr/\$29)
PO Box 98499
Atlanta GA 30359

EReg = *Ethiopian Register* (1 yr/\$35)
PO Box 580
St. Joseph MN 56374

EthNews = *News from Ethiopia* (free)
Embassy of Ethiopia, 2134
Kalorama Rd NW, Washington DC
20008 (free)

EBir = *Ethiopian BIR* (1 yr/\$15)
PO Box 2334
Westfield NJ 07090

EForum = News from the Internet site
<http://www.ethiolist.com/>
with special thanks to Richard
Crepeau (Dessie 63-65)

Ethiolist = Internet site <http://www.ethiolist.com/>

Africa News = Internet site 



BOOK NOTES

▶ In *RESCUE THE ETHIOPIAN JEWS! A MEMOIR: 1955-1995*, published in 1997, writer Graenum Berger has devoted 15 pages to **LADENA SCHNAPPER'S** (Dessie, Awassa 63-66) telling of her experiences with the American Association for Ethiopia Jews (AAEJ) and of her two years in Ethiopia with the AAEJ culminating in her involvement with Operation Solomon — the airlifting of 14,000 Ethiopian Jews out of Addis Ababa to Israel as Mengistu left the country — an exciting, tense, exhausting and ultimately exhilarating effort. *RESCUE THE ETHIOPIAN JEWS!* is available from John Washburn Bleeker Hampton Publishing Company, 1270 N Avenue, Suite 6R, New Rochelle NY 10804; 914-235-2732 for \$19.95+\$3.00 postage.*

▶ In 1997, John Kulczycki (Debre Zeit 63-65) published *THE POLISH COAL MINERS' UNION AND THE GERMAN LABOR MOVEMENT IN THE RUHR, 1902-1934: NATIONAL AND SOCIAL SOLIDARITY* (Oxford, New York: Berg)

New books of interest from amazon.com

▶ *TEENAGE REFUGEES FROM ETHIOPIA SPEAK OUT* by LaDena Schnapper [see review], The Rosen Publishing Group, 1997, 64 pages, hardcover, \$16.95, ISBN: 0823924386

▶ *HISTORICAL DICTIONARY OF ERITREA* (African Historical Dictionaries, No 75) by Tom Killion; Scarecrow Press, March 1998, List Price: currently unknown; hardcover, ISBN: 0810834375

▶ *ERITREA : EVEN THE STONES ARE BURNING* by Roy Pateman, Red Sea Press, 2nd Edition, \$14.95 paperback, February 1998, ISBN: 1569020574

* Available from the librarian.

▶ *TO FIGHT AND LEARN : THE PRAXIS AND PROMISE OF LITERACY IN ERITREA'S INDEPENDENCE WAR* by Leslie Gottesman, Red Sea Press, \$21.95 paperback, March, 1998, ISBN: 156902068X

▶ *The Black Jews of Ethiopia : The Last Exodus* by Durrenda Onolemhemhen & Kebede Gessesse, Scarecrow Press, \$39.50, hardcover, January 1998, ISBN: 0810834146

New materials available in the E&E RPCVs library

Member of E&E RPCVs should contact librarian Joe Ciuffini (Harar 64-66) to borrow at no charge any of the following at: 188 Cabot St, Newton MA 02158, phone: 617/244-0463, email: jmcicuffini@aol.com

▶ Statement made by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary, Senate Appropriations Committee on the Fiscal Year 1999 Budget Request. 2/26/98 14 pp.

▶ Remarks made by President Bill Clinton at John F. Kennedy Library Dinner at the Organization of American States. 3/2/98 3 pp

▶ Article: "Spotlight: Eritrea," *Population Today* 12/97, 2 pp.

▶ Article: "Moses' ark is far more than a fable in Ethiopia" by James McKinley, *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle* 2/1/98 from *The New York Times*.

▶ Article: "Letter from Zimbabwe: In Africa, Peace Corps is Still Relevant" by Richard Lipez (Debre Marcos, Addis Ababa 62-64) *The Berkshire Eagle*, 11/1/97 1p.

▶ Article: "Yifter, Always Running for Ethiopia, Now Runs Far Away From It"

by Paul Gains, *NYTimes* 10/20/97 1/2 p.

▶ Article excerpt: "Eritrea" from cover article "Africa Rising," *Time* 3/30/98 2 pp. Really captures the spirit.

▶ Article: "Letter from Ethiopia: Faith That Moves Mountains: A Christmastime lesson in piety for a stranger in Axum," by Johanna McGeary, *Time* 12/29/97-1/5/98

▶ Article: "JFK's Finest Legacy" by Harry S. Bingham (Staff 66-68), *The Sunday Star-Ledger* 1/11/98 4 pp.

▶ Article: "Going Back in Time" by **JOHN COYNE** (Addis Ababa 62-64) *Parenting Magazine* 12/97-1/98 2pp.

▶ Book: *TEENAGE REFUGEES FROM ETHIOPIA SPEAK OUT* by LaDena Schnapper (Dessie; Awassa 63-66) [The Rosen Publishing Group, 1997], 60 pp.

▶ Program: The XIIIth International Conference of Ethiopia Studies, Kyoto, 12-17 December 1997, 30 pp.

▶ Book excerpt: "LaDena Schnapper's [Dessie; Awassa 63-66] Story" from *RESCUE THE ETHIOPIAN JEWS!: A MEMOIR, 1955-1995* by Graenum Berger [John Washburn Bleeker Hampton Publishing Co., 1996] pp 191-205.

▶ Catalogs: Red Sea Press, Spring 1997, Fall 1997

▶ *CAREER INFORMATION CONSULTANTS: CAREER INFORMATION FOR RPCVs* [Peace Corps 1997] Lists professionals in specific career fields, many of whom are RPCVs, who have agreed to answer career related inquiries from PCVs and RPCVs. 80 pp.

▶ *CAREER RESOURCE MANUAL and RPCV HANDBOOK* [Peace Corps 1997]. Guide primarily for the recently returned RPCV. Includes: "Skills and Interests Self Assessment," "Career Planning & Job

Searching" and tips on making contacts with other RPCVs and RPCV groups. 108+25 pp.


► *PEACE CORPS ODYSSEY: THE VOYAGE HOME: A BOOK ON RE-ENTRY, READJUSTMENT, AND REVERSE CULTURE SHOCK FOR RETURNING PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS* [Peace Corps 1997], 44 pp. The title says it all.

► Booklet: "1997 Survey of Peace Corps Volunteers: Report," Peace Corps, Office of Planning, Policy, and Analysis, October 1, 1997 18 pp.

► Articles: various on the President's request for a 21% boost in the 1999 budget for the Peace Corps that will be the first stage in getting 10,000 PCVs overseas in 2000.

► Book: *TO TOUCH THE WORLD: THE PEACE CORPS EXPERIENCE*, Peace Corps, 1995, 180 pp.. First in a series of collected essays by returned Volunteers. Includes "The Song of Our People" by David Arnold (Asbe Teferi 64-66), "So This Is Paris" by Kathleen Johnson Coskran (Addis Ababa; Dilla 65-67) and "But No Postcards" by John Coyne (Addis Ababa 62-64).

► Book: *AT HOME IN THE WORLD: THE PEACE CORPS STORY*, Peace Corps, 1996, 160 pp. Second in a series of collected essays by returned Volunteers. Includes "Teaching Hope" by John Rude (Tessenei, Adi Ugri 62-64).

► Book: *THE GREAT ADVENTURE: VOLUNTEER STORIES OF LIFE OVERSEAS*, Peace Corps, 1997, 245 pp. Third in a series of collected essays by returned Volunteers. Includes "So This Is Paris" by Kathleen Johnson Coskran, "The Right Way to Grow Tomatoes" by Karen Dewitt (Ghion 66-68) and "Rose Garden Redux" by John Coyne. 

A WRITER LOOKS BACK

by John Coyne (Addis Ababa 62-64)

The following is taken from a presentation made at the San Diego RPCV conference last summer.

WE'RE ASKED, IN A VARIETY of ways, what the Peace Corps experience meant to those of us who've become writers. I'm glad they put it that way — "Peace Corps experience" — rather than "Peace Corps" itself, for the first thing I'd say is that what I remember, what I care about, what has found its way into my writing is the experience, not the organization.

Ethiopia in my case. Not Washington. Small, obscure places half a world away, a highland nation, a mix of scenes and faces that don't go away, that recur in new contexts, repeating and resonating through the rest of my life: that's the Peace Corps experience.

The organization, its ups and downs, its changing role, mission, leadership — all that is much less compelling.

I hear veterans talk about the Marine Corps or the Navy and I sense in them a loyalty that transcends the places they served. I suppose missionaries talk the same way; as deep, enviably deep, as they venture into foreign cultures and languages, they don't lose sight of their initial purpose. Or, if they do, they're at risk. Not so, the Peace Corps.

The people and places were what mattered, more than the organization, the specific program — T.E.S.L., Public Health or community development. In a way, it speaks well of the Peace Corps that the organization itself is not the subject of our commitment or the source of our nostalgia. That was our Peace Corps experience. We came, we saw, we stayed. And some of us wrote.

In fact, quite a few of us wrote. We have more Peace Corps novelists than countries where Peace Corps has served. The list is impressive, so I won't try to name them all. But here are a few RPCVs who have published books recently.

Eileen Drew's new novel, *THE IVORY CROCODILE*, published by Coffee House Press, is set in Africa, and is based on her Peace Corps experience in West Africa. This novel has won the 1997 *RPCV Writers & Readers Fiction Award*. Eileen lives now in northern California.

Another California writer with West African Peace Corps experience, this time in Liberia, is **Geraldine Kennedy**. Her nonfiction account of five women crossing the Sahara is called *HARMATTAN*, and it won the 1995 *RPCV Writers & Readers Paul Cowan Award*.

Peace Corps writers are not all from Africa, nor from California, (though ►



it does seem at times that they are all from California). Washington, D.C. writer **Tom Scanlon**, is the author of the newly published *WAITING FOR THE SNOW*, was with the very first group of Peace Corps Volunteers to Chile in 1961. He is famous in Peace Corps lore because President John F. Kennedy singled out his work in Chile during a 1961 Rose Garden Press Conference.

Another famous Washington, D.C. writer is **Mike Tidwell**. His Peace Corps story, *THE PONDS OF KALAMBAYI*, was the winner of an *RPCV Writers & Readers Award*, as is his recently published *AMAZON STRANGER*, the story of one man's struggle against the oil companies in Ecuador.

The political book *KENNEDY AND NIXON: THE RIVALRY THAT SHAPED POSTWAR AMERICA* was written by the *San Francisco Chronicle* newspaper columnist and talk show host, **Christopher Matthews**, a Peace Corps Volunteer in Swaziland in the late Sixties.

Kinky Friedman a country and western singer, as well as a mystery writer has published his eight novel, *LOVE SONG OF J. EDGAR HOOVER*. You might remember some of his successful songs, written in the 1970s, after his Peace Corps tour in Borneo when he toured with his group called the Texas Jewboys. One of his songs was entitled, "Proud To Be an Asshole from El Paso," and another one called, "They Ain't Making Jews Like Jesus Anymore."

And then, of course, there's **Paul Theroux**. Paul's latest book, a novel on the shift in power in Hong Kong was recently published. It is his 33rd book. Paul was a Volunteer in Malawi.

And all of Theroux's novels, like most of the books of the other RPCV books I have mentioned, have been set somewhere other than the United States — somewhere in the world at large.

I don't know how much we PCV writers have in common. We were in different places at different times and most of us, most of the time, were away from other Americans — whom we tended to view as competitors — and away from other writers — who were even worse competitors. Still, isolated and prickly as we may be, there are some things we Peace Corps writers all share.

I think the first thing that the Peace Corps did was enlarge our world. It dumped us in some unimaginably remote places, some places that were right off the map. And the distance we'd come was only the beginning of it; soon the sense of remoteness and obscurity was joined, paradoxically, by an appreciation of the complexity and importance of these very same places.

SO IT WENT TWO WAYS, A kind of expansion and contraction, as in the beating of a heart. Our world was enlarged — we went to places that were well out of hearing, or visiting range, places beyond the span of anyone's attention back home. And then those very places became our world. Our world turned small. And unforgettable. Years later, whenever we heard about something — whether it was global warming or rap music — we couldn't avoid wondering how it would play in . . . you name it . . . a certain somewhere, a distant neighborhood, a certain collection of roofs and potholes, a tin-roofed schoolroom, a lonely stretch of beach, an African highland.

So, the Peace Corps stretched our view of the world and then focused it, mighty precisely; much as if they unfolded a global map, spread it out before us, pointed to one tiny spot, then crumbled the map and threw it away.

There was something else the Peace Corps taught us, something about groups and causes. The Peace Corps was a government organization — but


we thought of ourselves as loners. The Peace Corps had programs and plans but we soon learned that what really mattered was unplanned, unprogrammed.

So we learned a kind of doubleness, verging on duplicity. We distinguished between our official role as American ambassadors and our other, often contrary role as temporary exiles and sometimes critics of the nation that had sent us overseas.

I suggest that this kind of doubleness, this ability to be part of, and apart from something leads to the kind of perspective writers need.

One last thing, so obvious it hardly needs saying. Once you've had a two year taste of a faraway place, you're never going to be the same again. Even if you spend the rest of your life in the U.S.A., the place will seem differently textured, differently positioned.

And, if you go overseas again, something else will happen. Those faces and voices, that gallery of people and places that you came across as a PCV will keep showing up again and again; they'll keep repeating on you, archetypes in the making. That Peace Corps director? That contract teacher? That big game hunter who liked to drink and talk about the time before the war? That anthropologist impaled on kinship patterns? That junketing politician? The hustling businessman with dreams of tourism? That heartbreaking beauty of an ancient land at the edge of the world. A land once called Abyssinia.

All of it keeps coming back at you. And the young writer who thought that it all mattered, that it needed to be told? That writer keeps coming back as well. 



BOOK REVIEWS

Teenage Refugees from Ethiopia Speak Out*

by Ladena Schnapper (Dessie; Awassa 1963-66)
Rosen Publishing Group, \$16.95
(1-800-237-9932)
1997

Reviewed by Frances Scura (Addis Ababa 1967-68)

Ms. Schnapper has collected stories from Ethiopian teenage exiles who left Ethiopia in the early 1990s. The book is written for other young readers. Each chapter is a letter from the young heart of someone who has suffered, survived terrors, and wants to make the world a better place. "I Made My Own Way", "I Cried Every Day", "It Was Difficult" and "I Am My Hope," each tell the poignant and bewildered stories of children trying to understand the civil war that fractured their country and understand why "so many bad things happened". And who could explain it to them?

These are not stories of teens who dreamt of coming to America all their lives and craved a materialistic or easy life. These are teens who love Ethiopia, loved their close families, loved their rituals and way of life. As children they never thought of leaving. But there came a day in each of their lives when the civil war, chaos, anarchy, rumors, lack of food and fear of being killed was so great, they felt they had to leave. Some came from rich families and their fathers were diplomats or worked for Ethiopian Airlines and they got visas and flew out and never came back; others came from ethnic or religious minorities and could not get exit visas so they walked hundreds of miles to the Sudan border to refugee camps to get

out. Some left with their parents and others left alone.

Life was very hard in the refugee camps, and life was not easy when they came to the United States either. Many miss the family members they left behind in Ethiopia and would like to go back to find them. They are proud and idealistic and want to go to college and become doctors and help people. They are finding new meaning for their lives, but they are confused and are searching for answers to existential questions. As one boy said: "I drive my car under the palm trees in Los Angeles and I can't believe

Cynical Americans who think immigrants just come to America for a handout should read this book.

all that has happened to me." Welcome to the absurd and surreal!

Cynical Americans who think immigrants just come to America for a handout should read this book. For all of us who love Ethiopia and Ethiopians, this book is an affirmation that the younger generation is worthy of their great heritage and still an inspiration to all of us.

Ms. Schnapper is also an inspiration. The publisher tells us: "For years she worked for the American Association for Ethiopian Jews. She assisted in the airlift, Operation Solomon. She has helped establish other U.S. Ethiopian community organizations, including her own consulting service, ESHI (Ethiopian Self-Help International). She currently works as a social worker in Washington, D.C.

The Ethiopian Revolution 1974-1991: From a Monarchical Autocracy to a Military Oligarchy

by Teferra Haile-Selassiek
Kegan Paul International (UK 1997)
Columbia University Press 1998
Phone:(914)591-9111 or
(800)944-8648
fax: 800-944-1844
\$84.00

Reviewed by Frances Scura (Addis Ababa 1967-68)

From the Forward by Richard Pankurst: "Teferra writes, as far as it is possible for anyone to do, fairly and without prejudice. He seeks as far as he can to show both the good and the bad aspects of pre and post revolutionary Ethiopian Government. As the last ambassador to Britain prior to the coming to power of the Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Democratic Front, he attended the London Conference [peace talks] of May 28, 1991 and his account of that historical event will be read with special interest and attention."

Teferra's book has a double interest. The first chapters reveal how the wide span of Ethiopia's long history is perceived, judged and evaluated by a modern educated member of the country's present day generation. The latter provides perhaps the first insider's view of the workings of the Ethiopian governments in which he served."

From the Preface by Teferra Haile-Selassie: "The purpose of this book is to provide to readers and scholars an objective personal account of the Ethiopian revolution of 1974. As a civil servant who had served for over three decades under the Imperial System and the Military Regime, I felt I could ▷

* Available from our librarian.



make a modest contribution by presenting as objectively as humanly possible the 17 years of the Dergue's rule."

Emperor Haile-Selassie's Government

After initial chapters of the history of past centuries of Ethiopia, Teferra writes of Emperor Haile Selassie's record in international and domestic affairs. The Emperor was respected in Africa as an elder statesman of one of the only nations of Africa with a long history of independence and his non-aggressive foreign policy was respected around the world. He proposed the formation of Organization of African Unity and the headquarters was in Addis Ababa. He was respected by Ethiopians for standing firm for Ethiopia's integrity and territory. Ethiopians did not oppose his choosing US as patron. The Emperor agreed with US that Eritrea should remain united with Ethiopia. A US government document of 1950 is quoted as to the US point of view on Eritrean independence: "Eritrea is neither socially, politically, administratively nor economically qualified for independence, nor will it be for some time." For the US, independence was an unpalatable solution for Eritrea because the US believed an independent Eritrea might end up a surrogate of an unfriendly power.

On the domestic front, Teferra writes, "Considering the immensity of problems and shortages of resources, the achievements of Haile Selassie's government in the field of education deserve due recognition." However, in all other domestic policies, the Emperor clearly did not keep up with the aspirations and needs of the people of Ethiopia: aspirations which, in part, were created by their access to education. I will refer to only a couple of points Teferra makes that were especially interesting.

In the economic sector significant measures were not taken to change the

feudal base and improve or reform the quality of life of peasants who constituted the backbone of the nation's economy. The 1960's were a time when university students were taking an interest in politics. The students were crying for democracy and land reform. "Land to the tiller" they cried, but the Emperor was not listening. Teferra states: "The people of Ethiopia had faith in the emperor hoping he would change their country into a democracy where there would be enough room for

Ethiopian students' associations had contributed in broadening their view and enabled them to articulate their demands. The challenge posed by the students became a nuisance to the government. Instead of instituting changes that might have a soothing effect on student uprising, the government resorted to repressive measures to contain student riots. Some students were expelled from university and others were imprisoned. Their publications and union were banned. The

"Another factor," Teferra notes, "which triggered student radicalism was the Peace Corps program of President John F. Kennedy, whereby young men and women were sent in several thousands to developing nations to preach the gospel of western values and contain the spread of communism."

everybody, including the monarchy, but his love for power and unwillingness to share it with his subjects caused his downfall."

"Another factor," Teferra notes, "which triggered student radicalism was the Peace Corps program of President John F. Kennedy, whereby young men and women were sent in several thousands to developing nations to preach the gospel of western values and contain the spread of communism. By the mid 1960's, Ethiopia had the largest Peace Corps contingent in the world. Over 2,000 volunteers were placed in schools as teachers all over the country. Soon the student radicalism of the University spread to the high schools. The presence of the Peace Corps Volunteers had invariably drawn the attention of their pupils to the shortcomings of the government and the backward level of the socio-economic development of the country. The contact with student unions in other countries and overseas

Emperor — even after an attempt to overthrow his government, failed to admit the defects of his administration."

The Mengistu Regime's Administration

In the remaining chapters of the book, Teferra exposes exactly how Mengistu came to power, his policies and his administration. Day by day, month by month, year by year, we are taken through the years 1974 to 1991. Names are named, murders are reported and all the repressive measures of Mengistu are sadly exposed. Original sources of governmental documentary evidence is cited, as well as Ato Teferra's own diary and personal knowledge, and local and foreign newspapers. Since this takes up the bulk of the book, events are too numerous to individually name them all here.

With regard to Mengistu's involvement with the Soviet Union, Teferra explains that in 1977, Ethiopia was isolated from



the world and Somalia, which was supported by the US, was threatening a hostile invasion of Ethiopia to increase its territory. Mengistu's visit to the Soviet Union at this crucial time was of immense political benefit for both countries. For Ethiopia it was an end to political isolation imposed by the West, particularly the US under the Carter Administration that had stopped military as well as development assistance to it. Moreover, the Carter Administration's intention to review its policies on the problem in Eritrea and its readiness to supply weapons to the Republic of Somalia that was prepared to declare war on Ethiopia had strained the Ethio-US relations beyond any repair. In the Ethio-Somalia conflict, Somalia was the aggressor and Ethiopia the victim of aggression. Imposing an arms embargo on the victim of aggression gave good cause to the leaders of Ethiopia to interpret the action of the Carter Administration as an act of endorsing Somalia's irredentism. The new friendship struck with the USSR was an assurance that Ethiopia could rely on the USSR's friendship.

Teferra tells us all the good, the bad, and the ugly of the Mengistu regime. We hear about the West's using "human rights violations of the Mengistu regime as an excuse" not to send humanitarian aid and then criticizing what Ethiopia was doing on its own to help the famine victims. Much of this we know about and it is still going on around the world today. But it was particularly interesting to this reviewer to learn of some of the good policies that benefited the people of Ethiopia and were popular with the people that came out of the Mengistu regime. This we do not normally hear about. Even this hated regime did some good things. Mengistu's land reform was even beyond the wildest dreams of the student radicals of the 1960's and was very popular with the people.

The End of the Mengistu Regime

In the final chapter of Teferra's book, we are told all the events that led to Mengistu's downfall. It was not just the loss of the patronage of the Soviet Union and the civil war with Eritrea and the fact that Mengistu and certain of his generals fled the country. In some ways it was very similar to the downfall of the Emperor. Mengistu was not responsive to the people of Ethiopia and Eritrea or even to suggestions of people within his own government. In other ways, it was interference from the outside, the so-called "Mediator," Mr. Cohen of the US State Department, that handed Ethiopia and Eritrea to the rebels.

Teferra states (p. 326), "In sum, two far reaching actions, the formation of a provisional government in Ethiopia and a provisional government in Eritrea were undertaken by the US and separately entered into with the DPRDF and EPLF. It is difficult to escape the public impression that the two acts that will set the stage for the Post Mengistu era, were in large measure, made by US government fiat" . . . The London peace talks were faulty from their very inception for

This reviewer really has a lot of respect for this courageous book.

they fell short of providing essential conditions for national reconciliation. The mediator's high-handed decision, in restricting the number of participants to the talks wasted an opportunity for national reconciliation. The mediator, the United States Government, could, if it had wanted to, used its good offices for bringing about genuine peace and tranquility to the Ethiopian people."

This reviewer really has a lot of respect for this courageous book. I feel I was there on the inside of the government, reading the government documents, hearing the speeches, and in the council rooms where decisions were made. I feel I have greater understanding for what the Ethiopian people went through in the past decades and the source of some of the problems it faces today. I am really grateful for this book being written — and especially that it was written with a really beautiful human voice that testifies so strongly to the great spirit of the Ethiopian people and is written with a deep love of Ethiopia. I have not met Ato Teferra Haile-Selassie, but from reading this book I feel that he is a very beautiful person. Some people may not agree with every word of his book, but everyone will have to admit it was written with great, and sometimes heavy, heart.

February 22, 1998

A Song of Longing: An Ethiopian Journey*

by Kay Kaufman Shelemay
University of Illinois Press
\$29.95
1991

Reviewed by Cynthia Tse Kimberlin (Asmara 62-64)

Read alone or as a companion to [ethnomusicologist] Kay Kaufman Shelemay's more "conventional" scholarly works, this engrossing first-person narrative integrates her professional and private life. She focuses on herself as "scholar in culture" against the backdrop of the 1974 Ethiopia Revolution and the subsequent reign of Colonel Menghistu Haile. ▶

* Available from our librarian.



In delineating the process by which her ideas evolved and were evaluated through personal and professional field experience, Shelemay learned that pertinent personal revelations can provide an accurate depiction of actual field work conditions and can supplement theoretically conceived field work conditions used in comparative analytical studies. For example, she substantiates her "marginal male" status, in part, among the Beta Israel (or House of Israel, known as the Falasha or Ethiopia Jews) by ascertaining that as long as she carried her tape recorder and other scholarly paraphernalia, her access to the men was assured. "The portable reel-to-reel Uher field recorder somehow became my male apparatus" (pp.42-43).

As scholar, researcher, wife, woman and feminist, she explicates her ethnomusicological work in Ethiopia from 1973 to 1975 during the country's turbulent unrest before and after the Democratic Ethiopian Revolutionary Group (DERG) took control (p. xii). A *SONG OF LONGING* has ten chapters arranged loosely in chronological order, though with flashbacks to earlier times and interpolation of historical commentary. Chapters named "The Scholar's World," "In a Beta Israel Village," "Life on Benin Sefer," "Monks and Missionaries," "Marriage and Revolution," and "Unexpected Findings" promise interesting stories. Acknowledgments introduction, transliteration, postscript, and selected bibliography section complete the book. The striking dust jacket woodcut by Abate Adamu depicts an Ethiopian musician playing the *krar* (a six-stringed plucked lyre).

...

Perceiving personal and professional life as an integrated unit allowed other considerations of importance to surface: chance, morals and ethics, and collaborative efforts. Chance can play as powerful a role in the researcher's life as choice. Chance is not always wholly

random, but can be manipulated so as to lead to opportunity. In Shelemay's case a major discovery happened by chance external circumstances as opposed to preliminary scholarly study or preparation. While the source of the early Jewish influence on Ethiopian Christianity remains an enigma, Shelemay found in the liturgies she taped and analyzed compelling evidence to date the Beta Israel liturgical tradition to the fifteenth century. Most earlier scholars assumed the entire

**Highly recommended to
generalists in music as
well as to specialists
interested in Ethiopia . . .**

Falasha religious tradition and liturgy had been obtained directly from an external Jewish source and somehow preserved by the Beta Israel for 2,000 years. But it appears that the Beta Israel might have come to perpetuate a Judaic tradition brought to them by Ethiopian Christian monks (pp. 142-43, 145).

Moral and ethical dilemmas recur throughout the narrative, asking how scholars should write unflattering accounts and still continue to work without compromising professional and personal relationships? How scholars physically and psychologically consider gender issues in fieldwork and in interpersonal relationships within the Falasha community if women's traditional roles are that of wife, mother, and keeper of the home? And how should scholars make themselves accountable when they report an important discovery contrary to current mythology and thought?


Collaboration and unique access were offered through her marriage to Jack Shelemay, a member of the permanent

Jewish Adenite community in Addis Ababa. As both researcher and permanent resident, she was able to cut across communities and social classes. . . .

Shelemay does not hide her biases. She asserts that the various missions in Ethiopia are well meaning by often cause cultural interference in Beta Israel life (p. 75). Regarding the future of Ethiopia Jews in Israel, she is troubled by Westerners who arrogantly seek to transform these people into mirror images of themselves (p. 151).

...

Aware of her "rare insiders's exposure to the distinctive social and cultural life that exists in the developing world" among foreigners and natives (p. xvi), Shelemay demonstrates the degree of her "insider" and "outsider" status from the perspectives of "other," "first culture," "third culture," and "home society." Shelemay considered herself an insider among the Beta Israel community in Ambober. Were she truly an insider, would she not be required to be with the women and treated as such? Would a female insider be allowed to research and record men's music? Would the fact that Shelemay was not a Falasha but a foreigner prohibit her from being a true insider? That she was Jewish, had lived in Israel, and later married into an Adenite Jewish community in Addis Ababa did not quite make her an insider, but did give her access to certain kinds of information usually not given to outside individuals. . . . Highly recommended to generalists in music as well as to specialists interested in Ethiopia, this book also makes an excellent case study text for the university-level courses examining fieldwork issues and conditions.

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F R I E N D S

► Presenters at The XIIIth International Conference of Ethiopia Studies in Kyoto December 12–17, 1997 included **JOHN GARTLEY** (67–69), “Early Development of Radio in Ethiopia 1930–1953”; **JAMES QUIRIN** (65–67), “Society and the State: Reflections from the North-west, 1300–1900”; **NEAL SOBANIA** (Addis Ababa 68–72), “Ethiopian Iconography and the New ‘Antique’ Icons”; **THEODORE VESTAL** (staff 64–66), “Promises Unkept: Freedom of Association in the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia”; **CYNTHIA TSE KIMBERLIN** (Asmara 62–64) “Four Contemporary Ethiopian Composers and Their Music: Ashakech Worku, Nuria Ahmed Shami Kalid a.k.a. Shamitu, Ezra Abate Iman, and Ashenafi Kebede.” Cynthia writes: “I am sure you recognize the last name as he was my (and others) Amharic teacher during our PC training at Georgetown! Through the years we have been ethnomusicological colleagues.” [See Cynthia’s letter reporting her experiences at the conference in “From Our Mail.”

[The program from the conference can be borrowed from the librarian.]

► Ethiopia Peace Corps Medical Doctor (1964–66) **E. FULLER TORREY** was the subject of a *New York Times Magazine* piece on February 22, 1998 entitled, “Schizophrenia’s Most Zealous Foe.” Torrey, a psychiatrist, has for three decades written about, and sought a cure for, schizophrenia while a doctor at the National Institute of Mental Health and as part of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, a lobbying group that now has 170,000 members. Torrey is the author of, among other books, *SURVIVING SCHIZOPHRENIA* and a biography of Ezra Pound, *THE ROOTS OF*

TREASON, which was a nominee for the National Book Critics Circle award in 1983.

Torrey was also the subject of a cover story in the Washington, D.C. *City Paper* at about the same time.

Retired from the government, Fuller now devotes himself full time to writing and research. He has been married for thirty years to Barbara Boyle, an RPCV from Tanzania, who is an administrator at the National Academy of Sciences.

► **TOM GALLAGHER** and **PAUL KOPROWSKI** (Agordat 62–64) returned to Agordat for a bittersweet visit in October. Tom writes that “the best part was seeing the current crop of PCVs in action.”

► **ED CORBOY** (staff: 62–64) narrowly missed disaster when he refused to pick-up Chinese take-out for **JOAN** recently. Seems that a gun-toting robber was shot to death during a stick-up at Tsim Yung Carry-out at the very same time Ed usually goes for the weekly mooshu.

► Last May **JOHN WOODS** (Jimma 65–68) vacationed in Turkey and rendezvoused with his son, a PCV in Kazakstan.

► **FRANK GROSSMAN** (Addis Ababa 62–64) is now living in Nice, France with his wife and daughter and teaching science at the International School of Nice. They, their two cats, nine guinea pigs and Frank’s set of drums enjoy a view of the Med from their balcony.

► **HARRY BINGHAM** (staff: 66–68) had a long article in the January 11th “Perspective” section of the *New Jersey Star Ledger* about the Peace Corps

entitled “JFK’s Finest Legacy.” He told of his time in Ethiopia, mentioning Linda and Bob Hovde (Haik 67–69), Gary Giese (Wuchale, Addis Ababa 67–69), Clifford Gay (Wuchale) and Scott Billings (Korem) and speaking movingly his experiences with Volunteers.*

► **BONNIE HASH** (medical staff: 74–76) has returned to Bozeman, Montana from LaPaz, Bolivia where she worked part-time at the Peace Corps office and participated in PCV training. Bonnie’s husband was with USAID/Bolivia.

► *RPCV Writers & Readers* reports: “Freelance writer **RICHARD LIPEZ** (debre marcos, Addis Ababa 62–64) published an essay on PCVs in Zimbabwe in the *Boston Sunday Globe* on February 8th based on his recent trip to East Africa. He sums up his article on today’s PCVs by writing, “Eric Lindberg, the newly arrived associate Peace Corps director in Zimbabwe, tells of an Ethiopian-American Volunteer he met in Niger who joined because, years earlier, a Volunteer had taught him English and changed his life. He wanted to do that for someone too, he said, and for his country. The Peace Corps is a modest legacy of the Kennedy era, but it may be the sweetest.””

Richard also published “Letter from Zimbabwe: In Africa, Peace Corps is Still Relevant”* in 11/1/97 *The Berkshire Eagle* about his trip.

► The December/January issue of *Parenting Magazine* carries a short essay by **JOHN COYNE** (Addis Ababa 62–64) entitled “Going Back in Time”* about Coyne’s note taking during his son’s first five years.

* Can be borrowed from the librarian.

LOST & FOUND

When a query is received about an Ethiopia or Eritrea RPCV, that query is sent directly to the RPCV if we have his/her current address. We publish queries in The Herald for RPCVs **for whom we have no current information**. Can you help? Please respond to the contact person listed. ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs would **also appreciate** learning the addresses of lost RPCVs.

More than thirty years ago, a PCV, **PEGGY GOETZKE**, used to be my friend. She was assigned to Debre Zeit near the capital city, Addis Ababa, in 1966–67(?). Recently, I have been thinking a lot about her and I would like to hear from her.
Evangelist Solomon Ejigu
PO Box 5102
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Dani Stewart (Ethiopia 95–97) writes that a student is looking for **MIKE & LINDA VARUS** and "I promised him I'd try to find them when I returned home. His name is Buskara Bolola and he's from Gomo-Goffa province. He was Mike and Linda's student in the town of Arba Minch, at Gidole Junior High

School in 1975. They kept in touch until Buskara was arrested and sent to prison by the Dergue and they lost track of each other. His current contact info is: PO Box 34126, Addis Ababa; tel: 01-34-09-36. I sure hope you can help!"

From *Pacific Waves* — the newsletter of the San Diego Peace Corps Association: My name is Tom Peck. I was in the U.S. Army stationed in Asmara in what is now Eritrea from 1964–67. I knew many PCVs and taught as a volunteer in a couple of schools. I stay in touch with some RPCVs on the East coast, but am curious to know if any members . . . were in Eritrea during those exciting and troubling times. I can be reached by e-mail: tcpeck@aol.com or by phone: 916 442 5049.

From the NPCA webpage: Tom Mahlum is seeking Hazel Webb who served in Ethiopia from 1963 to 1968. Contact tej.ltd@juno.com if you can help.

Kevin Getachew from Gondar remembers that as a very young child in the late '60s he was friendly with a Peace Corps couple and the husband was called "**MR. JOHN**." This couple took

Kevin (who may have been given his name by Mr. John and his wife) for rides in their Land Rover. Kevin remembers this couple for them. If you can help, contact Kevin in San Jose at 408/923-2580.

My name is Guesh Weldegebriel, originally an Ethiopian now with a German passport. I was supported by Peace Corps Volunteers in Ethiopia Year 1994. I suppose they were the last Volunteers who left the country as a result of government change in Ethiopia. I am desperately looking for them at least to express my gratitude for their support, without which I couldn't have continued my education. I am talking of two young ladies who were assigned in Tigray province in a district Calle Shire Enda Selassie. Their names are: Merrillee S. Roelke, a science teacher from Rhode Island; and Ann E. Burryman and English teacher from Boston. Please help me find them. I am leading a better life, and I do not want any support anymore from them. Guesh Weldegebriel, PO Box 650, Mekelle, Tigray, Ethiopia, Fax-tel - 002513 401476

DEATHS

JOSEPH MURPHY (Country Director: 1968–70) was killed in an auto accident on the road to Debre Zeit on January 17th. Since his time as Peace Corps Director Murphy had maintained close ties with Ethiopia, visited the country often and helped many refugees and students. He was in Ethiopia to gather data for a political science course he

was teaching at the City University of New York.

Murphy was chancellor of the CUNY from 1982 to 1990. At the time of his death he was writing a book on Ethiopia.

Prime Minister Meles Zenawi spoke at the memorial service for Murphy held January 22.

Others for whom we have recently received notice of their deaths:

VINCENT COWHIG

ELVA MAE DEERE (65–67)

LLOYD ELLINGSON (Asmara 63–65)

JOYCE MANIES FALK (Dira Dawa (62–64) — March 10, 1998.

INDIA McCANSE (staff: 66–68)

THE KESSLER FILE
AFTER 33 YEARS, A REUNION!

by Laurie Kessler (Adi Teclesan 1964–66)

They came all afternoon, 15 people in all, and seemed to enjoy the American meal we served: barbecued hamburgers with homemade ketchup, carrot sticks, pickled beets, potato salad, and banana bread. They included two policemen who had been fighters, a customs clearing agent, two auditors, a colleague of mine at the University of Asmara, an expert on biogas, and three of Wayne's business partners: a computer wizard formerly with Hewlett Packard, a retired teacher, and another former fighter who had been a judge.

What we all had in common were two years (1964–66) in Adi Teclesan — 11 had been our students, 2 had been colleagues, and 2 were wives (one after whom we named our daughter, Joyanna Mhret).

We feasted, examined past and recent photographs, drank tea, and exchanged stories about each other and about those who hadn't come, among them the head of the German Cultural Center, a specialist in electricity generators, a shopkeeper, another auditor, a government employee who claims my typing lessons in 1965 helped to get him his first job, and two former fighters — a high ranking Ministry of Defense official and an accountant with the National Union of Eritrean Women. Wishing they and the two dozen others we know of were with us, we all agreed to do it again. Perhaps that time, we'll be treble in number with the current Adi Teclesan PCV among us to pick up old stories to add to his stock of current ones. And, if he doesn't re-up a SECOND time,

maybe he'll be among all of you as a member of E & E RPCVs!

In fact, three newish RPCVs, all Eritrea Ones, returned last month — already, having left only in July. They are **ERIC BERGTHOLD** who came to visit an E2 and **JIM** and **BILLIE CAIRNS**. Jim has a six-month contract as an advisor to the Pavoni Technical Institute. Since Wayne arranged for him to come, we can consider him an enCORPS placement!

RPCVs Laurie and Wayne Kessler have lived in Asmara since 1995, where Laurie teaches ESL at the university and other sites and Wayne is E&E RPCVs' enCORPS representative while developing business opportunities in the private sector. Laurie keeps us up-to-date on life there.

**PEACE CORPS DAY PARTICIPANTS SHARED
 THEIR LIVES IN ETHIOPIA WITH STUDENTS**

Several Ethiopia and Eritrea RPCVs made presentations about their Peace Corps experiences fulfilling the Third Goal "to bring the world back home" in classrooms around the U.S. to celebrate Peace Corps Day '98 on March 3rd.

► **JOHN** and **LIZ BARNES** presented slides of Ethiopia, structured drills based on the Amharic alphabet, Ethiopian artifacts, and a section about Peace Corps service and its three goals in

recognition of Peace Corps Day. They taught four 7th grade classes about Ethiopia and the Rift Valley at Parker Middle School in Reading, MA on January 29th. —*John Barnes*

► An article in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* entitled "Peace Corps vets tell tales to pupils" reported that **JESSE COUNCIL** (Makele 62–64) —with a photo of him letting a student try on his *burnos*, the dark brown, woolen cape

worn in the colder regions of Ethiopia — and **EMMETT GARBETT** (73–) were among 25 RPCVs in the Pittsburgh area sharing their experiences with students on the day designated to celebrate the founding of the Peace Corps.

If you would like to participate in Peace Corps Day '99, contact Joe Ciuffini, World Wise Schools Coordinator.

FYI...

The following notices are reports of communications received by E&E RPCVs. They do not constitute endorsements.

► The North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry has an "Adopt-A-Student" program to support Ethiopian Jewish students studying in colleges, universities and technical schools in Israel. The support requires a commitment of \$900 for a year (payable at \$75/month). Supporters will receive a letter and photo from their student, and are encouraged to maintain correspondence with the student — and even to visit them. For more information, contact: NACOEJ, 165 East 56th St, New York NY 10022, Attn: Vidal Sassoon Adopt-A-Student; phone: 212-752-6340

The NACOEJ web site on the internet is: www.cais.com/nacoej

► February 14, 1998 was the date for the grand opening of the first community based Ethiopian museum — the Tesfa Ethiopian Museum — in the United States. Its planning and organization was done under the umbrella of the Center for Ethiopian Arts and Culture (CEAC). The principals in this effort are Ato Tesfaye Lemma, Director of CEAC, Ato Mammo Tessema, founder of the national museum system in Ethiopia, Seleshe Demessae, musician, composer, and teacher of krar students, and LaDena Schnapper, returned Peace Corps Volunteer, who learned many ethnic dances of Ethiopia and is a staff member.

The Tesfa Ethiopia Museum is located at 1522 "U" Street, NW, Washington, DC. 20009.

► The Nile Ethiopian Ensemble is a group of folk dancers and musicians sponsored by CEAC. They tour various

cities displaying many types of exciting ethnic dances and costumes.

Their 1998 schedule is as follows:

Call (202) 667-3838 for more information.

April 25 - St. Mary's Church, New York

May - Dance Africa, Minneapolis

June 7 - Jewish Community Center, Washington

June 19–21 - National Folk Festival Dayton, Ohio

June 28-July 5 - North American Ethiopian Soccer Tournament, Atlanta

Aug. 3 - Council for Traditional Arts, Silver Spring, MD

Sept. 12 - Ethiopian New Year Celebration, Washington, DC

Oct. 3 - Swarthmore College, Philadelphia, PA

► When you are in Cleveland **DAVE SLEETER** (Debre Berhan 68–79) recommends the Empress Taytu Ethiopian Restaurant (6125 St. Clair Ave, 391-9400).

► EAL has begun flights to Dessie, Bahir Dar and Gondar from Addis on Thursdays and Fridays. Twice weekly flights have been added to Jijiga from Dire Dawa.

► To benefit African youth a group of music industry leaders including musicians, artists and film makers are organizing an international music event, **Jam Africa** to take place in Africa on Christmas of 1998. Proceeds will benefit Save the Children, Doctors Without Borders and Committee for United Wrld Colleges. For more information, contact Addis Gessesse, President, JamAfrica, 305 Madison Ave, Suite 1442, New York NY 10165,

phone: 212/697-1090, fax: 212/697-5149, email: zeleke@aol.com

► For a catalog of Africa products — alas, none from Ethiopia or Eritrea — but very nice, see *Harrabee* from African Market. 5% of price of all sales donated to Africare's Child Survival Project in Mali. Call 1-888-TIMBN+UKTU (toll-free) or web site at www.africanmarket.com

► Ethiopians and Americans for Human Rights in Ethiopia (EAHRE) hosted a cultural afternoon in Cambridge, Massachusetts on February 15th. Special guest speaker was naturalist and geologist Richard Hildreth. Mr. Hildreth showed slides of 30 birds endemic to Ethiopia seen on an excursion to Awash National Park and Bale National Park in July, 1997.

A slide show of Ethiopia is planned by the returned Peace Corps Volunteer members of the organization in May. (Ethiopians are very eager to see pictures of their homeland which they miss very much.) For more information about EAHRE contact John Barnes, 173 Pearl St, Reading MA 01867-1733, phone: 617/944-6907. — *John Barnes*

► **JOE CIUFFINI** (Harar 64–66), **PAT BAILEY BERKLEY** (Addis Ababa 63–65), **RUSTI MILLER RICH** (Dira Dawa 62–64), **JOHN** and **LIZ BARNES** (Addis Ababa 66–68) attended an exhibition entitled "Beta Israel: The Jews of Ethiopia" at the Jewish Community Center in Newton, Mass. The traveling exhibit is made possible by the North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry (NACOEJ), by the Yeshiva University Museum, and by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

The future exhibition schedule was not available. Call (212) 752-6340 for information. — *John Barnes*

► Did you know that you can get completely free e-mail and don't need to buy Internet access to use free Internet e-mail. You can get completely free e-mail from Juno at <http://www.juno.com> Or call Juno at (800) 654-JUNO [654-5866]

► Find the "Amnesty International Report 1996: Ethiopia" at www.amnesty.org/ailib/aipub/1996/AFR/12501196.htm

► www.cais.com/nacoej is the web site on Ethiopian Jewry presented by the North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry. You can find in-depth reports on the history and current status of the Ethiopian Jewish community including: letters from 1915, a bibliog-

raphy of books, where art exhibits can be seen and how you can help Ethiopian Jews. [When I visited the site, I was unable to click off the home page, hopefully those problems have been corrected, as there appeared to be many interesting articles. Ed.]

► Staff positions available with Peace Corps worldwide are listed at www.peacecorps.gov [Click on "Agency."] Or call 800-818-9579.

► If you click on "RPCVs Only" at www.peacecorps.gov you will find sections on: Career TRACK, Crisis Corps, Fellows Program, REtruned Volunteer Services and RPCV sites of interest including links to RPCV groups.

► To read human rights files pertaining to Ethiopia go to: www.ethiopians.com/hright.html

► Visit John Wood's (Jimma 65-68) site for his book packaging company CWL Publishing Enterprises. Find out about the business, the books John has written (linked to Amazon.com for easy ordering), what else he's been up to in the last 30 years and even a couple of quotes! See his kids — whose initials form the name of the company — and John himself. Click on: www.execpc.com/cwl/pubent/

www.peacecorps.gov/www/dp/africa/ghana.html

Did you know . . .

60,000 Ethiopian Jews are living in Israel as a result of two airlifts — Operation Moses (1984), and Operation Solomon (1991). Their dramatic exodus to Israel from Ethiopia allowed them to realize their dreams of going home to their Jewish nation after centuries of deprivation by the Christian Ethiopian regional rases and officials. The derogatory term *Falasha* means "gone into exile" indicating they were regarded as foreigners in Ethiopia.

Ethiopian Jews were not allowed to own land in Ethiopia from the year 1430. As a result they became highly skilled masons, carpenters, metal workers and pottery makers. The women became expert weavers, embroiderers and basket makers. The men built the

beautiful churches and castles at Gondar from 1632 through 1769.

They are the only Jews to celebrate the yearly "Festival of Seged" (bowing), in which the torah is carried up to a high mountain where they bow in prayer and fasting through the morning. The ten commandments and other scriptures are read and then at midday they return to their home enjoy a communal feast.

FYI: There is a children's book entitled *THE RETURN* by Sonia Levitin (Faucet Juniper Books, 1991) which tells the story of Dests, a 12-year old Ethiopian Jewish girl, and her siblings and their long hard journey to the Promised Land. [ISBN: 0449702804; \$4.50/\$3.50 amazon price] — *John Barnes*

A question

E&E RPCVs has received a query about sending used clothing to Ethiopia and/or Eritrea. Do you know of any agency or organization that is doing so at this time that would welcome clothing donations? Contact Marian Beil if you have any suggestions.



THE BOOK LOCKER PROJECT

New books continue to be sent free to PCVs in Ethiopia & Eritrea and are a gift from E&E RPCVs. After an initial mailing of 900 pounds of books last September, John Coyne's committee continues to send, on average, ten non-fiction and fiction books a week to the Resource Rooms at the Peace Corps offices in Addis Ababa and Asmara. These books, which are given free by "friends of John Coyne" in the publishing world, cover a variety of subjects, and range from good literature to pulp fiction. The books are primarily being sent to the PCVs for their leisure reading, however, as we all know, the books can have a readership with host country nationals.

This project is meant to make up for the fact that today the Peace Corps does not provide the well-loved "book lockers" to PCVs as it had in the early years. Volunteers, however, still receive *Newsweek* magazine at their sites.

The following are thank-you's E&E RPCVs has received for the Book Locker Project donations —

— from an Eritrea PCV

I just wanted to thank all of you out there for your recent shipment of books here for us Volunteers! You should see our resource room now. What was once a barren wasteland of scattered magazines (*Newsweeks*, of course) and cheesy paperbacks is now a quite respectable little library with a brilliant and eclectic selection of really good books. I know you were all Volunteers and know how welcome a good book can be, not to mention a whole roomful of good books. My once monthly trip to Asmera from Adi Tekelezan, which used to include a harried trip to the bank to pick up my salary and a more enjoyable trip to the Hawashait Pizzeria for a sample of the less local fare, now has a mandatory stop at PCHQ for a backpack full of books to see me through till the next month. After two and a half years of begging and scraping for books and materials for my students and fellow teachers, it's kinda nice to be a little selfish and enjoy something meant just for us. So, again, thanks for your efforts, your time, your expense and for thinking of us. Your efforts are appreciated more than you know!

Sincerely,
Jeffrey L. Shannon, PCV
Eritrea 1 (95-?)

— the Ethiopia country director

I apologize profusely for not getting back to you sooner to express our tremendous gratitude for the books. . .

Regardless, thank you so much for the books. We just finished expanding our Volunteer library and, as a result, had some empty shelves to fill. The PCVs will love to see some new material when they come in for IST.

Again, thanks so much both for the books and for all the support from the RPCVs in general.

Best regards
Lis Doane
Country Director, Ethiopia

— and an Ethiopia APCD

[I] just wanted to tell you that the books you folks sent are making a hit among PCVs here; especially the bound galleys. We've got a lot of literarily inclined Vs and this is like water in the desert for them.

Thank you all very much.

Peace,
Bob Schmidt
Associate Peace Corps Director
Ethiopia

At the Peace Corps

10,000 by 2000

In his fiscal 1999 budget proposal, President Clinton asked for an increase in the Peace Corps budget by \$48million to \$270million that would put the Peace Corps on a path to having 10,000 PCVs overseas by 2000 — an increase of 50% over today's number.

To lend support to the proposal, contact your Senators by calling 202/224-3121, and ask for your Senators' offices. Then urge their staff members to encourage their bosses to support the full international affairs budget request of \$20.15 billion of which Peace Corps is a part. Don't forget to indicate the special need for full funding for expansion of the Peace Corps to \$270 million in 1999.

In Ethiopia

Last December the Peace Corps/Ethiopia Gender and Development Committee sponsored a two day Young Women's Mentoring Project in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. Each of 24 girls from rural areas were paired with a professional Ethiopia woman, who served as a mentor and who provided the girl an opportunity to spend a day at her work place and a night at her home.

During the second day the girls heard an address by the Minister of Education who told of how her 11th grade Peace Corps teacher had brought the only female professor at Addis Ababa University to her class to talk to female students. That professor later became a mentor to the young woman who would become a minister.

Finally the Ethiopia Women's Lawyer's Association facilitated a series of participatory activities addressing issues

of career planning and the importance of obtaining a good education.

A similar program was presented to 40 girls on March 16–17, 1998.

Crisis Corps

The Peace Corps' Crisis Corps responds to natural disasters and humanitarian crisis by placing PCVs at the end of their service or RPCVs in assignments of up to 6 months. In 1997 CCVolunteers went to Madagascar, the Czech Republic, Chile, Guinea and Cote d'Ivoire.

If you would like more information, call 800-424-8580 ext. 2295 or e-mail: crisiscorps@peacecorps.gov.

Peace Corps brings international pals together

As part of its 37th anniversary celebration, the Peace Corps hosted a live-via-satellite get-together for a group of DC 5th graders and their World Wise Schools pals in South Africa. WWS connects classes in the U.S. with classes around the world taught by PCVs. The students exchange letters, photos and artifacts in this program designed to foster understanding and friendship. If you are a teacher, parent, grandparent — or whatever — and would like to establish a WWS partnership at a favorite school, contact the Peace Corps at 800-424-8580 x 2283 or visit their web site for more information: www.peacecorps.gov/www/dp/wws1.html

Partnerships with Eritrea

During 1997 six projects managed by PCVs in Eritrea received a total of \$4791 from the Peace Corps Partnerships program. In the past, contributions

have been made by schools, organizations, and individuals. Why not consider giving a special gift to someone special by making a donation to a project in his/her name.

In the 1–2/98 *Pacific Waves*, the newsletter of the San Diego Peace Corps Association PCV Julie Hensley (Eritrea) wrote thanking the group for their donation to support her project to paint a world map on her school's new library.

For more information on how you can support this effort to provide project assistance to PCVs and what projects are currently in need of support contact the Partnerships office at 800-424-8580 x 2227 or visit their web site at: www.peacecorps.gov/www/opsr/OPSR3.html

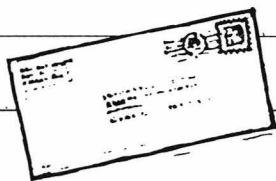
New Peace Corps publications*

► *CAREER INFORMATION CONSULTANTS: CAREER INFORMATION FOR RPCVs* [Peace Corps 1997] Lists professionals in specific career fields, many of whom are RPCVs, who have agreed to answer career related inquiries from PCVs and RPCVs. 80 pp.

► *CAREER RESOURCE MANUAL and RPCV HANDBOOK* [Peace Corps 1997]. Guide primarily for the recently returned RPCV. Includes: "Skills and Interests Self Assessment," "Career Planning & Job Searching" and tips on making contacts with other RPCVs and RPCV groups. 108+25 pp.

► *PEACE CORPS ODYSSEY: THE VOYAGE HOME: A BOOK ON RE-ENTRY, READJUSTMENT, AND REVERSE CULTURE SHOCK FOR RETURNING PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS* [Peace Corps 1997], 44 pp. The title says it all.

* Can be borrowed from our library.



From our mail

Dear Friends and RPCV's,

Thank you for your warm support of Ann [Browder (6\ Dessie 63-66)]'s daughter Jennie, for your suggestions of contacts is Dessie, and for your recollections of Ann. Jennie asked me to express her deep appreciation; she had many laughs and many tears reading your letters.

Jennie had planned to visit Ethiopia over Christmas, but was troubled with recurrent infections which landed her in the hospital a few times. Instead of going to Ethiopia, she came to the States for medical treatment. She is healthy again and has returned to Niamey. Medical complications notwithstanding, she has had a wonderful, joyful experience in Africa and is hoping to visit Ethiopia in the spring.

For myself, I too am grateful for your letters. You have rekindled for all of us who knew Ann the radiance of her remarkable spirit. Thank you.

*Sincerely,
Peter Alexander*

What do you think?

The more I think about it the more I would like to see RPCVs involve themselves with Ethiopian and Eritrean immigrants. They would make a direct impact on some lives by it. I know and deal with lots of immigrants every day in my job as an instructor/dept. chair at San Jose City College. Now we are getting the Green Card Lottery winners who are coming to the U.S. without any cultural orientation. The earlier group we had contains a lot of single moms. Some are struggling to raise boys themselves. Imagine being a single, foreign woman (some of them have not

gone beyond the 4th grade) trying to raise a black male child in this society!

Among the problems my husband and I have become involved in have been trying to help these women buy cars and to help them deal with their rapidly Americanizing children. Ethiopian kids in American schools are frequently characterized by their teachers as "hyper" and "out of control." The first time this came up I thought the teacher was just a bit cranky. As it occurred again and again, I began to realize that these kids are living lives that are vastly different from the lives their parents led without any accommodation or realization that they are different.

For example, here the kids are fed better and are not as lethargic and passive as kids might be in Ethiopia. They also eat junk food and sugar, which makes them somewhat hyper. Add to that the fact that Ethiopian immigrant parents do not have any idea that kids need to play and that play is an important element in their growth. The kids are usually confined to small apartments as soon as school is out. No sports program, no running around the park — no chasing other children, goats, etc. as they might in Ethiopia. The bottled up energy translates to hyperactivity.

Perhaps an Adopt-a-family, Foster Grandparents or Big Sister/Big Brother program for these kids would be an active and positive way to RPCVs to contribute to the lives of Ethiopians and Eritreans here.

This is just the start of an idea. What do you think?

*Alice Gosak
(Harar 64-67)*

Trip report

I revisited Ethiopia and Eritrea for three weeks last year. Amazingly, so little seemed to have changed. It was a very interesting trip down memory lane: Ghion hotel, Debre Zeit, Ethiopian airlines to Gondar, Lalibela, Axum. A greeat time in Asmara — surely Africa's most agreeable capital city.

*Larry Wells
(Addis Ababa, Asmara 68-70)
Tokyo*

Published in the *San Francisco Chronicle* 11/18/97

Editor — Regarding The Dark Side of Camelot, it should be noted that a thousand Seymour Hershes can't erase the fact that during my tow years in the Peace Corps ('64-'66) I visited hundreds of Ethiopians in their mud juts and in every one hung a picture of John F. Kennedy next to one of Haile Selassie.

They can't take away the fact that many of my generation were inspired by Kennedy to lives of public service. They simply can't erase the fact that JFK made a real difference in the minds, hearts and lives of millions of people. President Kennedy provided hope and gave many someone and something to believe in.

Let the Hershes of the world throw all the mud they want and profit all they may, but they won't change the fact that JFK had the rare ability to help bring us together and inspired us to actions that represented our better selves. How many presidents an we say that about?

Bruce Hamilton

Funding sources sought

I was wondering if you know of any source(s) that fund projects for Ethiopia related to conservation and museum work. Unfortunately mine does not have anything to do with famine, refugee resettlement, and sending books. All these have been funded in the past.

I am trying to complete a description, evaluation, plus organize the exhibition of the musical instrument (and related sources) collection for a proposed permanent exhibit. The former and current Directors have asked me to complete this task. I started it in 1996 and have worked on it since. It would take a minimum of US\$5000 for expenses e.g. film, transportation and hiring of an assistant to help me document, and an instrument restoration specialist (I have located) as it is very labor intensive. I plan to pay for the other expenses.

The National Endowment for the Arts no longer funds museum/library related projects and USIS concentrates on pro democracy projects and agricultural concerns but nothing in the arts. I've contacted an individual at Stanford who is knowledgeable in locating funding sources for Africa projects but she has found nothing in this area.

I would appreciate any suggestions or comments you can offer on this matter.

Warm regards,
Cynthia Tse Kimberlin
(Adi Ugri; Asmara 62-64)
kimberln@crl.com
kimberc@ceb.ucop.edu

Cynthia reports on the Japan conference

I spent ten days in Japan (Dec 10-20), where I presented a paper on "Four

Contemporary Ethiopian Composers and their Music: Asnakech Worku, Nuria Ahmed Shami Kalif a.k.a. Shamitu, Ezra Abate Iman, and Ashenafi Kebede" at the 13th International Conference of Ethiopian Studies held in Kyoto, Japan. It was jointly hosted by the Japan Association for Nilo-Ethiopian Studies and the Japan Association of African Studies.

There were at least 26 official funding sources. The Proceedings are published in a 3-volume set of 2435 pages titled "Ethiopia in Broader Perspective: Papers of the 13th International Conference of Ethiopian Studies". Vols. I-III, eds. Fukui, K. E. Kurimoto, and M. Shigeta, 1997. Shokado Book Sellers, Kyoto.

Our papers had to be completed way back in July so they could be

published before the actual conference. Fields most heavily represented were history, anthropology, and linguistics. In contrast, the arts, literature, and the media were sparsely represented. I didn't obtain an exact count regarding the number of countries were represented but I do know, in addition to Japan, Ethiopians from Ethiopia and abroad were well represented.

The conference itself was a fairly elaborate affair as far as conferences go. Assistance was freely given by the many student assistants present. All one had to do was ask. About 150 participants gave presentations and maybe up to 250 attended in varying capacities. Professor Katsuyoshi Fukui was the in charge as Chair of the Executive Committee. I didn't stay at the conference hotel (Sun Flower Hotel) but was a guest of a Professor Yusako Endo and her husband Professor Hiroshi Matsuda (both anthropologists and their 4 yr old son

Kai. Both have spent time in Ethiopia. They gave me a rare window of opportunity to observe how a family in Japan go about their daily life. Their hospitality and assistance was superb and I hope I can return the favour some day.

Since they lived in a town called Yasu, a suburb of Kyoto and Osaka, that meant that I spent about 2 1/2 hours each day commuting which was fine once I got the hang of it as the trains are very efficient. It was my first trip to the Far East and was an eye opening experience to say the least. Many aspects of big city life look just like cities in Europe and North America except that all writing is in Japanese. Overall, there were very few signs in English. But the people were polite and helpful. In contrast to the other world of temples and shrines, the contemplative life, the interior and private face of Japan, the public face of Japan or outward signs of life were quick, efficient, fast, and courteous.

Although we have heard Japan is a very expensive place to live, food can be quite inexpensive if one frequents small neighborhood places where locals eat and where only Japanese is spoken and written, and the ingredients are in season.

Most Japanese thought I was Japanese and not an Chinese-American until I opened my mouth. It was nice not to be stared at for a change and to be able to reach the vertical hanging hand holds on the train or bus. So with my few memorized Japanese phrases (please; excuse me; no; yes; where is...?; thank you very much; goodbye, one, two, three, four, etc.) and exercising a bow at appropriate times and a smile I was able to get by.

Cynthia Tse Kimberlin

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1990 K St NW
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phone: 800/424-8580
website: www.peacecorps.gov

From the NPCA

The next national RPCV conference

It has been announced that the next National Conference will be in Minneapolis/St. Paul in 1999.

Advocacy issues

Are you interested in receiving advocacy information via e-mail about issues that the NPCA supports — such as the Peace Corps and its budget, sustainable development for Third World countries, a landmine ban — that are before the Congress, so that you can contact your Congressperson to let your voice be heard?

Send an email message to:
listproc@vita.org

In the body, type: "sub npca-l your name" (don't type quotes)

THE HERALD

Editing, design & production — Marian Haley Beil (62-64)

Contributing editor — John Barnes (66-68), Frances Anderson Scura (Addis Ababa 67-68)

Those who have shared articles, ideas and efforts — Donald Beil (Somalia 64-66), Ed Corboy (Staff 62-64), John Coyne (Addis Ababa 62-64), Joe Ciuffini (Harar 64-66), Richard Crepeau (Dessie 63-65), Dick Howrigan (Jimma, Addis Ababa 62-64), Cynthia Tse Kimberlin (Asmara 62-64), Frances Anderson Scura (Addis Ababa 1967-68), Keith Wittentrom (Adi Quala 62-64). *THE HERALD* wishes to thank them all. They are **greatly** appreciated.

If you would like to submit an article 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 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.

Did you know . . .

. . . that the U.S. foreign aid budget makes up just 1% of the national budget and that the Peace Corps budget makes up just 1% of the foreign aid budget?

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Please send to:

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





Decoding the mailing label

The date on the upper right-hand corner of your mailing label indicates when your membership in ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs (E&E RPCVs) expires. If that date has passed or will happen shortly, we hope that you will reup. A membership form can be found on the previous page.

If it says "Reunion" in the upper right-hand corner of the label, you have received a complementary copy of THE HERALD because of your expressed interest in the reunion. We hope that you will join E&E RPCVs — a membership form can be found on the previous page.

If it says "Your name . . ." that means your name can be found somewhere in this newsletter. If you are an RPCV or were PC/staff we hope you will consider joining E&E RPCVs.

If it says "Trial #18" we thought you might be interested in seeing what E&E RPCVs does and in seeing newsletter. Perhaps you'd like to join us?

Married couples — I have arbitrarily selected one of you to receive the newsletter to save duplication. Please don't feel left out if your name isn't on the label.

Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs

c/o Marian Haley Beil
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