

2007 Annual Report
Greater Birmingham Returned Peace Corps Volunteers
P.O. Box 55294, Birmingham, AL 35255
www.gbrpcv.org

Membership in 2007: about 20 NPCA memberships; 5 recently-returned RPCVs (free membership for one year post COS date), 5 local members, and about 5 honorary members (trainees and volunteers in the field).

Planning Meetings/Social Events: Planning meetings were held on January 21st after a potluck supper at the home of Sue Seay, after elections at the annual lake party August 25, and at a cook out at President, Heather White's new home November 11. All members were invited to attend and give input.

Recruitment Events:

Members assisted the Atlanta office with Birmingham and Tuscaloosa recruitment visits in both spring and fall at area colleges.

Julia Hartman hosted a panel discussion featuring RPCVs in Tuscaloosa on Feb 19 as part of the Community Service Center's Hunger and Homelessness Week. Other participants were Brad Hodges and Karri Holley

February 22, GBRPCV members helped the Atlanta office recruiter with an information session at Homewood Library and supper with interested persons at Nabeels.

March 14-16, Dan Frederick coordinated and accompanied Dave Leavitt of the Atlanta PC office in meetings with officials at U of Montevallo, Miles College, and the UAB Study Abroad office to plan recruitment activities on those campuses and provide information about Peace Corps through campus newspapers.

The annual "*Bon Voyage*" party was held at Formaggio's restaurant on Thursday, April 26. Ten members of GBRPCV attended and assisted the Atlanta recruiting officer meet with new volunteers to bid farewell and offer support. Several prospective volunteers and some parents attended and asked rpcvs about the reality of Peace Corps service.

A Fall Reception was held at UAB's Smolian International House on September 18. GBRPCVs and recruiters from Atlanta provided information about PC and three recently returned volunteers led an open discussion incorporating pictures and stories of their projects: Sarah Koch shared her experiences in Senegal and, as co-founder of DIG, encouraged members to support that organization; Natasha Varma introduced us to life in Nicaragua; and Debbie Hamilton showed us that Jamaica isn't all beaches and holidays.

September 19, Julia Hartman and RPCV John Clark met with students interested in Peace Corps service at The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

Volunteer Events:

Map Project: The annual map painting was incorporated into the Peace Corps Week and Global Libraries Outreach Program sponsored by National Peace Corps Association. Several activities at the North Shelby Co. Library were planned to help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

1. March 15, Kathy and Rob Angus presented "The World of Mma Ramotswe" for the adult book club. Invitations were sent to several other book clubs so that about 30 people attended. Mma Ramotswe is the heroine of the #1 Ladies Detective series written by Alexander McCall Smith. The program included slides of places mentioned in the books and information on the history of Botswana and why Mma Ramotswe is so proud of her country. Botswana baskets and carvings were admired. Red bush tea and fruit cake were served since those are Mma Ramotswe's favorites.

2. Map Project: Adrienne Retief directed the preparation, painting and outlining in preparation for a canvas map to hang in the front lobby of the North Shelby County Library. Sue Seay identified students from the Shelby County English as a Second Language program and several GBRPCVs met them on March 24 for a day of painting and geography games.

3. March 22, Sue Seay and some Japanese mothers of children in the English as a Second Language program led an origami craft project for the after school arts and crafts group at the library.

4. March 29, Heather White read and discussed the book, *I Lost My Tooth In Africa* by Pende Diakite with the children at the library's regular PJ storytime.

5. Funds from the NPCA grant were also used to purchase several books by Peace Corps authors for both the adult and children's sections of the library.

April 16, Heather White and 3 other GBRPCVs attended the Lillian Carter Award ceremony at Carter Center in Atlanta. Heather presented a check for \$1000 from a GBRPCV member who wishes to remain anonymous to the recipient, Shirley Maly.

School Presentations-Bringing the world back home

November 10, Katy Ginanni told about her experiences in Zimbabwe and spoke to Smith Foundation Scholars at the University of Montevallo about Peace Corps as an alternative employment option.

Charitable Giving:

150 of the International Calendars produced by RPCVs of Wisconsin/Madison were once again sold by GB/RPCV members. Proceeds from last year's sale were donated to Shelby County Schools English language learners' summer camp (\$100) and to the Peace Corps Partnership for the Kenya community library Project(\$191). Another \$400 was spent on the North Shelby Library map project.

Several GBRPCVs contributed to a school running program in Namibia directed by Birmingham PCV, April Pinner, . Members also donated childrens' books and GBRPCVs paid to send them to another local PCV, Adam Johnston, in Vanuatu where he is setting up a library.

We also made a donation to the Guntersville, Alabama library in memory of GBRPCV member Ruth Blacker.

Mailing: Members are contacted often by email and one-two newsletters are produced annually. The newsletters are posted on our website: www.gbrpcv.org. and sent by email to our members. Members who do not have email are sent paper copies. There was an email and postal mailing sent out in July 2007 including information on the elections and upcoming events.

Financial Report January - December 2006

Opening bank balance **\$1,661.00**

Income

Dues from national	255.00	
Dues collected locally	112.50	
Calendar sales	1,084.00	
Bank Dividends	7.68	
NPCA Reimbursement	100.00	
Total		\$3,220.18

Expenses

Newsletters (w/postage)	45.78	
Web Hosting/Domain Name	0.00	
PO Box Rental 2	128.00	
NPCA Affiliation	25.00	
Care packages/postage	98.77	
Map Project	248.62	
2007 Calendars + postage	649.93	
3rd Party Donations	150.00	
Nom Party//Recruiting	167.82	
Total		\$1,513.92

Closing balance **\$1,706.26**