

## **NENY RPCV Meeting Notes Tuesday February 06, 2007**

### **Agenda items:**

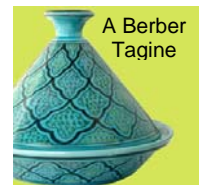
- Food, Introductions & Birthdays
- Going back to Panamanian adventures
- RPCV's in the News
- Let's get more good publicity
- Recipes to Jeanette
- Re-up for National PC Association
- Treasurer's report:
- Who is our steering committee and why do we need one?
- A new secretary
- Newsletter quiz
- Who is on our members' list and why do we need one?
- Annual schedule
- Next meeting

### **Food, Introductions & Birthdays:**

Thank you to 12 people who joined me, my 2 housemates and our 3 H-pets (hungry dog, hiding cat and hibernating turtle).

Happy Birthday to Barbara and 1-day-after-birthday to Marjorie. If she knew you were coming, Wendy would have baked a cake. Out of respect for the rest of us, please inform Wendy well in advance if your birthday will fall on a 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month in the future! ;-)

My apologies to Barbara & John for the glitch in getting a projector for your presentation on your recent trip to Morocco. And many thanks for Barbara & John for the wonderful Moroccan meal made in their own Berber Tagine (see pix). A definite winner for our cookbook.



### **Going back to Panamanian adventures:**

Demecia Williams & her husband & child will return to Panama to fulfill their dream of giving back to the people of her PCV host country and his homeland with Soposo Rainforest Adventures. Check out their adventure-cultural tours with traditional village life in the rainforest of northeast Panama (discounts for RPCV's!). [info@soposo.com](mailto:info@soposo.com) or <http://www.soposo.com>

### **Members in the News:**

Augusta passed around the Troy Record article from Thanksgiving with a prominent photograph of Kathy Sanderson. Wendy Davis also made the papers with her book co-written by students in her law course.

### **Let's get more good publicity:**

We will try to get our meetings listed in Metroland (Joe will contact), Times Union (Kathy will call) and Craig's List (Wendy will check).

We might also pursue public interest & feature articles, such as articles about our presenters or a food feature with stories & recipes from our host countries. Bob Crowley and Pat will check into possibilities.

**Recipes:**

Jeanette will collect recipes and food stories until we figure out the best way to use them. [jeanettegny@earthlink.net](mailto:jeanettegny@earthlink.net)

**Re-up for National PC Association:**

It's time. Re-up entails a summary of our activities (Augusta will supply) and a fee from treasury.

**Treasurer's report:**

Beginning of month balance was \$2504.45. A \$15 membership was added. There are still 2 calendars left + some that were ordered by not picked up.

**Who is our steering committee and why do we need one?**

A steering committee was formed a long time ago for a few good reasons.

- 1) To form a group statements (such as the letter we wrote about the military), to vote on group things and other steering responsibilities.
- 2) To allow us to incorporate and get bulk rate to mail newsletters.

The officers seem to do a lot of things in #1, and since most of the newsletters go out via email, #2 is not so vital.

**Officers are:**

**President:** Augusta Field

**VP:** Steve Hoyt

**Treasurer:** Jeanette Gottlieb

**Membership:** John Flynn

**Newsletter:** Christine Vanderlain

**Secretary:** Diane Peapus, with Barbara Flynn as sub

**A new secretary:**

Diane Peapus was named secretary, but if she has to teach evenings, Barbara Flynn will substitute.

If anyone has more time to devote to the web page than does Diane, we'd like to have some additional features:

- Photos of events (Wendy can take the pictures)
- Links to presenters web pages

**Newsletter Quiz:**

Question: The web makes newsletters

- 1) easier
- 2) harder
- 3) all of the above
- 4) none of the above

Many organizations send newsletters electronically. Since we have a listserv, then we can communicate to the list and not wait for a newsletter. Newsletters can help maintain membership. Our current newsletter serves as an annual update for people who don't participate regularly.

We could possibly make our newsletter more vital by making it topical. If a "food issue" had recipes, for example, people would *keep* the newsletter. Peace Corps jokes & funny stories could be keepers. We had a great time telling jail stories at a meeting once, and exotic diseases are always fun. (Dare we delve into toilets?) Serious topics might include reverse culture shock or "Does PC shape your life 10, 15, 20 years later?"

Members who have stories but aren't good at writing could ask to have their submissions edited (but if I do the editing, you never know what I'll add). More discussion about this in the future.

### **Who is on our members' list and why do we need one?**

We currently have several membership lists... web subscribers, present & past dues-payers, RPCV's who happened to be in the Capital District and may have participated at one time... or not. We use the list for Newsletter mailings... but many of the addresses bounce back. We need a method to keep track of our members.

Joe suggests we each take a few people on the list and contact them to get updates. Someone suggested we need a chapter directory. The NPCA directory is a huge and not sortable – hard to update our list from the book.

What should we do about all these lists?

The List-Team (or Lost-Team?), John, Augusta, Jeanette & Diane, will meet at Jeanette's to correlate the lists & talk about usage on Monday, Feb 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **Annual schedule:**

Our current annual events are Thanksgiving and Bob's holiday party. Our summer picnic in the Adirondacks and Tracy & Tim's summer party are no longer. An annual schedule could serve RPCV membership, PCV recruitment and publicity. We'll talk about the role of annual events next meeting.

### **Next meeting**

Will be March 6<sup>th</sup>, tentatively at the Gottlieb's  
Barbara & John Flynn will give their presentation on Morocco.