

## **NENY RPCV Meeting Notes**

### **Tuesday April 03, 2007**

#### **Agenda items:**

- Food, Introductions
- Treasurer's report – we missed it!
- Member dues
- Local PC recruiter – and stuff she sent to the Thornhills
- Dave Borton's article
- Step it Up! – a RPCV-NENY co-sponsored event (April 14<sup>th</sup>)
- Dinner to benefit Habitat for Humanity \$10 (April 20<sup>th</sup>)
- Woman against War
- Summer picnics
- Next few meetings
- Presentation: Cathie Curren with AIDS orphans in Uganda

#### **Food, Introductions:**

The Thornhills were able to host 17 people who all enjoyed meal and conversation on a day when it wasn't snowing! Four new faces were:

Sarah Reinhardt will leave in August for PC service in a yet-undisclosed Spanish speaking country

Christiane Mulvihill who served in Panama & now works for USGS

Dave Lauzon (Paraguay) is in Saratoga after being active with Rochester RPCV's

Justin from the Philippines is the Thornhill's neighbor who just got US citizenship

#### **Treasurer's report:**

We missed it! But with the implementation of our new member dues policy, Jeanette will be busy next month.

#### **New membership policy:**

As previously decided, April is dues month. We collected dues and mailed them out in one envelope. Reiteration of National and our Local membership policies are below...

#### **NPCA membership policy**

- There is no longer a discount for 2 RPCV's in the same household.
- There is no longer a 3 year membership.
- Dues for NPCA are still \$50, \$15 of which is still sent to the local affiliate.
- Dues to NPCA are, as always, tax deductible
- Dues to NPCA are payable here... <http://www.rpcv.org/pages/sitepage.cfm?id=7>

#### **RPCV-NENY membership policy**

- If you join NPCV, you don't have to pay NENY – it's included.
- If you *don't* join NPCA, you can join the local RPCV-NENY for \$15.
- NENY dues are payable by April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- One NENY membership covers your whole household
- Dues for the local-only \$15 option are not tax deductible (we're not 501(c)3)
- Dues for the local-only option are payable to RPCV-NENY, send your check to the membership officer, [John Flynn](mailto:BFlynn5@nycap.rr.com) BFlynn5@nycap.rr.com

### **Local PC recruiter:**

Augusta and Diane had a lovely dinner with Amie Kabia, AKabia@peacecorps.gov, the PC recruiter covering our area. Amie recruited Sarah... one of the new faces at today's meeting. Amie also send brochures and other material to the Thornhills for use at any appropriate events. We hope she'll be able to arrange a future recruit trip to the Capital District on a 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday.

### **Dave Borton's article**

Augusta passed around the Times Union business section featuring Dave's solar home and solar/electric bicycle. Some of us were lucky enough to see his solar bicycle demo, as they were turning away others at the door to the crowded presentation.

### **Step it Up↑ – a RPCV-NENY co-sponsored event** (Saturday, April 14, 2007)

RPCVs NENY is co-sponsoring Step It Up↑ a national day of climate action – adding our name in support of reducing fossil fuel intensity in the US. Started by local author, Bill McKibben, Step It Up↑ calls for the US to reduce carbon 80% by 2050.

Find events Nationwide on <http://stepitup2007.org/> or download a flier on events from [Albany](#) and [Troy](#). 41 events within 77 miles of Troy, 19 within 40 miles.

- **Largest local event:** Picnic, performance, puppets & more Albany's Washington Park Lake House sponsored by Honest Weight Food Coop starting at 11am
- **Dave Borton** will speak on Solar Energy at the Troy event

### **Dinner to benefit Habitat for Humanity**

Join the Thornhills at Shenendehowa High School's Habitat for Humanity Club. The Dinner is \$10 per person and held at the Franklin Terrace Ballroom, 126 Campbell Avenue, Troy on Friday, April 20 at 6:00. Phone for reservations to: 518-788-7768.

The menu sounds like a great deal for the \$10.00. And if you can't make it, you can always donate anyway. Wendy reports that the proceeds will go to buying a new truck. Habitat currently relies on an unreliable vehicle to pick up and deliver donations.

### **Women Against War**

Another worthwhile local group is Women Against War, which meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of each month. <http://www.womenagainstar.org/>

### **Summer picnics:**

We decided the summer picnics would not replace the monthly Tuesday evening meetings. Augusta will plan the June picnic at Peeble's Island. Dates and times: TBA

### **Next meeting, next-next meeting & next-next-next meeting:**

**May 1<sup>st</sup>** meeting is tentatively at the Gottliebs.

**June 5<sup>th</sup>** meeting will be at the Hegeman's

**July 3<sup>rd</sup>** meeting will tentatively have a presentation taking us back to Uganda... this time to a clinic called ENGEYE set up by an Albany Med student, the group is in Uganda now for spring break <http://www.engeye.com/>

### **Presentation: Cathie Curren:** [AFSCathie@aol.com](mailto:AFSCathie@aol.com)

Cathie is local director of [American Field Services](#). She was inspired last October by a group of Ugandan dancers at the Methodist Church and that lead her to a 3 month trip to

Uganda with [AIDS Orphans Education Trust](#)'s Action for Empowerment, a group that assists HIV/AIDS widows and orphans. AOET was founded by an AIDS orphan and has become an impressive NGO that takes actions to empower AIDS orphans and widows to achieve economic and educational success.

AOET builds schools, sponsors adoptions, facilitates students in obtaining school supplies, and provides training and markets for products made by AIDS widows, such as the lovely beads that some of us walked home wearing.

(To order more beads, contact Cathie [AFSCathie@aol.com](mailto:AFSCathie@aol.com))

Cathie's line of action in Uganda was to sew school uniforms. Children are not allowed to enter school unless they can afford...

- A uniform
- Approximately \$2 in pencils and paper
- A roll of toilet paper

Cathie learned how to sew pockets on uniforms the hard way... with a trundle sewing machine. Some days there was electricity, but by whichever method, she helped students obtain one of the list items... and would have been able to help more students if it weren't that "The man with the key is gone." She learned to tell African time.

While waiting for the man with the key, Cathie heard the heart-breaking stories of many AIDS widows and met many AIDS orphans. ...a weight which each of the participants downloaded back to their dorms each evening over Scrabble.

Other participants helped build a school, which opened while she was there. She got to see the students in their new classrooms while finishing touches were still being made to the outside and the outhouse.

One of the impressive programs of AOET is that they sponsor a non-HIV couple to adopt 4 AIDS orphans. They provide a year of free rent in hopes that the family will be able to acquire a home of their own in that time.

Cathie showed moving photos of AIDS orphans and widows whom she met and she will be returning next year.