

The HERALD

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

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IT WAS A LOVELY REUNION

There were two aspects to the reunion — and both were terrific. There was the opportunity to see dear friends, have time to visit in depth and to share, with enjoyment, some things that we had shared many years ago — eating injera and wat, dancing to music that allows you to be totally uninhibited, listening to remembrances and basking in the bedlam of the congregation of many people who have one incredible part of their lives in common.

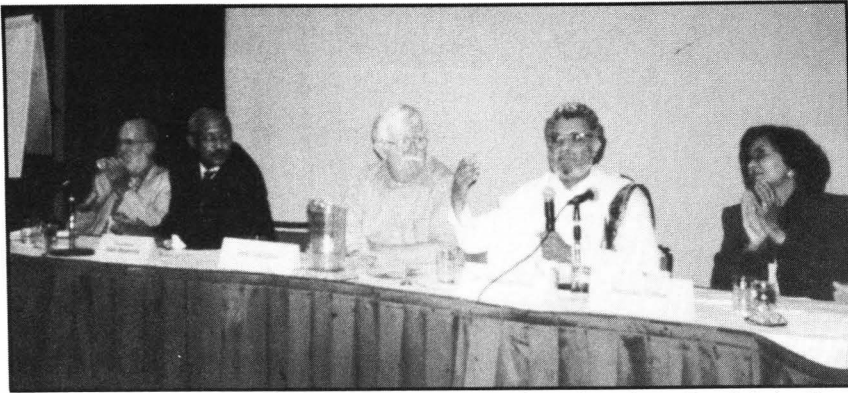
And there was the excellent program of panels and speakers who brought us up to the minute on many facets of contemporary Eritrea And Ethiopia.

The most compelling were the two panels that were organized by and expertly moderated by Susan Heck (Addis Ababa 67-69): "Update on Eritrea" with panelists Haile Menkerios — Ambassador to the UN from Eritrea, John Rude (Mendefera 62-64), Tom Gallagher (Agordat 62-64) —

desk officer for Eritrea at the US State Dept. and speaking as a representative of the State Dept., Dr. Ephraim Isaac — chairman of the board of the Peace and Development Committee, Horn of Africa and director of the Institute of Semitic Studies at Princeton University and Hannah Yilma, from the Department of Peace-Keeping Operations at the UN who was speaking as a private citizen; and "Update on Ethiopia" with panelists Ambassador Berhane Gebre Cristos — Ethiopian Ambassador to the United States, Tom Gallagher, Dr. Ephraim Isaac and Hannah Yilma. During their presentations, both ambassadors presented their countries' positions on the current conflict.

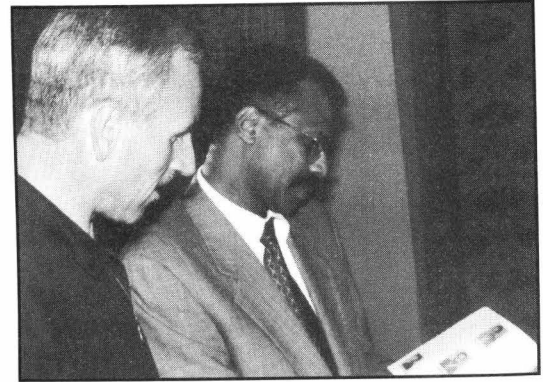
On the next six pages, you will get a sampling of who was there and what we did.

Reunion scrapbook



Participants in the Update on Eritrea panel: John Rude, Ambassador Haile Menkerios, Tom Gallagher, Dr. Ephraim Isaac, Hannah Yilma, Out of View - moderator Susan Heck.

Lois Shoemaker



Gary Weinstein and Ambassador Berhane Gebre Cristos bring back memories with the Ethi XIX "mug book." Ambassador Berhane was Gary and Wallace Runck's Amharic teacher in Dilla in 1973.

Sent in by Wallace Runck



Participants in the Update on Ethiopia panel: Ambassador Berhane Gebre Cristos, Tom Gallagher, Dr. Ephraim Isaac, Hannah Yilma and moderator Susan Heck.

Wallace Runck

HOW MANY RPCVs
attended and what year had
they begun their Peace Corps
service?

29	1962
4	1963
21	1964
6	1965
18	1966
13	1967
11	1968
5	1970
1	1972
3	1973
1	1995
113	total RPCVs plus additional family and friends.



Members of Ethiopia VII who trained at the University of Utah pose in front of the conference center. They include: Jon Wechsler, Karen Blanchard, Bryan McClure, Nancy Horn, Ephraim Isaac, Wyn Tunnicliff, and Sam Greer. Can you identify the others?

Sent in by Jon Wechsler

ASMARA "SPECIALE"

by Gloria Gieseke Curtis (Asmara 63-65) & Lois Shoemaker (Asmara 62-64)

Join the Peace Corps and learn to speak Italian! Along with Tigrinya, Amharic and Arabic of course. Unanimous opinion: "Two of the best years of our lives!"

Words can't really express the absolute joy we early 1960s RPCVs from Eritrea had at UCLA. Not since 1976 at Cape Cod have so many dear old friends been in one place at one time. Lois Shoemaker and Gloria Curtis came from Denver, Ty Vignone and Peter Leofanti from Boston, John Rude from Oregon, Ray Capozzi from NJ, Tom Gallagher from Washington DC, Leo Cecchini from New York and Paul Koprowski and Jim Solomon from California. We all knew this gathering was "speciale" and may never happen again.

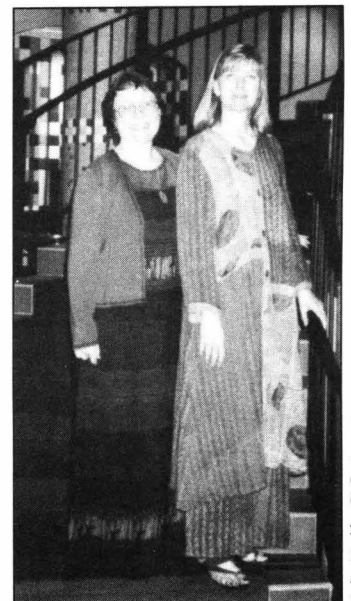
Sharing the Peace Corps experience bonded us for life. Asmara is a magical place and was the site of many reunions as PCVs came in from other towns and villages. We had that same feeling at UCLA, and it was very emotional. While catching up on all the personal news of each other's lives, we could enjoy the wonderful program put together by the reunion committee. Even the sadness surrounding the dispute between Eritrea and Ethiopia couldn't dampen our spirits. Being together helped us to focus on the problem and to commit to make a personal effort in the peace process.

No wonder it was so hard to say "good-bye" on Sunday.



CJ Smith Castagnaro

We all took buses to "Little Ethiopia" Friday and Saturday evening to enjoy the cuisine of our home-countries. The trips also provided a flash-back to training outings.



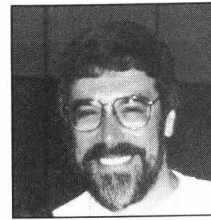
Submitted by CJ Castagnaro

Reunion co-chairs CJ Smith Castagnaro and Carol Randall ready for the banquet.



Sent in by CJ Castagnaro

The IVs in "Little Ethiopia": (back row) Vinna Coon, Yolanda Rossi, Cathy Julder Franz, Ginny McArthur, Natalie Garrett, CJ Smith Castagnaro, (front row) Kay Boyd Warren, Pat Bruce-Lerrigo, Cynthia LeFlore.



Gloria Gieseke Curtis

Jim Solomon (Massawa, Jimma 63-65) opened the reunion program (see page 7 for excerpts) and was the MC for the farewell brunch.

At the brunch, several attendees spoke appreciatively of their reunion experiences and movingly of their Peace Corps service and their affection for their host country. The brunch was closed with a singing of "Let There Be Peace on Earth" led by CJ Smith Castagnaro's talented daughter, Jeanne.



Judy Hopkins

Guade, singer and mesenko and electronic keyboard player and provider of wonderfully danceable music at the banquet.



CJ Smith Castagnaro

Dr. Aster Gebre Marian, Associate Professor of Women's Studies, Arizona State University West and director of the Ethiopia Research Council, told of her life as an independent Ethiopian woman ("Like a man" according to her father) and the mission of the ERC to amass historical information about Ethiopia for scholarly research.



Sent by CJ Smith Castagnaros

Vana O'Brien (Grawa 67-69) was fantastic as she told of her 1996 experience directing "The Glass Menagerie" in Amharic in Addis Ababa under the sponsorship of the USIS.

Dear CJ:

I am sorry I will not be able to join you and the other RPCVs who served in Ethiopia and Eritrea when you gather together this weekend in Los Angeles.

I have just returned from a trip to Rio de Janeiro on behalf of Special Olympics, and I leave today to spend the next couple of weeks with my family at our home on Cape Cod. With all of our children busy with their careers and families it takes quite a bit of planning to get us together, so I hope you understand why I cannot be with you.

Please extend my best wishes to everyone. I know you will have a marvelous few days — full of happy memories of your Volunteer days and with new plans for the future. The tragic events in Africa last week [the embassy bombings] are a harsh reminder of how much still remains to be done throughout the world before we are truly at peace. I hope you will take the occasion of your reunion this weekend to once again renew your commitment to service, to assist those in Ethiopia and Eritrea or you fellow citizens here at home

With best wishes, and my thanks once again to each of you for your service in the Peace Corps.

Sincerely yours,

Sargent Shriver



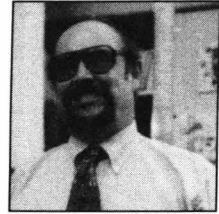
Sent by Susan Hundt Bergan

New friends: Guest speaker Hanna Kebbede and Susan Hundt Bergan (Barhar Dar 66-68). Hanna, a musician, fashion designer and agricultural development specialist, was a panelist. She spoke of her travels throughout Ethiopia to gathering agricultural information.



Susan Hundt Bergan

Old friends: Panel moderator Susan Heck and inspiring peacemaker and panel member Dr. Ephraim Isaac.



CJ Smith Castagnaro

Michael Brady, M.D. (Metu 68-72), who has travelled back to Ethiopia every year for many years, spoke of both the history and current situation of health care there and gave special attention to the increase in some communicable diseases.

When speaker Hannah Yilma heard some of John Coe's (Jimma, Addis Ababa 62-66) Ethiopian music from the play "Androcoles in Ambesay" which he and Marianne Fearn (Jimma, Addis Ababa 62-65) had put together with their students, Hannah suggested that they redo the show and tour it to Ethiopian restaurants in the US, where she felt there would be an audience. Write John to support the idea at JGCoe@aol.com.



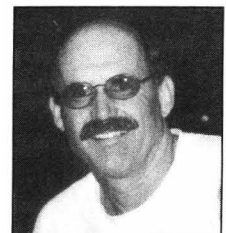
Sent in by Fran Fisher LaCroix and Adrienne Katter

Danny Langdon, and his wife Kathleen hosted a get-together for the Ethi 1s at their home. Among those enjoying a terrific opportunity to visit with wonderful friends and pour over Danny's collection of articles, photos and newsletters from their time as Volunteers were: (back row, left to right) Paul Koprowski, Peggy Drury, John Coe, Rusty Miller Rich, Jon Ebling, Ernie Fox, Lois Richards, Herb Siegel, Lois Shoemaker, Jim Freiberg, Ty Vignone, Leo Cecchini, Carlene Glamzi Busse, Tom Gallagher, Adrienne Katter, Eldon Katter; (front row) Danny Langdon, Doug Mickelson, Fran Fisher LaCroix, Peter Leofanti, Ray Capozzi, Marian Haley Beil, Gerin and Dell Hood, Dick Howrigan, Sue Siegel and Barbara Fontaine.



Janet Capozzi (Sent by Gloria Gieseke Curtis)

Eritrean Ambassador to the UN Haile Menkerios show great delight in being reunited with his former teachers - Ethi 1s Ray Capozzi, Lois Shoemaker and Ty Vignone.



Judy Hopkins

Mike Santarelli (Gura 70-73) showed his slide collection "Building A Gurage Tukul" and provided a very enjoyable commentary.

Thanks!

Many thanks to the following helpers before and during the reunion:

- Doug Schiller — donated printing and paper
 - Susan Heck — coordinator and moderator of the panels
 - Wyn Tunnicliff — restaurant arrangements
 - Paul Koprowski — caps, t-shirts, bags and moral support
 - Jim Solomon — master of ceremonies
 - Jim Cook — advice & information
 - Mike Brady — speaker and planner
 - Suzanne Siegel — museum setup
 - Wally Runck — museum setup
- And the following who helped with registration —



- Lois Richards, Doug Mickelson
- Joe Ciuffini, Frances Fisher LaCroix
- GINNA COON, Barbara Buckingham
- Carol McDonald, Bryan McClure
- Morris Baker

If we have forgotten anyone, know that you are appreciated, too. We love you all.

CJ and Carol

P.S. E&E RPCVs joins in thanking all those who worked to make the reunion a great success.



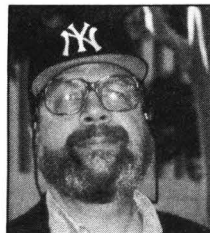
CJ Smith Castagnaro

The Saturday night banquet at the Messob Restaurant in "Little Ethiopia." In January, 1999 Rahel, the owner of the Mesob hosted a "Thank you" party for 20 RPCVs in the LA area that included fine food, a DJ and dancing - with lessons.



Gloria Gieseke Curtis

Gwen Clark Williams and Judy Hopkins (both Makelle 63-65) enjoy being together again during the Friday evening casual dinner in "Little Ethiopia."

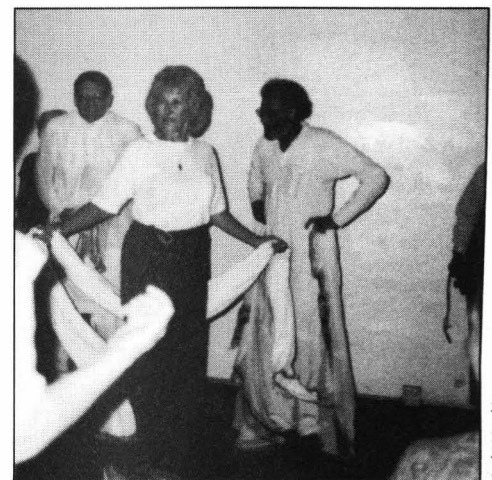


Judy Hopkins

Leo Cecchini (Asmara 62-64) spoke of micro-economic development in Eritrea and of N'FETN, a company in Eritrea that focuses on small business development of which he is a partner.

A packet of items from the reunion can be borrowed from our librarian that includes:

- ▶ Letter telling of the history and goals of the Ethiopian Research Council, plus a membership form.
- ▶ "The Truth about the Ethio-Eritrean Conflict: From the Los Angeles area Ethiopian political community to the Reunion of Former Ethiopian/Eritrean Peace Corps Volunteers" Handed out by leafleters in "Little Ethiopia."
- ▶ Information about N'FETN Enterprises, a company lead by a team of eight Eritreans and Americans including speaker Leo Cecchini.
- ▶ "Ethiopian Heritage: Hand Woven Fabrics and Garments" — a brochure of garments designed by speaker Hanna Kebede and made from fabrics woven in Ethiopia.



Judy Hopkins

Barbara Reichardt (Dessie 95-97) was one of the many who enjoyed the dance music at the banquet. Barbara, the only RPCV from the 90s to attend the reunion, told of her service and gave the other attendees an opportunity to hear of the similarities and differences to their own experiences in-country.

EXCERPTS FROM REUNION OPENING REMARKS BY JIM SOLOMON

Good morning. Tenayistaliñ. Salaam. My name is Jim Solomon, and I'm a member of the steering committee of the organization that is sponsoring this gathering, which calls itself ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS. Welcome to Los Angeles (where I spent the first 18 years of my life, growing up about 20 minutes east of here); welcome to UCLA [where I studied Italian for a summer before going off to Stanford's campus in Italy and where, three years later, I spent a much busier and more intense summer learning how to become a Peace Corps Volunteer]; and welcome to the **very first reunion and conference specifically held for Peace Corps Volunteers who have served in Ethiopia and Eritrea.**

Many of us have gathered together before, for reunions of our individual training and service groups or years. We have gathered together at celebrations of the Peace Corps, such as the 25th, 30th, and 35th anniversaries of the founding of the Peace Corps, in Washington in 1986, 1991, and two years ago. We have gathered together at the annual—now biennial—conferences of what is now called the National Peace Corps Association, such as in Berkeley five years ago—and in San Diego last year, where the idea and the energy for this gathering were born. This gathering represents the first time that Peace Corps Volunteers who have served in Ethiopia and Eritrea have come together to celebrate that fact, as a whole—not just in our separate years-of-service groups, and independent of the attraction and organizing strength of the Peace Corps or the national RPCV organization. I don't know about you, but I think it's terrific.

I arrived here yesterday afternoon to register for this conference, to say hello to a few people I know, to have some

wine and cheese, for an hour or so, and then hurry off—maybe inviting a few of you to come along—to relive a favorite summer pastime of my teenage years, paying 50¢—now only a dollar—to sit way up in the Hollywood Bowl and listen to classical music. When I registered yesterday afternoon I got a parking pass, and promptly forgot about going down to put it on my car. Why? Well, were there yesterday afternoon, standing in the lobby at the registration desk, standing out on the terrace behind us yesterday evening, sitting at one of the tables in the dining hall last night, or standing outside this building until late into the evening. There was an intensity, an excitement, a joy about it—and I think that's terrific.

I've seen this kind of thing happen before—at reunions of my Group II, at frequent get-togethers of the Northern California Peace Corps Association, of which I'm a member, and at national conferences and celebrations. And why *does* it happen? I think it's because there's something very *special* about the Peace Corps experience—the kind of intimate, extended, caring contact we've had with the people of another culture, with the surroundings of another country, not just as a traveler passing through for a week or two, but as a resident and a worker, for two years or more. And as a *volunteer* worker; no one *made* us go—we weren't drafted into the Peace Corps—and we certainly weren't lured by what they offered to pay us.

As I said before, there's something very special about the Peace Corps experience. And the place where we happened to have this experience is Ethiopia, in the 1960s and 1970s, and after a 20-year absence, in Ethiopia and Eritrea in the 1990s. One of the reasons

that a gathering like this is possible is our size. Ethiopia and Eritrea RPCVs is one of the largest groups in the national organization. And the reason for *that* is not the number of years Peace Corps has been there—remember, there was a 20-year gap, and the Peace Corps is only 37 years old—but because of the size of the early groups, particularly the first group, which numbered some 275 volunteers. And many of them are here today; I'd like to ask them to stand, so that we can recognize their pioneering achievement. And I'd also like one other person to stand and be recognized: Barbara Reichardt, who served from 1995 to 1997 in Dessie, in Ethiopia Re-entry Group I.

...
We went [to Ethiopia and Eritrea] out of a sense of adventure, and with the hope that we could make a difference in people's lives. And from those motives we learned to care about Ethiopia and Eritrea and their people. Regardless of how long ago we served there, that deep sense of caring remains alive in us this year, and today, a caring that transcends the fact that's where we happened to have had that intense experience of being PCVs. Ethiopia and Eritrea have had proud and joyful episodes in their history, as well as more than their share of what is, for Americans, almost incomprehensible sadness and tragedy. In some respects, these are among the sad times, and one of the reasons we're here today is to learn by listening to people with first-hand experience about that sadness, as well as the hope for the future. As we listen, I'd like to remind all of you—members of the audience and speakers alike—that the exchange of ideas we're about to engage in will be all the more valuable if we are positive in our intent and courteous in our manner.



AT THE PEACE CORPS

PEACE CORPS SUSPENDS OPERATIONS IN ETHIOPIA

Because of the resumption of fighting and uncertainty of where the hostilities between Ethiopia and Eritrea would lead, the Peace Corps decided to temporarily suspend operations in Ethiopia. All 58 Volunteers plus staff were evacuated to Kenya on Friday, February 12th.

They have now been reassigned to other countries, or have chosen to terminate.

They've moved

Peace Corps has moved to a new building about a block from the old one. They are now at: 1111 20th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20526.

The new building has a great new feature — a store that is a marketplace for artifacts from around the world plus t-shirts, shirts and caps with the Peace Corps logo. President Clinton did some of his Christmas shopping at the store.

Pay raise

On January 1, 1999, the PCV readjustment allowance was increased to \$225 per month. It had been at \$200 for 10 years.

That's Life

The Peace Corps was listed in the November, 1998 issue of LIFE magazine's cover story as one of the "100 Best Things About America Now."

'60s stamp

In May, 1998 the US Postal Service held national voting for themes that best represent the '60s to be illustrated on a series of postage stamps. The Peace Corps was one of the themes chosen. Word now has it that the Peace Corps stamp will carry a reproduction of the painting by Norman Rockwell of **MARC CLAUSEN** (Dessie 62-64) working in a field with an Ethiopian.

Largest budget

This past fall the Congress approved a \$240 million budget for the Peace Corps — the largest in its history. This should bring the number of Volunteers to 7,400 by September — the largest number in 25 years.

Oh Christmas Tree. . .

With the help of Volunteers, RPCVs and staff, ornaments from more than 65 countries decorated a Christmas tree in the East Foyer of the White House this past Christmas time. Visit our web site to see the two ornaments that trimmed the tree from ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs made by Marian Haley Beil.

AIDS

In an article in *The New York Times* (12/27/98), entitled "AIDS in Africa: The Silent Stalker" discussing the history of the AIDS virus, writer Donald G. McNeil, Jr. stated: "It may have gone to Haiti [from Zaire] with the French-speaking Haitians who filled up Zaire's civil service after the Belgians fled in 1960. It may have gone straight to America, perhaps with the Peace Corps. It may have gone to Cuba with soldiers returning from northern Angola."



Peace Corps programs - what's hot, what's not

In 1998 Peace Corps opened two new Volunteer programs: in Mozambique — with 24 trainees; and Bangladesh — with 24 trainees — the first to serve there since 1964. Teaching of English will be the primary tasks in both countries.

In September Volunteers were evacuated from Lesotho following fighting in the capital city.

Volunteers were temporarily evacuated from Honduras and Belize because of Hurricane Mitch. PCVs in Nicaragua, Guatemala, and El Salvador were immediately involved in relief activities. In the Dominican Republic, Volunteers received special praise for their relief efforts following Hurricane Georges.

As of October 1998 there were 6409 Volunteers serving in 80 countries.

Group News

The President and E&E RPCVs

On Wednesday, February 10th, President Clinton presented a speech about "AmeriCorps' Call to Service." Below are excerpts from the speech regarding the Peace Corps and E&E RPCVs' efforts in seeking a peaceful resolution to the border conflict.

"President Kennedy in the 1960s asked young people to serve in the Peace Corps — to teach English, to provide health care, to bring running water and electricity to some of the most remote villages in Africa, Asia and South America. My brother-in-law served in the Peace Corps in Colombia. And the other night, he was getting together with some of the people who served there with him. When we were getting ready to come out here today, and Senator Wofford came in with Mark Gearan, the present Peace Corps

Director, we were celebrating the fact that, if our new budget passes, we will have more people serving in the Peace Corps in the next two years than have ever served in any given year.* We'll be back at an all-time high.

"And we were lamenting the fact that we just had to withdraw our Peace Corps volunteers from Eritrea and Ethiopia, two countries that I have felt particularly close to in the last couple of years, because of the trouble the two countries are having -- the threat to go to war. And the Peace Corps volunteers, going all the way back for decades, have volunteered to try to come in and solve the conflict and deal with the disputed area of land. I don't know if they will accept it, but think of that. All these years later, people that were there years and years and years

ago remember what it was like — not to give a handout, but to give a hand up, and to ask people to understand that their differences are not as important as what they have in common.

"So I thank our Peace Corps volunteers, I thank Mark Gearan, and I thank all of you in AmeriCorps, because you are in the rich tradition of America's citizen service, from the CCC to the Peace Corps to AmeriCorps. Now, six summers after I first came here, AmeriCorps is thriving. There now have been over 100,000 people serve in AmeriCorps in just four years of the full-time program."



* The President overstated the projected number of PCVs — highest in 25 years, not ever.

The First Lady and Eritrea PCVs



Hilary Clinton in national dress poses with the Volunteers in Eritrea, Spring 1997

Group News

RECONNECTing the recently returned

by Jim Solomon (Massawa, Jimma 63-65)

It's six months or so since you came back, and you're just beginning to realize that life isn't going quite the way you want it to. What has been the defining experience of your life so far — the years you lived and worked in Ethiopia or Eritrea — seems to be of little interest to your family and friends, the people who were most important to you before you left. After they ask you what it was like, their attention span seems to be measurable in nanoseconds. You've come back to start graduate school, but neither the instructors nor your fellow students seem to have much appreciation or understanding of what you've lived and done, and the program, about which you were so enthusiastic before you went overseas or which you chose so carefully while there, seems strangely irrelevant to your life now. The skills you took into the Peace Corps, and the ones you acquired there, seem little in demand here, and in this vigorous economy, where employers are said to have such difficulty filling positions, you find it ironic, even troubling that you don't seem to be getting the job you want — the one that seems such a natural for what you can offer.

Do any of these manifestations of reverse culture shock sound familiar, not only to those of you recently returned from Eritrea and Ethiopia, but also to the veterans of the '60s and '70s? Do you know that both Peace Corps and the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA — our umbrella organization) are aware of these problems and are actively going about solving them?

Their program is called Reconnect. Within Peace Corps, there's an office of Returned Volunteer Services (RVS), directed by Susan Musich (Costa Rica).


At the NPCA, Nedra Klee Hartzell (Korea 73-75), a professional career counselor, heads their Reconnect effort. With the help of staff members, Susan and Nedra have devised a program to address the re-entry and readjustment problems of recent RPCVs. They've prepared useful materials and assembled impressive resources for this purpose, and this year they've taken their show on the road, conducting workshops to train interested "older" RPCVs how to provide Reconnect services.

They have conducted these workshops around the country, for local (i.e. "geographical") RPCV groups. I attended one in San Francisco in May, representing the Northern California Peace Corps Association. Some time later it occurred to me that there must be some — maybe a lot of — PCVs recently returned from Ethiopia and Eritrea now living in areas where there are no RPCV organizations nearby. I wondered whether it might be possible to bring together, electronically, a group of interested E&E RPCVs to train them how to provide Reconnect services. They would become familiar with the problems and needs of some of the recently returned, learn what tools are at hand, and participate in a workshop by means of, say, a chat room. (Materials would be distributed by postal mail beforehand.) The workshop could be repeated from time to time, to update materials, share experiences, and invite new people into our far-flung community of Reconnect advisors.

PCVs recently returned from Ethiopia and Eritrea would be made aware of the existence of our program, first at the time of completion-of-service conferences, then through *The Herald*, our Web site, and by word of mouth. With

any luck, one of us who'd received the Reconnect training would be within a reasonable distance to meet with a recent RPCV in person; if not, then the contact and advising could be done by inexpensively by e-mail and, if desired, occasionally by phone. (Some of us old-timers might be amazed to learn that some 90% of recent RPCVs from Ethiopia and Eritrea can be reached by e-mail, even if they don't have computers and on-line services of their own.) In any case, personal contact would be the key to success of the program.

If we can institute the Reconnect program, E&E RPCVs would be the first among country-of-service RPCV groups to do so. We've received a bright green light from RVS at Peace Corps for our idea, and they're interested in promoting it among other country-of-service groups if we succeed.

Are you interested in helping recent RPCVs to adjust to life back home? Or not-so-recent E&E'ers who may be having trouble with career transitions? Do you have expertise in writing resumes? Job-hunting techniques, including using the Internet? Interview strategies? Or would you like to learn more about those things and others, including the availability of inexpensive or free career counseling services, in order to assist other E&E RPCVs, all from the comfort of your own home? If so, please let me know, by e-mail (LSJ63@ix.netcom.com or LSJ63@yahoo.com) or by more traditional means (address and phone number on the last page of this newsletter). If you're recently returned or in job transition and would like to be on the receiving end of our Reconnect services, please do the same. 

Group News

Steering Committee meets in Los Angeles

Minutes provided by Susan Hundt Bergan (Barhar Dar 66-68)

8/14/98 The Steering Committee of the Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs held its annual meeting within the context of the reunion at UCLA, with Marian Haley Beil, Susan Hundt Bergan, Leo Cecchini, Gloria Gieseke Curtis, Nancy Horn and Jim Solomon present.

Financial Matters: Marian provided an overall financial report and initiated a discussion of the finances of the Reunion, the ultimate disposition of which were unclear at that time. Various fund-raising efforts for the organization were discussed but all of them, including the idea of selling hats, were tabled. E&E RPCVs receives between \$300 and \$500 per month from dues collected by the National Peace Corps Association. Leo posed the question of whether or not the financial relationship should be reversed, with dues being paid initially to the country of service group, which in turn would send a contribution to the NPCA if deemed appropriate by that group.

Peace Statement: Marian shared a copy of the House of Representatives resolution calling for an end to the hostilities between Eritrea and Ethiopia and suggested that the group make some gesture on the issue. After discussion, members agreed that we should prepare a simple statement calling for peace, present it to the Reunion assemblage, and then release it to the press. Leo agreed to do the initial draft for the Steering Committee to consider.

1999 NPCA Conference: Next year's NPCA conference will be held in St. Paul in August. It was agreed that we would make a sustained effort to assure

maximum attendance of Ethiopia and Eritrea returned Volunteers at that event.

By-Laws and Tax- Exempt Status: The organization's bylaws have never been finalized, a fact that hinders our ability to operate as we would like. Leo agreed to take on this languishing project and move it along. It was agreed that the bylaws should include criteria to guide us in reviewing projects that are brought to us for funding.

Marian reminded us that our lack of a tax-exempt classification (501c3) continues to be a liability for the organization. She said she would send a message to the attorneys on our mailing list seeking a volunteer to take on this legal task.

Pedals for Progress: Dave Schwiedenbach, the founder of Pedals for Progress, has made a commitment to Eritrea to provide a specific number of refurbished bicycles. He has collected the bicycles and has asked E&E RPCVs for financial assistance to ship them to Eritrea. The turbulent and unpredictable political situation in Eritrea, as well as the Eritrean government's position on foreign assistance, greatly complicates getting the bicycles to their appropriate destination. In addition, it wasn't immediately clear if our financial status could support this request, especially before the final tabulation of costs for the Reunion are known. The issue was tabled.

E-Mail & Internet Topics: Marian entreated Steering Committee members to copy all members on any e-mail message they send so that she does not have to forward messages. Marian reported that she had sent out an e-mail 'hot flash' message to a distribution list of 250 people of which 35 bounced back. Each of those individuals received a postcard message to ensure they received the information. Marian would like to establish an Internet "chat room"

that we could use for such things as periodic committee meetings. Some country of service groups already use this tool with support from the NPCA. We need someone to contact the NPCA for information and assistance with this.

E & E RPCVs Database: Marian continues to update and improve it. She will provide the list to Nancy to use in outreach to RPCVs in the Chicago area.

REConnect Program: Jim explained that this new program from PC Washington is designed to train RPCVs to assist newly returning Volunteers with reentry. It is organized by region of the U.S. Jim said he was willing to investigate the program and lead that effort for E&E RPCVs. The group thought this effort had value and endorsed Jim's involvement for us. Marian, however, noted the frustration of trying to get the names and addresses of new RPCVs from PC Washington, especially if one wants to make the country of service linkage.

Book projects: Joe Tenn experienced great difficulty obtaining the resource books to be given by E&E RPCVs to Ethiopia and Eritrea PCVs. He was eventually able to obtain them through Amazon.com.

Steering Committee members agreed they would continue to investigate where and how to acquire books for Ethiopian and Eritrean schools, especially math and science texts. Nancy said she had heard about a book depot in Madison, Wisconsin that may be promising for us. Gloria mentioned that Patti Garamendi may be helpful to us in getting the books shipped. The state of the Port of Massawa is also an issue. Based on what we learn about all aspects of this project, we may or may not proceed.

John Coyne continues to send recreational-reading books each week for the use of Peace Corps Volunteers in ▶

Group News



THE BOOK LOCKER PROJECT

Steering Committee meets in Los Angeles

(Continued from previous page)

Ethiopia. These books are usually review copies that were originally received by friends in the publishing industry.

enCORPS Update: We support any enCORPS expenses that Wayne Kessler may incur, but currently there is no substantive enCORPS activity. We do not now provide a monthly stipend to Wayne as we did originally. Eritrea has expelled all foreign NGOs and the climate is not conducive for enCORPS. The question was raised as to whether we should consider moving our locus of activities to Ethiopia. Nancy said that she would review listings of NGOs working in Ethiopia to determine if some may be interested in enCORPS personnel. At this time the future of enCORPS is unclear.

Essay Contest Proposal: Marian reported that Frances Scura had proposed a student essay contest for Ethiopian students, with prizes for the winners. The Steering Committee agreed to support this effort with prize money. Contact needs to be made with Peace Corps/Ethiopia to inquire if they are willing to administer such a project.

Review of E&E RPCVs Goals and Achievements: Jim asked that, in response to comments he had heard, we review the goals of the organization and how well Steering Committee members are meeting them. Marian said she saw the goals and purpose of the organization to be: 1) providing a networking forum for RPCVs who served in Ethiopia and Eritrea; 2) providing support to the people of Ethiopia and Eritrea; and 3) supporting PCVs currently serving in those countries. Discussion ensued.

Next Issue of The Herald: Marian will be producing a Herald in a couple of months. She urged Steering Committee members to get their articles to her in a timely fashion.



The Book Locker Committee continues to ship new books to PCVs overseas in Ethiopia. Within the last four months over 500 books were sent to the Resource Room at the Peace Corps Office in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The books included: *OUTSIDE PASSAGE: A MEMOIR OF AN ALASKAN CHILDHOOD* by Julia Scully; *ISLAND JUSTICE*, a novel by Elizabeth Winthrop; *TWO CITIES*, a novel by John Edgar Wideman; *ABOUT THIS LIFE: JOURNEYS ON THE THRESHOLD OF MEMORY* by Barry Lopez; *JUST AS I THOUGHT* by Grace Paley, and such children's books as *ELIZABET'S DOLL* by Stephanie Stuve Bodeen (Tanzania 89-90)

These books come from a variety of publishers and are often bound galleys of soon-to-be-published books. Book Committee coordinator, John Coyne, stamps each book as a gift from E&E, packages them in boxes and send them overseas to the Peace Corps Office, where they are kept in the Resource Room at the Peace Corps Office, available for all PCVs. Since its inception, the committee has sent over 1500 pounds of books to PCVs in Ethiopia and Eritrea.

And more appreciative recipients:

I am writing this letter to express appreciation, on behalf of all Peace Corps Ethiopia Volunteers, for the tremendous effort you have undergone to stock our library with gifts of books.

The books have received a tremendous amount of use, traveling from site to site all around the country. The arrival of a new box is an EVENT . . . every time a new shipment comes, we eagerly tear it apart to see what we can get our hands on next. With a stamp inside each book, we always know show our benefactors are, and are very grateful for your generosity.

When I began my Peace Corps assignment, the Ethiopia reentry program was just a year old. You can imagine how bare our "library" shelves were. There was a small pile of decent literature which we all rotated amongst ourselves. Since then, the selection has continued to grow tremendously. This is, of course, largely due to your efforts.

As much as we are grateful for the books themselves, we are even more appreciative for the thoughts behind them. Your continuing involvement in the Peace Corps Ethiopia program is extremely valuable. Besides serving as a link between the past and the present, it has given us support as we try to do our jobs effectively. Your dedication to the Ethiopia program and its Volunteers is very encouraging.

Thank you once again, from all Ethiopia Volunteers

Yours truly,
Julie Larkin (96-98)

. . . when we were in Eritrea we LOVED the books you all donated to the resource center.

Beckie Taylor (Adi Caieh 97-98)

1999 RPCV CONFERENCE

E&E RPCVs will, as always, be a presence at the 1999 RPCV Conference to be held in St. Paul, Minnesota, August 12 to 15 at the University of St. Thomas.

On Friday, August 12th we shall have a program followed by a dinner at a local Ethiopia/Eritrea restaurant. This is an opportunity for those who weren't able to attend our very successful reunion last year to get together with old friends, learn the latest on Ethiopia and Eritrea, and hear of the activities of our group and how you can become more involved. For those who were at the reunion — you know how great it was — come, do it again!

Steering Committee member CJ Smith Castagnaro — see how to contact her on the 3rd to the last page — welcomes ideas and offers of help in the planning and organizing of our events — especially from those of you in the Twin Cities environs.

There will people to see, places to go, things to do — all to delight the RPCV. Inexpensive housing will be available.

See page 29 for more information and a registration form that tells how you can register early and save!

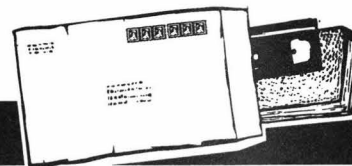
Annual Cash Flow report

Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs

11/1/97-10/31/98

Inc/Exp	
Income	
Donation received	5.00
Dues-includes "Rebates to NC"	893.00
Rebated fr NPCA	3,987.52
Rebates to NC	-440.00
Reunion '98 rcd	33,393.00
	<hr/>
Total Income	37,838.52
Expenses	
Affiliation fee	289.00
Bank charge	71.75
Bklocker proj	852.00
enCorps :	
Reproduction	5.62
supplies	27.10
	<hr/>
Total enCorps	32.72
Geocities fee	19.80
Library	115.00
Misc	15.00
Phone	35.78
Postage	509.48
Reunion '98:	
Banquet	1,450.00
Insurance	568.43
Misc	600.00
Postage	524.72
Reproduction	461.68
Speakers	300.00
Supplies	32.05
t-shirts etc.	1,925.64
UC fees	23,748.54
	<hr/>
Total Reunion '98	29,611.06
Supplies	22.86
The Herald:	
Postage	1,049.07
Reproduction	2,196.80
	<hr/>
Total The Herald	3,245.87
	<hr/>
Total Expenses	34,820.32
	<hr/>
Total Inc/Exp	3,018.20

NOTE: As of 10/31/98 the finances for the reunion had not been finalized and not all bills had been paid. If you would like a final reporting of reunion income and expenses, please contact Marian Haley Beil.



the e&e rpcv library

ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs has a growing library of materials including books, booklets, articles, videos, audio tapes and slides that may be of interest to you.

Items can be borrowed by members for no charge by contacting our librarian, Joe Ciuffini (Harar 64-66), 188 Cabot St, Newton MA 02158, phone: 617/244-0463, email: jmcuiuffini@aol.com.

To learn what is in the library, visit our web site at www.geocities.com/~eerpcv or if you do not have access to the web, a copy of the listing of materials is available from Joe.

If you have materials that other RPCVs might enjoy and you would like to donate them to the library, send them to Joe and we will let our members know of their availability.

New materials in the library

- ▶ Article: "On Guragé Architecture" by **PHILLIP LEBEL** (Emdeber 64-67), *Journal of Ethiopian Studies*, Vol. VII, No.1 (January, 1969). As a follow-up to the article (*The Herald* #19) announcing E&E RPCVs acquisition of the 137-slide set "To Build a Tukul" by Mike Santarelli (Gura 70-73), Phil has sent a copy of this 10-page article with illustrations.
- ▶ Book: *A CALL TO ECONOMIC ARMS: FORGING A NEW AMERICAN MANDATE* by **PAUL TSONGAS** (Ghion 62-64), 1992. 86 pages. [Donated by Marian Haley Beil.]
- ▶ Book: *THE FUNNIEST JOB YOU'LL EVER LOVE: AN ANTHOLOGY OF PEACE CORPS HUMOR* compiled by James Cloutier (Kenya 65-66). West Cascade Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, 1990. 70 pages. [Donated by Marian Haley Beil.]
- ▶ Book: *THE FUNNIEST JOB YOU'LL EVER LOVE: AN ANTHOLOGY OF PEACE CORPS HUMOR* compiled by Beryl Brinkman (Afghanistan 67-69), illustrated by James Cloutier (Kenya 65-66). West Cascade Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, 1991, 101 pages. [Donated by Marian Haley Beil.]
- ▶ Book: *ETHIOPIA* by Eric Torgersen (64-66), Hanging Loose Press, 1983. 49 pages. Poetry. [Donated by Marian Haley Beil.]
- ▶ Book: *STONE SOUP FOR THE WORLD: LIFE-CHANGING STORIES OF KINDNESS & COURAGEOUS ACTS OF SERVICE* edited by Marianne Larned, Conari Press, 1997. 436 pages. [Donated by Marian Haley Beil.]
- ▶ Book: *WAITING FOR THE SNOW: THE PEACE CORPS PAPERS OF A CHARTER VOLUNTEER* by Thomas J. Scanlon (Chile 61-63), Posterity Press, 1997. A Peace Corps memoir. [Donated by Marian Haley Beil.]
- ▶ Book: *THE ESSENTIAL INTERNET: BASICS FOR NGOs FROM ALLIANCE FOR A GLOBAL COMMUNITY VITA* and InterAction. 1995. 47 pages.
- ▶ Book: *GOING UP COUNTRY: TRAVEL ESSAYS BY PEACE CORPS WRITERS*, Edited by **JOHN COYNE**, with a Foreward by **SENATOR HARRIS WOFFORD**, Scribners, 1994; 305 pages. (See a review of this fine book in the "Review" section of this newsletter. [Donated by Marian Haley Beil.]
- ▶ Booklet: *SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: A MANUAL ON HOW TO REACH WASHINGTON* by Constituency for Sustainable Development, National Peace Corps Association, 1993, 31 pages.
- ▶ Booklet: *HOW TO REACH WASHINGTON* by Constituency for Sustainable Development, National Peace Corps Association, 1995, 30 pages.
- ▶ Book: *SPEAKERS' BUREAU KIT: A HANDBOOK FOR RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER GROUPS*, edited by Susan Neyer, National Peace Corps Association in cooperation with the Peace Corps, 1992, 98 pages. A guide for those who would like to heighten public awareness of Third World countries and development issues by speaking to community groups, students, and others.
- ▶ Book: *ALTERNATIVES TO THE PEACE CORPS: A DIRECTORY OF THIRD WORLD & U.S. VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES*, Edited by Phil Lowenthal, Stephanie Tarnoff and Lisa David, Food First Books, 1996. 84 pages. A resource for those of you who have an interest in volunteering overseas again. Has a pretty annoying section painting the Peace Corps as a major tool of U.S. foreign policy.
- ▶ Booklet: *The Loret Miller Ruppe Memorial Lecture 3/17/98*. Guest speaker The Honorable John Hume, Member of Parliament from Northern Ireland, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate. Includes an introduction of the speaker by Mark Gearan, and questions. 9 pages.
- ▶ Booklet: *Dedication of the Peace Corps Building and Shriver Hall, 15 September 1998*. 30 pages; photos. With comments by Ambassador Charles Baquet (Somalia 66-68), Deputy Director of the Peace Corps; Mark D. Gearan, Director of the Peace Corps; Senator Christopher Dodd (Dominican Republic 66-68); Senator Paul Coverdell (past PC Director); Ursula Hawe (Jordan 97-); Her Majesty Queen

Group News

Noor of Jordan; Donna Shalala (Iran 62–64), Secretary of Health and Human Services; Sargent Shriver (first PC Director); First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Makes you wish you'd been there.

- ▶ Booklet: *Looking at Ourselves and Others*, Peace Corps: World Wise Schools, 1998. 102 pages.

A guide for teachers to help them in teaching their students about other countries, other cultures. A compliment to the World Wise Schools program that matches PCVs with US students in grades 3 to 12 to exchange, letters, pictures, artifacts and understanding about people around the world.

- ▶ Booklet: *The Uprooted: Case Material on Ethnic Eritrean Deportees from Ethiopia Concerning Human Rights Violations* by Prof Asmarom Legesse on behalf of Citizens for Peace in Eritrea. Published in US by the Eritrean Human Rights Task Force, 1998. 62 pages

- ▶ Articles: Handouts from Reunion, 1998.

- ▶ Booklet: "Peace Corps Collection Folder Title List." Contents of the Peace Corps Collection at the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum. 32 pages. (NOTE: You are invited to donate diaries, letters, journals, memoirs, manuscripts, photographs, slides, films, video tapes, pamphlets, mews clips and drawings of your Peace Corps experience to this resource library. For more information, contact Stephen Plotkin, John F. Kennedy Library, Columbia Point, Boston MA 02125, phone: 617 929 4524; email: stephen.plotkin@kennedy.nara.gov)

- ▶ Booklet: *Peace Corps Fellows/USA Program: Employment and Education Opportunities for Returned Volunteers: Program Catalog* 44 pages.

Lists the 26 universities that host Fellows Programs plus brief descriptions of each program.

More library additions with comments by our librarian, Joe Ciuffini

A special thanks to Joe for donating a variety of interesting books and other materials to the library.

- ▶ Book: *THE FIRST LOOK AT STRANGERS* by Robert Bunker and John Adair. Rutgers University Press, 1959 (This book predates the Peace Corps. Studies were conducted in 1949, '50, '51)

Cornell University's seminar on working with other cultures. Students in this seminar spend a summer of training and sensitivity working with southwestern cultures in the US. Remarkable similarities to the Peace Corps experience and may be part of the impetus for its founding.

- ▶ Book: *CAN DO! (SAID SUE): A RICH LIFE HELPING THE POOR* by Sue Sadow. Beaumont Books (probably First Edition) 1992.

Sue's autobiography; A rich life involved in humanitarian service. Sue was a PCV in Sierra Leone. Part of this book is excerpted from the book of her experiences in Sierra Leone entitled *INTO AFRICA WITH THE PEACE CORPS*, (Beaumont Books). [Donation to the library by Joe Ciuffini]

- ▶ Book: *PAWPAW, FOOFU AND JUJU : REFLECTIONS OF A PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER* by Marvin H. Unger, Citadel Press (First Edition), 1968.

Marvin was a PCV in Liberia from 1964–66. Of interest are his reflections about the power of a person in the guise of a PCV.

- ▶ Book: *HEART OF LIGHTNESS: EXPERIENCES OF A PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER IN AFRICA* by Anne Grimshaw Kempers, Peter E. Randall Publishers, (probably First Edition) ,1993

Anne was a PCV in Bukavu, Zaire (formerly Belgian Congo) Also interesting reflections. [Donation to the library by Joe Ciuffini]

- ▶ Book: *THE PEACE CORPS IN CAMEROON* by Justin Amin. Kent State University Press, 1992

The best part is the pics that are included — with one of the now famous author, Mary-Ann Tirone Smith, in national dress and European dress acting as head librarian. I may use those pics to blackmail her for the Gary and the Pigs Short that was in the Peace Corps collection! :-) [Donation to the library by Joe Ciuffini]

- ▶ Book: *THE PEACE CORPS: A PICTORIAL HISTORY* edited by Aaron J. Ezickson. Hill and Wang Publishers, 1965. Introduction by Sargent Shriver.

Given that the first Volunteers went out in 1961, this is a remarkable book of histories and pictures. Twenty-eight host countries are included: in Latin America — Bolivia, Peru, Chile, Ecuador, Venezuela, Brazil, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, British Honduras, Colombia; Asia — Cyprus, Turkey,

▶

Group News

the e&e rpcv library cont.

Afghanistan, Nepal, Thailand, Malaysia; and Africa — Morocco, Tunisia, Guinea, Ghana, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Tanzania, Togo. Each country is a 3 or 4 page spread.

The section on Ethiopia was especially important to me as I learned that Dennis Fox is the name of the guy in the Peace Corps literature teaching an attentive class with great animation who I identified with and thought to myself: "He's having a great time. I'd like to do that, too!" So thanks to Dennis Fox! [Donation to the library by Joe Ciuffini]

► Book: *WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR THE PEACE CORPS: AN ORAL HISTORY OF THE PEACE CORPS* by Karen Schwartz. Morrow Publishers, 1991.

16 pages of pics — Vols in country. This book is a realistic look at the Peace Corps up to 1989. The author has no axe to grind, but does not sugar coat anything.

[Donation to the library by Joe Ciuffini]

► Book: *National Geographic* Vol. 126, No. 3. September 1964 "Ambassadors of Good Will" by Sargent Shriver. Lead articles about the Peace Corps in Bolivia, Tanganyika, Turkey, Sarawak, Ecuador with reports by Volunteers there. The cover features Rhoda Brooks who later was to write "The Barrios of Manta" . [Donation to the Library by Joe C.]

► Article: "The End of the World" by Kenny Moore, *Sport Illustrated*, pages 78-95, 12/4/95

Mamo Wolde's story of incarceration without charges in an Ethiopian prison.

► Article: "Peace Corps: Obvious Asset" by Coleman McCarthy, *The Baltimore Sun* 3/1/98. Subtitled: "Agency Fosters Dream of changing World through Peaceful Service"

► Article: "Simply Living Her Dream," *Daily Herald* 3/19/98.

PCV Joie Kallison's death in an Auto Accident in Namibia.

► *Peace Corps Volunteer* magazines. **Donations to the Library are always welcome!**

These mags are chock full of the best of the Peace Corps in the early days. Sure we looked "geeky" by today's standards, but the pics tell a story of people involved in the lives of other people.

Vol 2 #6, April 1964
 Vol 2 #7, May 1964
 Vol 2 #9, July 1964
 Vol 2 # 10, August 1964
 Vol 2 # 11, September 1964
 Vol 2 # 12, October 1964
 Vol 3 #1, November 1964
 Vol 3 #2, December 1964
 Vol 3 #3, January 1965
 Vol 3 #4, February 1965
 Vol 3 #5, March 1965
 Vol 3 #6, April 1965
 Vol 3 #7, May 1965
 Vol 3 # 8-9, June-July 1965
 Vol 3 #10, August 1965
 Vol 3 #11, September 1965
 Vol 3 #12, October 1965
 Vol 4 #1, November 1965
 Vol 4 #2, December 1965
 Vol 4 #7, May 1966
 Vol 5 #9, July 1967
 Vol 5 #10, August 1967
 Vol 5 #11, September 1967
 Vol 6 #2, December 1967
 Vol 7 #8, July 1969
 10th Anniversary Issue Summer 1971

THANKS

to John Barnes
 for responding to
 the request for a good
 map of Ethiopia & Eritrea
 and sharing his.

A fond memory

BILL HERRONS (64-66) writes:
 "Along with other PCVs in Ethiopia, I met the late Robert Kennedy when he traveled there to pick up an award from Haile Selassie I University in April 1966."

Recognition

In the 1998 newsletter competition among Peace Corps groups conducted by the National Peace Corps Association, *The Herald* was the winner for best editorial content.



BOOK NOTES

► **KARLENE CLAUSE FAITH** (staff 65–67), who is an associate professor at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, British Columbia, has had several books published since 1975. Most recently, *MADONNA: BAWDY & SOUL* (University of Toronto Press, \$45.00) about the pop-music icon, came out in 1997. Visit Amazon.com for more information on her books. Or email Karlene at: 2Canada@concentric.net

► Published in August of 1998 was *AN INN NEAR KYOTO: WRITING BY AMERICAN WOMEN ABROAD* edited by **KATHLEEN COSKRAN** (Addis Ababa; Dilla 65–67) and C.W. Truesdale (New Rivers Press, 450 pages, paper, \$21.95). Among the contributors, **KATHLEEN MOORE** (Emdeber 65–66). Her piece is entitled “Returning.”

► “A Vacation” a poem by **ERIC TORGERSEN** (64–66) was featured in the May 1998 issue of *RPCV Writers & Readers*.

► **JOHN COYNE** (Addis Ababa 62–64) was one of three RPCV writers who participated in a reading — “The Peace Corps Experience” — at the mid-Manhattan Library in New York on January 11th. Coyne read from *THE GREAT ADVENTURE: VOLUNTEER STORIES OF LIFE OVERSEAS*. It is the third in a series of collected essays by returned Volunteers which he edited, and were published by Peace Corps. It includes “Rose Garden Redux” by Coyne, “So This Is Paris” by Kathleen Johnson Coskran (Addis Ababa; Dilla 65–67), and “The Right Way to Grow Tomatoes” by Karen Dewitt (Ghion 66–68) and others.

► In December, 1998, **WILLIAM SERAILE** (Makele 63–65) published *FIRE IN HIS HEART: BISHOP BENJAMIN TUCKER TANNER AND THE A.M.E. CHURCH* (Univer-

sity of Tennessee Press). \$32.50 (Amazon price: \$22.75), 296 pages, ISBN: 1572330279

► **JON EBLING** (Debre Marcos, Dira Dawa 62–64) writes: I’ve got a book review coming out in the near future on the book by Tekeste Negash entitled *ERITREA AND ETHIOPIA: THE FEDERAL EXPERIENCE* (Transaction Pub [Rutgers University, New Brunswick NJ], 1997, \$26.95, paperback, ISBN: 1560009926). It will appear in *Perspectives on Political Science* in the Fall, 1998 or the Spring, 1999 — I’m not sure which one. The book is really a very astute coverage of the developments under the British and U.S just after the end of the Second World War. It does provide some good thoughts on the current problems in the area.

► We recently learned that in 1980 **RICHARD SHERMAN** (Adigrat 68–70) published *ERITREA: THE UNFINISHED REVOLUTION*. (NY: Praeger)

► In an article on writer John Grisham's new book, *THE TESTAMENT*, in *USA TODAY*, Thursday, February 11th, he says he is a man of few regrets, but wishes “I’d joined the Peace Corps . . . for a couple years out of college.”

New books of interest available from amazon.com

► John Coyne writes: In case you haven't heard there is ANOTHER new book on the Peace Corps of the 1960s. This is by Fritz Fischer from the University of Northern Colorado. The title is: *MAKING THEM LIKE US: PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS IN THE 1960s*. In the acknowledgments the author writes: “The title of

the book might appear to some as an indictment of the Peace Corps and its volunteers. Quite the contrary — as the reader will find out, the experiences of volunteers promoted a new spirit of dialogue and understanding between Americans and the rest of the world.”

MAKING THEM LIKE US: PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS IN THE 1960s by Fritz Fischer, Smithsonian Institution Press, October 1998, 256 pages, hardcover-\$27.95, Amazon Price: \$19.57. ISBN: 1560988894

► *OROMO NATIONALISM AND THE ETHIOPIAN DISCOURSE: THE SEARCH FOR FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY* by Asafa Jalata, Red Sea Press, August 1998, 430 pages, hardcover-\$79.95, Amazon \$55.96, paperback-\$21.95, Amazon \$17.56. ISBN: 1569020655, 1569020663 (paper)

► *TO FIGHT AND LEARN: THE PRAXIS AND PROMISE OF LITERACY IN ERITREA'S INDEPENDENCE WAR* by Leslie Gottesman, Red Sea Press, June 1998, 330 pages, paperback-\$21.95, Amazon-\$17.56. ISBN: 156902068X

► *ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE: THE PEACE CORPS AND THE SPIRIT OF THE 1960s* by Elizabeth Cobbs Hoffman, Harvard University Press, May 1998, 336 pages, hardcover-\$27.95, Amazon \$19.57. ISBN: 0674016351

► *RE-IMAGINING IDENTITY: THE DIVERGENT PATHS OF THE ERITREAN AND TIGRAYAN NATIONALIST STRUGGLES* by Alemseged Abbay, Red Sea Press, June 1998, 250 pages, hardcover-\$79.95, Amazon \$55.96. ISBN: 156902071X



Book reviews

The Great Adventure*

Volunteer Stories of Life Overseas

Edited by John Coyne
(Addis Ababa 1962–64)
Peace Corps, 1997
245 pages

Reviewed by Frances Scura (Addis Ababa 1967–68)

This little book is published by the Peace Corps for recruiting purposes, but is also an interesting read for returned Volunteers. It includes stories by the first Volunteers as well as newer Volunteers and includes five essays by Ethiopian returned Volunteers.

The contributions from Ethiopian RPCV's are "So This is Paris" by Kathleen Coskran, (Dilla 65–67); "The Pink Eraser" by Karen DeWitt (Ghion 66–68); "May the Circle be Unbroken," by John Garamundi (Addis Ababa 66–68); and "Rose Garden Rudux," by John Coyne (Addis Ababa 62–64).

The stories in this book are sometimes amusing, like "The King of Latrines" by Peter Halpert (Senegal 77–79). Peter built latrines and when the rains destroyed his own latrine, he fell in and barely escaped with his life and his dignity.

Many other stories focus on certain incidents that touched the Volunteer's imagination and lifted an ordinary moment in an isolated, far off place, to an epiphany of insight into the greatness of the human spirit.

Ambassador Charles R. Baquet, III (Somalia 65–67) tells in "Finding My Village" how his former students

admitted years later that they made sure his projects to help them failed in order "to see how he'd react." In fact, to the amusement of his students, he reacted by trying over and over again to win them over. He left thinking he had failed, but when he returned to the region years later as US Ambassador to Djibuti, he learned how much they loved him. He was the only outsider they trusted to negotiate peace between their tribes because they said he "was their ambassador."

Learning "how you will react" is indeed one of the suspenseful dramas of Peace Corps life.

THE GREAT ADVENTURE is naturally a selection of stories and essays with a distinctly positive spin to the Peace Corps experience, but by no means is the book a white wash of the very real challenges Volunteers face. Matthew Heller in "Cold Mornings" (Mongolia 95–97) tells how, after spending every night in his tent in -50 degrees F, he lit his fire in the cold, dark, early morning and asked himself "who I am, where I'm from, why I'm here and what I'm doing. I answered, I am a young Volunteer spending 8 hours a day with Mongolians building a greenhouse with other teachers so there will be more vegetables. I'm learning how they live." He further asked himself: "How valuable is the contribution I'm making and is it really worth being this cold? For 18 months, I've been waking up and thinking it is."

We may never have suffered such extreme cold, but nevertheless, we can relate to Matthew's questions. In fact, I can relate to all the stories in this book. I wish I'd read them 30 years ago when I was a Volunteer. I could have used some of their tips on how to solve

problems and drawn inspiration from their experiences. One value of reading this book is to know that our experiences are universal to other Volunteers and our challenges, successes and failures are shared by all of us. Another value of reading this book is to reaffirm how much we've gained.

(This book is available free by calling the Peace Corps recruiting office nearest you by calling 1-800-424-8580 then press 1.)

Many stories of the stories in *The Great Adventure* can be read at the website <http://www.peacecorps.gov>)

Stone Soup for the World*

Life Changing Stories of Kindness and Courageous Acts of Service

Edited by Marianne Larned
Conari Press, 1998
436 pages
ISBN: 1573241180

Includes "Kennedy and the Peace Corps" by Senator Harris Wofford (Country Dir 62–64)

Reviewed by Frances Scura

Reading John Coyne's book, *THE GREAT ADVENTURE* made me want to jump up and join the Peace Corps all over again. As I read the essays written by Volunteers, I felt energized by their enthusiasm. I said to myself, "I've been there. I've done that too. Wow!" Now I feel I could be a much better volunteer after having read *GREAT ADVENTURE*.

The stories by Volunteers in John's book are uplifting because the focus is on

* Available from our librarian.



practical and positive solutions to problems not the problems themselves. The stories do not even mention that the people the Volunteers work with are poor and lack education, family structure, and many other resources including medical help, adequate food, etc.

This is understood. The focus is on how Volunteers used their own inner resources to deal with these problems.

It is a different case altogether with the present book, *STONE SOUP FOR THE WORLD*, edited by Marian Larned. Ms. Larned may be sincere and have dedicated her life to service, but her book has many flaws. It is neither a pleasure to read, nor a useful reference guide to nonprofit organizations.

The first problem with *STONE SOUP* is that most of the stories are not well written. Besides the fact that when the stories are read one after the other they are a depressing litany of inner-city problems, most of the stories are not written by volunteers themselves but by journalists and administrators and their writing is less than inspired.

For example, to say of Eleanor Roosevelt, "She was so great. She kept her promises. I met her once!" does nothing to impart the greatness of Mrs. Roosevelt. A speech or story taken from Mrs. Roosevelt herself would be better. The story about Mother Teresa unwittingly makes President Reagan the hero of the story instead of Mother Teresa. It tells how President Reagan came to her rescue to help the people of Ethiopia. The story does not even mention that Mother Teresa opened a chapter of the Sisters of Charity in Ethiopia and it is doing good work there.

To be fair, it takes a truly gifted writer — a Pulitzer or Booker prizewinner — to impart enthusiasm, inspiration and awe in a story written in the third person. Many of the stories are about truly remarkable people. Some of the stories are even about children who saw a need to start their own volunteer organizations. Since these children are so remarkable, why couldn't they be trusted to write their story in their own words?

The few stories that are well written and have impact are the ones written by true heroes of our time, like Nelson Mandela, and leave you hungry for more. Sadly, these stories are the exception rather than the rule.

Secondly, the book is not organized for easy use as a reference book. Organizations are infrequently listed in the table of contents with the title and author. Yet, isn't the point of the book to promote joining organizations and getting involved in something? Unfortunately, organizations are only listed in the back of the book, and then, not alphabetically for easy reference but by catchword categories like "What One Person Can Do," "Global Village," and "Cultural Healing which could include anything or everything. So you have to read the whole list to see which organizations are listed. This listing also does not provide cross reference with individual stories in the book. Thus, the only way to know if a particular organization is represented by a story is to read each story and see if an organization is mentioned in it and often that is only in a legend at the conclusion of the story.

Thirdly, the book is not even amenable to browsing by using the table of contents. If you find a title that looks

interesting, it is difficult to find it in the book. The page numbers throughout the book have cutsy little stars printed and clustered on top of the page numbers so you can't read them.

Finally, the book is simply not well edited. There are many errors that a careful copy editor could have corrected. To me, this shows the editor was in a hurry or did not care or expect people to actually read every story in the book.

I wish I could say with Colin Powell and Caroline Kennedy and others who recommend the book that I enjoyed reading the stories in this book, but I did not.

However, I passionately believe in volunteer work and I would say to Ms. Larned: "Shame on you. Volunteers deserve better than this."

I can, however, recommend you to read John Coyne's book. Then find an organization on the world-wide-web or phone book and go out and do something and write your own story.

One House

The Battle of Adwa 1896 — 100 Years

Edited by Pamela S. Brown and Fassil Yirgu
Nyala Publishing
1250 West Addison Street
Chicago IL 60613-3840
144 pages; \$37.00

Reviewed by Michael Santarelli (*Gura* 70-73)

In 1896, the unified Kingdom of Italy joined the European scramble for African colonies by trying to annex



Ethiopia from their military base in Eritrea. The Italian government sent a 20,000 man expeditionary force to invade Ethiopia with the intent to conquer and rule her people and exploit the vast riches of this independent African nation. However, on March 1, 1896, a 100,000 strong, unified Ethiopia army, led by Emperor Menelik II, defeated the Italians at the Battle of Adwa thus preserving Ethiopia's sovereignty while thwarting the colonialistic ambitions of hostile European neighbors upon her territory.

This stunning victory and the social, political, and military implications of that important battle, are eloquently and informatively described and illustrated in the coffee-table book *ONE HOUSE: THE BATTLE OF ADWA 1896*. *ONE HOUSE* is a journalistic and artistic celebration of the 100-year anniversary, commemorated on March 1, 1996, of the Battle of Adwa — a momentous historical event which marked the first time a nonwhite country defeated a European power. *ONE HOUSE* celebrates the ethnic coalition of diverse Ethiopia peoples — Amhara, Tigray, Gurage, Oromo, Muslims, Christians, northerners, southerners — who cast aside social and religious differences for the good of their nation.

The story of *ONE HOUSE* is told through contemporary prose, poetry, art and historical fiction combined with century-old newspaper accounts, personal observations, and etchings. The eclectic collection of over fifty illustrations and paintings is reason enough to find enjoyment with this book but when combined with the informative essays and accounts provided by a star-studded cast of authors, it becomes a must-read. For

instance, Donald L. Levine, the well-known sociologist and author of *Wax and Gold*, writes about the Battle of Adwa as an "historic" event. Richard Pankhurst, Ethiopia's foremost historian, describes the battle in detail, and then tells us how the news was received in England (with shock) and the reverberating diplomatic consequences in Europe, Ethiopia and the Sudan. Ethiopia's Poet Laureate, Tsegaye Gabre-Medhin, captures the national psyche with poetic lines that are as powerful as they are poignant. Amare Tegbaru, Ethiopia historical novelist, lends his expertise by recalling the battle of Adwa and the glory of Menelik through a fictional street scene that can easily be visualized as occurring in present-day Addis Ababa. By employing these, as well as other prominent writers and artists, the Nyala editors, Pamela S. Brown and Fassil Yirgu, succeeded in capturing the significance and essence of this historical world event.

ONE HOUSE is a must see/must read book for anyone interested in visiting or working in Ethiopia as it will provide an understanding of the national heritage of cooperation, courage, and pride. *ONE HOUSE* is also a basic primer for renegade governments bent on genocidal destruction who wrongly think that "ethnic cleansing," rather than "ethnic consensus," is the political route to strong nation building. The historical story of *ONE HOUSE* is strong testament to the benefits of cooperating for the common cause of country, and that cultural heritage still influences Ethiopia today.

Going up Country* Travel Essays of Peace Corps Writers

Edited by John Coyne
(Ethiopia 1962–64)
Scribners, \$21.00
305 pp.
March, 1994

Reviewed by Kitty Thuermer (Mali 1977–79)

An old Zimbabwe proverb insists that "If you can walk, you can dance, if you can talk, you can sing." To which I would only add, after spending some delicious winter nights with *GOING UP COUNTRY, TRAVEL ESSAYS BY PEACE CORPS WRITERS*, "if you can read, you can go on some pretty hellacious trips."

Hellacious indeed. You can strap yourself into a bucking C-130 Hercules with Mike Tidwell (Zaire 1985-87), and, at 30,000 feet above the Amazon, pee in your pants when the pilot screams at you in Español to tell him when you've spotted the lost airstrip. Or, if you jump on the back of a truck crossing the Somali desert with redoubtable redhead Jeanne D'Haem (Somalia 1968-70), you might as well lean back and enjoy the raspy sensation of a lion licking your ankle, for it is a mere portent of weirder things to come. If you hang out on safari in Kenya's Masai Mara with Richard Wiley (Korea 1967-69), your Japanese will come in handy when you rescue two Tokyois whose Suzuki brings dishonor to the Samurai name. And if you're climbing Mt. Cameroon with Mary-Ann Tirone Smith (Cameroon 1965-67), a gang of prisoners and a little girl called Plebiscite, there's no way you're going to miss reaching the summit just because the sleazy Holly-

* Available from our librarian.



wood advance man you agreed to escort, nay sleep with, collapses from dengue fever. No way.

Some might argue that the thirteen authors of *GOING UP COUNTRY* practice one up-countrysmanship. But the interesting thing about this anthology is that none of the writers is a travel virgin; most, in fact, are travel junkies and whores — P. F. Kluge (Micronesia 1967-69), Kathleen Coskran (Ethiopia 1965-67) and Bob Shacochis (St. Vincent 1975-76) come most immediately to mind. And under the spell of the tales, by Leonard Leavitt (Tanzania 1963-65) and Susan Lowerre (Senegal 1985-87), we re-live the Peace Corps experience through the bizarre time and space warp of an accompanying spouse.

Why did we travel in the first place? And why do we keep coming back for more? For that we must look to John Coyne, editor of *UP COUNTRY*, and patron saint of struggling RPCV writers. It is Coyne who, for the past decade, has determined that our peculiar voice deserves a literary niche of its own, Coyne who has played Alistair Cooke to our Masterpeace theatrical experience. Yet, there's probably no answer to the question (why we travel), Kathleen Coskran's wonderful "I don't know what's going on and I'm in the middle of it" admission notwithstanding.

I don't know what's going on either, but I do know that RPCV readers and writers will relish this book. Some of the stories, written by relative rookies, dance circles around a few of those penned by veterans. But like an international cookbook, there's room for all kinds of taste. And I have to confess that after I finished going up country with *UP COUNTRY*, I — who am tone-deaf and careen rather than dance — found myself rocking around the room, belting

out the lyrics to afrobeat-reggae-juju-pop songs. Well, not really, but I did go out and buy a one-way ticket. To the middle of it. And though it was high season, *W'allahi*, I got an RPCV discount.

Kitty Thuermer is Director of Information for Population International — in other words, a condom trafficker.

Review reprinted with permission from RPCV Writers & Readers, March 1994.

First Footsteps in East Africa, or An Exploration of Harar

by Richard F. Burton

Isabel Burton, photographer
Dover, 1987

544 pages
\$12.95 (paperback),
(Amazon.com \$10.36)
ISBN: 0486254755

Previously published in London
in 1894

*Reviewed by Virginia Jama
(Somalia 66-68)*

Through the Internet, I was able to buy an old book-friend, *FIRST FOOTSTEPS IN EAST AFRICA*, the account by Sir Richard Francis Burton of his dangerous trip in 1854 from Zayla on the Red Sea through Somaliland to reach the forbidden city of Harar in Abyssinia. The horn of Africa was little known to the West at that time, but the British desired to penetrate it and establish trade. Burton, a scholar of Oriental culture, accepted the challenge and disguised himself as a Moslem merchant travelling through rough countryside

inhabited by Somali tribes. He had no guarantee of safe passage. Because Burton possessed an appreciation of Arabia and the Koran, however, he could begin to understand the Somali nomads who were muck like the wandering Bedouins. Burton hired Somali fellows in Aden, the Yemeni port, to guide him on the journey. The peculiarities of each individual are outlined. One man is nicknamed "The End of Time" after "the corruption of the Moslem priesthood at the end of the world." Two formidable Somali women resembling "the stony beauties of Egypt." Called by Burton Shahrazad and Dunyazad after ladies fabled in the Arabian Nights, are the ones who lead the camel caravan. Burton's grasp of eastern mythology is detailed in footnotes to accompany the book. Humor and illumination of tribes and personalities make *FIRST FOOTSTEPS* a treasure.

Of interest to anyone who loves to read about exploration, languages and culture. *FIRST FOOTSTEPS* was praised by Burton's wife and editor, Isabel Burton, as relevant in 1894, fifty years after Burton's visit, when the Italian Army invaded Abyssinia, still a land of mystery. In our pre-millennium era, the book is excellent for its insights into the geography, politics, flora and fauna, and character of the peoples of the Horn of Africa. Burton was a genius, no doubt, backed by rich learning and a certain madness to achieve the impossible.

This review appeared in TESOL Matters and is reprinted with the permission of the reviewer.

F R I E N D S

► In October, **ALAN AND SUSANNE BOYD's** (Gondar 64–66) nephew, Aaron Nighswander, became the eighth member of their family to join the Peace Corps. Aaron was born in Liberia where his parents were Volunteers in the 70s. Another aunt and uncle served in Malawi, and, Alan and Susanne's daughter, Christina, was a PCV in Nepal from 1991 to 1993.

► **RON FERRIER** (Asmara 62–64) gets credit from his cousin, Peace Corps Deputy Director Chuck Baquet (Somalia 65–67), for inspiring him to join the Peace Corps. Read about it at: www.peacecorps.gov/essays/africa/somalichuck.html. At this Peace Corps web page essays from other RPCVs can be found, including ones by **DAVID ARNOLD** (Asbe Tefari 64–66), **KATE COLLINS** (Arjo Ethiopia 95–97), **KATHLEEN COSKRAN** (Addis Ababa; Dilla 65–67), **JOHN COYNE** (Addis Ababa 62–64) and **KAREN DEWITT** (Ghion 66–68).

► There was a long article about **ALMAZ ZEWDIE SULLIVAN** (Aleta Wendo 96–98) in the *Addis Tribune* telling of her life — born in Ethiopia, adopted along with her brother Tadesse by **ROBERT SULLIVAN** (Addis Ababa 68–70), raised in the U.S. and then returned to Ethiopia as a PCV. Robert subsequently wrote a letter to the editor telling of his great pride in Almaz and Tadesse and their commitment to Ethiopia.

► On behalf of her school, PCV **JULIE HENSLEY** (Ethiopia) was the recipient of an International Support Fund grant from the San Diego Peace Corps Association. She wrote to the group: "Thanks again for your support from all of us in the garden of Eden."

► An article that jarred many memories entitled "Ethiopian Memoirs," by **ELLEN SHIVELY** (Asmara 68–70), was featured on the front page of *Pacific Waves*, the newsletter of the San Diego Peace Corps Association.

► **DAVE GURR** (Addis Ababa 62–64), who, along with Leo Cecchini, has been meeting with the ambassadors to the US from Eritrea and Ethiopia, wrote: One thing that impressed me with meeting with both Ambassadors is their virtually similar experience with the Peace Corps. The Eritrean Ambassador had been taught by an Ethi I in Addis (Charlie Mitchner, I think), and then taught Amharic to PCVs in country in the late 60s. The Ethiopian Ambassador had known a PC librarian who explained to him the idea of "rights." And, in the early 70s, he taught PCVs in country.

► **JOHN & LIZ BARNES** (Addis Ababa 66–68), **JOE CIUFFINI** (Harar 64–66), and **MARCIA CHAFEE**, attended the Ethiopian New Year's Celebration, "Inqutatash," at the Sonesta Hotel in Cambridge, Massachusetts. John Barnes was privileged to fill-in between Ethiopian bands with some folk melodies on the clarinet.

► In October, **JOHN DAVIS** (Gondar 62–64) left for a year in at the South Pole. He is maintaining five telescopes for the University of Chicago. His wife, **PEGGY** (also Gondar 62–64) stayed behind in Indiana as she is close to retirement with the extension service.

► On June 25th, mystery writer **RICHARD LIPEZ** (Debre Markos/Addis Ababa 62–64) was interviewed on National Public Radio by Maureen Corrigan, the regular book reviewer on Terry Gross's daily program, "Fresh Air" for 20-minute. Dick publishes under his pen name, Richard Stevenson.

Deaths

RON CHIRLIN (Fiche 68–70) died this past summer of lymphoma. He leaves a wife, Janet, two children, Elsbeth and Benjamin. Ron was a lawyer at the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

BURTON O. ALLEN (Gondar 64–66) passed away on April 9, 1998 in Lima Peru, where he was serving with the U.S. Embassy. His brother Carl wrote: In going through his papers, I find that he was planning to attend the reunion in Los Angeles in August.

WANDA SOCHA (Addis Ababa 62–64) died December 16, 1997. Her nephew wrote: My dear Aunt . . . loved her service in Ethiopia.

JOHN MORAVEK (Giwani, Harar 69–71) died of a heart attack on July, 10, 1995.

On June 3, 1997, **RICHARD E. PECK** (Addis Ababa 66–68) drowned in the Ganges River in New Delhi while trying to rescue a 10-year-old boy. The boy also perished. Richard was working for the World Health Organization in India. He is survived by his wife, Sydney, and two daughters, Erica and Anthea.

We have also received notice of the deaths of the following Ethiopia and Eritrea RPCVs with no additional information:

ROBERTA C. KRAMER (64–66), **WILMA WOODS** and **JOSEPH SZURCSIK** (Addis Ababa 65)

LOST & FOUND

When a query is received about an Ethiopia or Eritrea RPCV, it is sent directly to the RPCV if we have his/her current address. We only publish queries 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.

TOM VOGT (Adi Caieh 64-66) is looking for **DIANE ASHLEY** who served at the same time in Senafe. Contact Tom at: 2205 Manoa Road, Honolulu HI 96822 or tom@hawaii.rr.com

Clare Shea (Debre Marcos 65-67) is looking for the Two Janets — **JANET BROWN** and **JANET MORAN** who served in Debre Marcos from 1964 to 1966. Contact Clare at: 6631 Wakefield Dr. #410, Alexandria VA 22307; phone: 703-660-5956; email: CLARESHEA@aol.com

Adel A. Isaw is looking for **CATHY** who served in Wukro (Tigray), who was originally from Chicago. Contact Adele at 323-291-0815, cellphone: 310-918-6660, fax: 323-291-0841; 4818 Tacana St, Apt. 8, Los Angeles CA 90008.

RPCVs **JUDY** and **MARK WHO SERVED IN AGGARO** (Jimma) a young boy whose family owned the local bakery is looking for you. Please contact: Yoseph Yohannes, 785 Clermont St., No. 5, Denver, CO 80220, telephone 303-399-5032

MARY COMBS POWELL (Lekempte 64-66) would like to reconnect with **PAUL COMBS** (64-65). If you know how to contact Paul, write Mary at: 53 Red Dog Road, Winthrop WA 98862 or dpowel@methow.com, or call her at: 509/996-2393.

PETER BANCK (Addis Ababa 67-68) is looking for **DAN GRECO** (Ghion 67-) and **ALICE LEETH ADAMSON** (Debre Marcos, Makelle 67-69). If you can help, contact Peter at: Poste Restante, Hydra 180 40 GREECE, phone: (30) 298 52316, email: banck@compulink.gr

STEPHANIE BRADLEY (Afabet, Eritrea 97-98) is now in Shenzhen, China and would love to hear from other **ERITREA IIIs**. You can email her at: expatstef@hotmail.com

EUGENE MITCHELL (Asmara 64-66) is trying to find **MARCIA PERKINS** who taught at Haile Selassie I Secondary School in Asmara from 1964 to 1966. He last saw her in Miami during the 1970s. He is also looking for **HABTU GHERZGHIER** of Asmara, Eritrea. Gene saw him in New York in the '70s. Contact Gene at: PO Box 6334, St Croix US Virgin Islands 00823-6334; phone: 340/778-2345; email: Fdunwod@teacher.uvi.edu

Hussein Ahmed is looking for **DON KILHEFNER** (Dessie 62-64). Have info? Contact Hussein at: Department of History, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 309 Gregory Hall, 810 South Wright Street, Urbana, IL 61801, home phone: (217) 332 5781; email: husahm@ux1.cso.uiuc.edu

GABRIELLE DOLPHIN (Dire Dawa, Harar 74-75) has filed an "all points bulletin" for any RPCVs who went to Ethiopia in late spring of 1974. She would love to hear from you. She is also interested learning how to contact the following who served at that time: **JOHN LAWSON, NIC HUNSACKER, DENNIS BETHEA, JOY VAN DOSKE, ROBERT LLOYD** and **ROGER OGLESBY**. You can contact Gabrielle at: 2247 Central Avenue, Alameda CA 94501-4410; phone: 510/748-1253; email: GDolphin@mail.cho.org

JAN CLYMER (Finete Selam 72-74) is looking for Ethiopian baskets, especially *mesobs*. Contact Jan at 612-253-6199 or jclymer@ix.netcom.com if you have any suggestions as to where she might try.

Ashenafi Kebede (1938-1998)

A Tribute

by Cynthia Tse Kimberlin (Adi Ugri; Asmara, Eritrea 1962–64)

PROFESSOR ASHENAFI KEBEDE passed away on May 8, 1998 in Tallahassee, Florida. He was my first Amharic teacher in 1962 at Georgetown University where he was invited to participate in a summer training program for prospective Peace Corps Volunteers going to Ethiopia. After that auspicious meeting, our paths crossed a number of times because of our mutual profession as ethnomusicologists and our shared interest in Ethiopia and Eritrea. He was born in Ethiopia in 1938 in Addis Ababa in the Shoa region. He left Ethiopia in the mid 1970s to take up residency in the United States. He was the father of two daughters and a son: Nina Ashenafi, Senait Ashenafi, and Yared Ashenafi. Despite health problems related to his heart condition and his temperament, he distinguished himself in many areas.

According to Ashenafi, in an interview with Dr. Fikre Tolossa in 1993, the most creative and artistic individual in his family was his mother, Fantaye Nekere who composed verse and poetry. She recalled from memory several melodies attributed to Saint Yared, a 6th century priest who is said to have introduced music in to the Ethiopian Orthodox Christian Church. Daily, she chanted praises to the Virgin Mary and sang every evening the Psalms of David accompanying herself on the *baganna* (10-stringed plucked lyre). She died when he was nine years old, filling him with a deep sadness.

He showed an early interest in music while a student at the Haile Selassie I


Elementary School and the Harrar Teachers' Training School. . . . He received his B.A. (1962) in Music from the University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music and returned to Addis Ababa to serve as Director of the Yared School of Music from 1963 to 1968. He received his M.A. (1969) and Ph.D. (1971) in Ethnomusicology from Wesleyan University. . . . For the last nineteen years, he was Professor of Music and Director of the Center for African American Culture at the Florida State University in Tallahassee and Executive Officer of Ethius, Inc., an international organization promoting the arts. His love of teaching is reflected by the remark: "I am happy as long as people support, share in, and benefit from the programs I create."

. . . he was eye witness to racial conflicts and social injustices that occurred during the latter half of this century. Despite continuing support from family, friends and colleagues, even they could not protect him from the mental anguish he endured by events confronting him, propelled by the catalytic impetus of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States and the 1974–1991 Revolution in his country of birth. Fortunately, his gifts as a composer, author and poet helped sustain him. . . . A major objective of his was to compose works using musical concepts distilled from many cultures expressing the humanity of humankind.

[One of his many compositions,] "The Shepherd Flutist" for flute and orchestra, . . . inspired by a traditional Ethiopian

melody performed as a solo on the *masinqo* (single string bowed spike lute), . . . was first conducted and performed by Ashenafi for orchestra in 1967 at the invitation of the Hungarian government in Budapest. A disc-recording was made in a studio in Hungary and a copy was presented by the Hungarian Ambassador to Ethiopia to Emperor Haile Selassie. Upon Ashenafi's return to Ethiopia, the Emperor proclaimed Ashenafi Ethiopia's National Composer and funded 2000 copies to be pressed in Hungary and sent to Ethiopia. It was dedicated to the Emperor on the occasion of his 75th birthday and used by him as one of his gift items to visiting dignitaries.

A certain quality is expressed in his music. A key to understanding this quality is by his often repeated reference to his mother: "I have not yet overcome my sadness from her [mother's] death. I am still heart-broken. That is undoubtedly why everything that I compose is melancholic." (Fikre Tolossa, 1993)

We shall miss his creativity and his passion for life and his work, his sensitivity towards others by seeking ways he could rectify social injustices, his acts of kindness and generosity, and above all we are thankful for his many contributions to society. 

This article was excerpted from a longer article written for the Society for Ethnomusicology Journal.

THE KESSLER FILE

Displaced and Deported

by Wayne Kessler (Adi Teclesan 1964–66)

Betty La Duke needed a driver, so I volunteered. Betty's an artist working on a book of Eritrean sketches, and she wanted to update her knowledge of the current conditions. Together with two Eritrean artists we headed south to the border to see the people in and around the front lines.

We approached the Zalambessa front lines by a circular route on a new road, built because of the war; through an agricultural valley with great potential, but with little planted; and around a new dam, 3/4 finished but construction now stopped, like so many projects, because of diverted money and labor.

We drove through Zalambessa (administered by Ethiopia until May, 1998) and on to a little village on the colonial border and now on the front lines.

As I shut off the engine, a soldier came over and politely requested that I park the car around behind the building. I asked why? "The Ethiopian tanks can see you and they shelled us only five days ago." I moved the truck quickly!

We learned that tank and artillery exchanges have been going on and continue periodically. The latest reports have stated that over 200 civilians have been killed on both sides and just recently, some villagers were killed in their fields while trying to harvest their crops. About 4,000 Ethiopians remain in the town out of 8,000 before May. Most of the "displaced" are actually still in the line of fire — living in tents or doubling up with relatives. If full scale fighting erupts again, over 50,000 civilians will be right among and dying with the soldiers.

The soldiers calmly walked us to the trenches past women harvesting corn, little kids playing in the dirt, school-aged children helping grandparents winnow the *t'eff*, and soldiers helping old men thresh by pitching the *t'eff* under the oxen going round and round. It was weird to see people working while hearing the sporadic gunfire close by as soldiers tested their guns and practiced their aim.

Back in the village, the commanders invited us for a traditional coffee ceremony and allowed us to sketch and photograph them. The *bun* and *embaba* were as good as always, but this time prepared by women in fatigues with the AK47s propped up beside them. During our conversation, one commander said, "It is good that this fight is now, so our children won't have to fight. We are experienced and we do not want them to be."

What impressed me most was that:

- There was no hype during our conversations, no angry haranguing; only calm confidence,
- Food distribution was going on for both Eritreans and Ethiopians caught on this side, and
- The displaced are still in great peril.

Back in Sanafe, we met a small group of deportees, part of the 32,000 documented people of Eritrean heritage who have been forcefully sent out of Ethiopia. Betty and the others sketched them while I talked and learned:

- None of this group wanted to return to live in Ethiopia again even if there is peace. Their experience of being picked up in the middle of


the night, imprisoned from one to three weeks, deported without clothes, money, or any property, or worst of all, other family members, was too much for them. I have read reams of such accounts, but hearing them first hand really hit me hard.

- All appreciated the Eritrean government's providing them with ID cards, money, household goods and in some cases, jobs, even though most were Ethiopian citizens.
- The priority of needs were housing, food, and loans. Since most of the early deportees were successful business people, they want loans. As one said, "We are weak in money, not in mind."

The future is so uncertain, it must ache. Yet, curiously, most Eritreans are optimistic and are preparing themselves for a long siege.

The economy is on the verge of a real crunch. Business and project development have stagnated for the most part. And, my work and life here has been totally turned upside down.

I appreciate all the peace efforts more than words can express. Thank you, Leo and Dave! Not for just me but for all Eritreans and Ethiopians.

November 3, 1998 

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.



Appreciation

Please thank all the people involved in this issue of *The Herald* [#20, Part 1]. I read this paper cover to cover and am pleased that, as a group, there is a reach out to stop the fighting in Ethiopia and Eritrea. These countries have way too many other problems to continue to allow these conflicts to cause them to step backwards instead of forward. Is there anything we, at home RPCV's can do?

Mary Myers Bruckenstein
(Addis Ababa 68-70)

Medhane Alem Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration

I wanted to get some information to those who have taught at Medhane Alem in Harar or who are interested in contributing to a cause.

I have been in contact with Dr. Sisay Muluneh, who is currently the director of the school. They had a Golden Jubilee celebration on December 19-20, 1998 on the school premises. There is much that they need to improve the condition of the school. Dr. Sisay states that the classrooms are extremely overcrowded. No improvements in the physical plant have been made, despite the dramatic increase in student population from the original 100 to more than 4000 at present. The goal of Dr. Sisay and of the Harar Medhane Alem Former Students Association is to refurbish the existing buildings; build more classrooms; establish a modern library, and provide the school with a multipurpose hall.

If you are interested in making a contribution to this effort, two accounts have been established in the name of the school:

Head Branch Office
The Abyssinian Bank
Account No. 1819
PO Box 12947
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

and/or

Legehar Branch
The Awash International Bank
Account No. 2269
PO Box 126348
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

If you wish to send books:

Books should be new or lightly used, complete, clean and durable; in other words, do not donate a book if it is shabby, soiled or torn in any way, defaced by highlighting or other writing, poorly bound, marred by missing pages or serious misprints.

Atlases should not be more than 5 years old. Encyclopedias should be the most current edition as they are usually only reprinted every eight years, so old editions could be seriously out of date. Other textbooks should be no older than eight years old.

Math and science books must contain information and explanations using the metric system.

National Geographic, magazines on wildlife and animal life, and similar educational magazines are appropriate.

Items in high demand are encyclopedias, dictionaries, teaching aids and educational posters.

I have been successful in finding high-interest young adult fiction at Friends of the Library book sales and have sent about 88 titles to Medhane Alem.

Send books and other educational materials to:

Dr. Sisay Muluneh
Medhane Alem Comprehensive
Second School
PO Box 67
Harar, Ethiopia

Book parcels by sea should not weigh more than 11 lbs. If you have multiple parcels weighing at least 15 lbs., it is recommended that you ship them in an M-Bag, that is, a large mail bag to keep the small parcels together without getting overlooked. Guidelines, established by Books for Africa, a book donor organization, should be followed.

Books for Africa is a wonderful organization that has sent books to many countries in Africa over the past ten years. If anyone is interested in tackling this one with me, the cost of sending a shipping container with 25,000 books to Ethiopia is approximately \$7,000. My initial thought was that 25,000 books were a lot for one school, but when you think of 4,000 students and multiple subjects, that just about covers it. To contact Books for Africa:

Dr. Robert J. Kowalczyk
5233 Silver Maple Circle
Minneapolis MN 55343
email: bfa@mtn.org
www.booksforafrica.org

Anyone interested in any aspect of this is urged to contact me.

Alice Gosak
yogosak@aol.com
phone: 408/993-0119

Kessler seeks support for Pavoni Technical Institute

I am sending you a letter from Padre Agostino and the Pavoni Technical Institute . . . We are looking for operating and development funds, first, and later we want to form associations with similar institutes in the States.

I have been a volunteer advisor since this new training institute was founded three years ago. In September 1998, I arranged to bring back two Eritrea I RPCVs to work at the PTI. One, Jim Cairns, was also in the first PC group to India, so he's a double I. The other, Jeff Shannon, worked for three years in our old village, Adi Teclesan, and now continues teaching English to the technical trainees at PTI.

Please read our request and feel free to make any suggestions or ask any questions. I would be happy to respond.

Thank You
Wayne Kessler

Dear Friends,

Since the Pavoni Social Centre started the Pavoni Technical Institute three years ago to train Eritrean men and women in advanced machine technology, the Eritrean Ministry of Education has been asking us to improve our training programmes and to enlarge our service in the machine technology field. Following their recommendations we are trying our best to hire more qualified teachers, acquire more tools and technical equipment needed for training, and support the needy students in finishing their studies. Of course, these requests have increased the budget to a point where we need immediate help.

Therefore, we request your assistance with any part of our development programmes, and most urgently, for covering the operating expenses for the remainder of the 1998–1999 training year.

You are invited to cooperate in our efforts to raise the necessary funds. If you need additional information, we will send you the budget details regarding any aspect of our proposal.

Thank you for your kind collaboration, faithfully,

Fr. Agostino Galavotti,
Responsible of the Institute and
Chairman of the PTI Planning Team

For more information or to receive the "Proposal for Funds," contact

Fr. Agostino Galavotti
Pavoni Technical Institute
P.O. Box 868
Asmara, Eritrea
Tel. 291-1-182926
Fax 291-1-181369
e-mail:
technica@pavoni.gemel.com.er



<Reconnecting via email>

Send your email address to E&E RPCVs

You never know when you might get a surprise message from an old friend!

In addition, E&E RPCVs provides occasional news updates to those for whom we have an email address.

Send your email address to:
mhbeil@servtech.com

Register with the NPCA directory

There are currently 6,151 RPCVs with email addresses listed at the National Peace Corps web site in their RPCV E-mail Directory. If you would like to add your email address to that listing — to enable friends to locate you — go to:
http://www.siteconnect.com/rpcv_scripts/guest.idc?

FYI

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

► **FRANCES SCURA** (Addis Ababa 67–68) has researched how one could help the children of Ethiopia and Eritrea on a one-to-one basis. She has found information on two such programs.

Save the Children

You can get full information on this program by visiting its web site at www.savethechildren.org or call them at 800/243-5075 (8am–5pm EST) for more information or to help a child.

Christian Children's Fund

For information on CCF go to www.christianchildrensfund.org or call 800/776-6767.

Frances adopted a young girl through this program and the following is the initial information she received about her:

Sifrash Aregaw Birthdate: 6/15/89
Sponsored by Frances Scura through the Christian Children's Fund Sifrash is an active and healthy girl who is fond of playing skipping rope. She was born in Buee, in Guraghe Zone, under the South Ethiopia Regional State. She is from a large family with two brothers and four sisters. The father is dead. The mother has deserted the child. She lives with the guardian who is a farmer. But the product he gets is not enough to fulfill the needs. His annual income is below the standard set by the National Office

which is \$US400. They have no other means of income. Considering the desperate situation of the family, the committee referred her to this project for help. The family comes from the Guraghe ethnic group. They are followers of Ethiopian Orthodox Church. Her education is delayed due to financial problems. She helps by sweeping the house. Your noble deeds to sponsor this needy child will be a blessing to her and her family too.

► **Trees for the Future** designs and implements projects for sustainable development and with its help communities around the world have planted 20 million permanent, beneficial trees. For more information and to help, write them at 11306 Estonia Drive, Silver Spring MD 20914, email: TreesFTF@erols.com, home page: 222.treesfff.org

► Because of a loss of purpose and momentum, Friends of Ethiopia and Eritrea, an organization headquartered in Washington DC whose goal was to serve as a communications link between Americans with experience of Ethiopia, has announced that it is ceasing its activities and is being transformed into a support group for the Institute of Ethiopian Studies at Addis Ababa University, the foremost cultural institution in Ethiopia. It is becoming the American Friends of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies (AFIES). For more information write : AFIES, PO Box 65684, Washington DC 20035-5684.

On the Web

► Visit the site of Shadow and Light Productions, a computer animation/digital video/multimedia company owned and directed by **STUART GOLD** (73–74) at www.shadowandlight.com. You can check out Stuart's resume and find out what he's been doing since 1974.

► **PEOPLink** aids artisans and craft makers from developing countries to market their products directly to consumers over the Internet. Go to: www.peoplink.org/linkages.

► **ROBERT RUSSELL** (Massawa 64–66), aka Robertino Solàrion, writes: "Check out my latest research at my new website — Apollonius of Tyana: The Monkey of Christ? at www.apollonius.net/."

► Starting in March, there will be a RPCV Conference web site at www.MNRPCV.org

► African World Press and Red Sea Press have a web site where you can see a full listing of the books they have available. Go to: www.africanworld.com/

► **Ethiopian Books for Children & Educational Foundation**, whose goal "is to advance, promote, and encourage children's book publishing, reading, and literacy in Ethiopia, and to publish books in Ethiopian languages, based on Ethiopian culture and history, for Ethiopian children in Ethiopia and those born outside of Ethiopia. It accomplishes this mission by establishing an ETHIOPIAN CHILDREN'S BOOK CENTER in Ethiopia and organizing projects, providing resources, and working with institutions, organizations, and people." For more on this organization visit their web site at www.igc.org/ebcef/

Visit our web site at: <http://www.geocities.com/~eerpcv>

CELEBRATING PEACE: THE NPCA CONFERENCE

University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota

August 12-15, 1999

REGISTRATION FORM *Detail of activities will be provided to registrants.*

REGISTRANT INFO *Please submit a separate form for each registrant.*

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
TELEPHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

PEACE CORPS SERVICE

COUNTRY[S] OF SERVICE & YEARS _____
PC VOLUNTEER PC STAFF OTHER _____

REGISTRATION FEES *Your registration fee admits you to all NPCA meetings, workshops, welcome reception Thursday night, and the Saturday night awards banquet. Registration fees are not refundable after July 1.*

CONFERENCE	EARLYBIRD [by June 1]	REGULAR	#TICKETS	TOTAL
NPCA Member	\$130	\$160	_____	_____
Non-Member	\$170	\$200	_____	_____
Newly COS'd RPCV [9/98 & after]	\$100	\$100	_____	_____

MEALS *Other meals are optional. If you are a Volunteer Day participant, your Saturday lunch will be provided. The registration fee does not include a Friday country of service dinner. Access to off-site food facilities is limited.*

Breakfast Package on Friday, Saturday & Sunday	\$15	_____	_____
Lunch on Friday	\$8	_____	_____
Lunch on Saturday	\$8	_____	_____

OTHER

NPCA Membership Individual/Family	\$40/\$55	_____	_____
Conference t-shirt	\$15	_____	_____

[The shirt is included in Walk/Run for Peace activity. Details will follow.]

PAYMENT INFORMATION *Here is my check payable to the NPCA, or* *charge my VISA or MasterCard [circle one].*

Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Cardholder Signature _____

HOUSING *Please send me information about University of St. Thomas dormitories [\$35 single; \$28 double; \$20 triple]. Or, I will make my own reservations at a hotel three miles from the conference site [special NPCA rate thru 7/13/99: \$82 per night for single or double, \$92 for triple]:*

Sheraton Midway Hotel
400 N. Hamline Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104
[PHONE] 612 603 5603, or 800 535 2339

SEND FORM WITH FULL PAYMENT TO

National Peace Corps Association
1900 L Street, NW, Suite 205
Washington, DC 20036
[FAX] 202 293 7554

Look for more details in the next issue of your quarterly newsletter, 3/1/61.

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tenn@sonic.net

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- ▶ Embassy of Eritrea
1708 New Hampshire Ave NW
Washington DC 20009
202/319-1991
- ▶ Embassy of Ethiopia
2134 Kalorama Road NW
Washington DC 20008
202/234-2281
fax: 202/483-8407
e-mail: ethiopia@tidalwave.net
www.nicom.com/~ethiopia
- ▶ National Peace Corps Association
1900 L St, NW, Suite 205
Washington DC 20036
202/293-7728
fax: 202/293-7554
email: rpcvmem@aol.com
www.rpcv.org
- ▶ Peace Corps
1111 20th St NW
Washington DC 20526
800/424-8580
Returned Volunteer Services:
202/692-1430
Fellows/USA Program with
programs at 26 universities:
202/692-1440
fellows@peacecorps.gov
Crisis Corps: 202/692-2250
Post-service Medical Benefits:
202/692-1540
Inspector General: 202/692-2900
www.peacecorps.gov
- ▶ Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs
c/o Marian Haley Beil
4 Lodge Pole Road
Pittsford NY 14534-4550
716/223-1155
email: mhbeil@servtech.com
www.geocities.com/~eerpcv
- ▶ Peace Corps Collection
John F. Kennedy Library
attn: Stephen Plotkin
Columbia Point
Boston MA 02125
617/929-4524
email: stephen.plotkin@
kennedy.nara.gov
- ▶ Books for Africa
5233 Silver Maple circle
Minneapolis MN 55343
email: bfa@mtn.org
www.booksforafrica.org

THE HERALD

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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 of interest to RPCVs who served in Ethiopia and Eritrea are most welcomed.

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



ETHIOPIA & ERITREA RPCVs membership

Name _____

Address _____

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

Name when in the Peace Corps if different from above _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____

Home fax _____ Work fax _____

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

Group # _____ Training site _____ Type of program _____

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

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

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

1 year free membership to newly returned RPCVs

Make your check payable to:
Ethiopia & Eritrea RPCVs

Please send to:

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

DATES:

August 12-15 — 1999 RPCV Conference in St. Paul, Minnesota at the University of St. Thomas.

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.

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

If it says "Expired," your membership has expired since the publication of the previous issue of *The Herald*. We hope that you will reup. A membership form can be found on the next-to-the-last 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 #20" we thought you might be interested in seeing what E&E RPCVs does and in seeing our 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
4 Lodge Pole Road
Pittsford NY 14534-4550

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