

GBRPCV NEWSLETTER

A publication of Greater Birmingham Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

NEW TO RPCV's?

For more information on
About our organization
And how you get involved,
Visit our website at:
www.gbrpcv.org

Don't forget we are voting in new officers in August! Come to the Annual Lake Party on August 25th and let your voice be heard. We need your help to strengthen our group!

Mission

In the spirit of our Peace Corps experience, Greater Birmingham RPCVs promotes a continuing commitment to our community.

Goals

To develop a social and community action network

To remind ourselves and educate others about why we served

To provide support for potential, current and recently returned Peace Corps volunteers

Nobody ever went broke underestimating the intelligence of the American public....

—H.L. Mencken

Dig This: Local RPCV Forms African Non-Profit

Written By Sarah Koch,
Senegal, 2005-2007

Recent Birmingham RPCV, Sarah Koch, has teamed up with another former PC volunteer to start a new non-profit called Development In Gardening (DIG). DIG is a registered 501c3 organization with the mission of building urban vegetable gardens for individuals affected by HIV/AIDS in developing nations. DIG teaches individuals the skills to install these gardens with the purpose of supplementing their diet with increased micro-nutrients while giving them an income-



generating option. DIG has three gardens in place in Senegal, with plans of expanding to a new country in the Spring. If you'd like to learn more about DIG and how you can help check out the website at www.developmentingardening.org. Better yet, come by and lend your support by attending DIG's Birmingham fundraiser on September 28th starting at 7pm at the Bare Hands Gallery on Richard Arrington Blvd downtown.

GBRPCV'S DONATES TO 2007 LILLIAN CARTER RECIPIENT

On May 16, 2007, the Peace Corps hosted the presentation ceremony for this year's Lillian Carter Award recipient at the Carter Center in Atlanta. This year the GBRPCV's were honored to have sponsored the donation of a \$1,000 stipend which was given to the awardee. This gift was made possible through the generous donation of one of our mem-

bers who has asked to remain anonymous. The recipient of this year's award is named Shirley Maly (Paraguay, 1992-95). Ms. Maly spent three years in the Paysandu region of the South American country helping local artisans and small business owners in creative development and marketing and teaching English and folk dance to schoolchildren. In

June 2005, Shirley published Love Affair with the Americas, a picture storybook that chronicles her experiences in North, Central, and South America. The book features Shirley's watercolor sketches, recipes, folktales, games, and historical prose. President Jimmy Carter presented the award to Ms. Maly. She'd like to thank GBRPCV's!

CALLING ALL GBRPCV'S

Members in good standing are eligible to vote for officers for 2007-2008. The vote will be held and officially announced at the Angus' annual lake party later this month. The members on the ballot for this year include:

President

Heather White

Vice President

Vacant

Secretary

Kathy Angus

Treasurer

Helen "Missy" Bemis

The following individuals have agreed to serve as committee chairs:

Program Committee: Sue Seay

Membership Committee: Julia Hartman

Communications Chair: Vacant

Social Chair: Dan Frederick

Please cast your vote during the party, or if you are unable to attend, please e-mail

GBRPCV's sponsored a libraries campaign this spring under the leadership of Sue Seay. Below are members working on the annual map project which was sponsored at the Shelby County library this year, along with story-telling, arts and crafts, and other activities. Sue and GBRPCV's received special recognition from the NPCA for their work in the campaign.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Lake Party: Saturday, August 25th

Join us at the Angus residence for an afternoon of fun on the lake! This is always a wonderful, relaxing event. Contact Kathy Angus (kjangus@bellsouth.net) with your responses no later than August 24th. We encourage anyone who has an interest in our group to attend and think about serving as a committee or board member. This is a wonderful group that flourishes only with continued support from all of our members. **GET INVOLVED WITH GBRPCV'S!**

ANNUAL FALL RECEPTION: September 18
UAB Smolian International House, 1600 10th Ave. S.

Join us as we welcome former and future volunteers to the Greater Birmingham RPCV community. This event will highlight the experiences of three newly returned volunteers. A Peace Corps recruiter should be available to answer questions about PC service. Please bring a snack or favorite international dish to share. Tee-shirts and calendars will be available for purchase. **Additionally, we will be collecting books for Adam Johnston, one of our current volunteers serving in Vanuatu, South Pacific who is trying to build a local children's library. Please bring a book for children ages 8-16.**

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Vacant

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