

April,  
2002

# RPCV of NENY

## *Letters & Schulz Poster Inside*

### **Next Steering Committee Meeting**

The next steering committee meeting is scheduled for May 7<sup>th</sup> at the home of President Steve Hoyt (Niger, '94) in Schodack, and all are invited to help us make this chapter active and successful. Call Steve at 518-732-7618 or email him at [steveh@albany.net](mailto:steveh@albany.net) for directions. And mark your calendar for September 16<sup>th</sup> for the next steering committee meeting. Everyone is invited.

### **VOX-POP Radio Program Brings Notice of March 1<sup>st</sup> Peace Corps Day**

This year, WAMC has agreed to have its VOX-POP program devoted to the Peace Corps, and two of our recent returnees represented us: Jessica Barnes (Uzbekistan, 1999-2001) and Kim Swanson (Ghana, 99-01). The station added a third person from Peace Corps officialdom that put the inevitable rosy gloss on things. But it was a good show! Thanks Jessica and Kim.

### **Bridging Differences with Islamic Cultures**

Algerian-born Moslem Imam, Mukhtar Maghraoui spoke with us on the evening of Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, at the First Unitarian Society of Albany. About twenty of us showed up to hear his thoughts on both the ethics and philosophy of Islam as well as the current political relations worldwide. Thanks to Steve Hoyt for arranging this.

### **New Returnees Party Brings lots of Memories and Pictures**

Joe and Pat Doherty (Sierra Leone, 74-76) hosted about twenty of us on Thursday, March 14. The feature attraction was Kelly Tompson who has just returned from Uzbekistan, fresh with lots of pictures,

descriptions of South Asian society & culture, and plenty of anecdotes.

### **Check our New Website and Join our Email Ring**

The group now has it's own website at [www.rpcv-neny.org](http://www.rpcv-neny.org) where you can find out about upcoming events, contact committee members and check out some links we think might be of interest. We would be glad to have ideas for improvements and welcome suggestions of interesting sites to link to. Our site is developing all the time, so it's worth checking back to see what has changed. We have also set up an email ring to simplify keeping in touch with one another. If you would like to be added email Tim: [webmaster@rpcv-neny.org](mailto:webmaster@rpcv-neny.org).

### **Political Advocacy, Anyone?**

Fine as long as it's not partisan—that violates our charter. There are some of us interested in being more active advocates. Contact Terry Amrhein (Swaziland '73) to work on Peace Corps promotion and funding; and Dave Borton (Ghana, '65) to work on environmental matters. See Terry and Dave's work inside to understand their concerns; then contact them to join forces with them. Terry's email is [Vusimusi@aol.com](mailto:Vusimusi@aol.com); tel: 518-399-5694. David is reachable at [bordond@rpi.edu](mailto:bordond@rpi.edu), or 518-272-5204.

## **Chapter Co-Sponsors AI-USA Executive Director Visit**

The RPCVs of Northeastern New York have elected to be a co-sponsor of the Tenth Annual Channing Lecture speaker this spring will be Amnesty International-USA President, William F. Schulz. He will be speaking on Tuesday, May 14 7:30 pm, at the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany. His title is taken from his latest book — *In Our Own Best Interest: How Defending Human Rights Benefits Us All*. His book, now out in paperback, will be available for sale and signing at the reception to follow. Those who have heard him before can attest to his speaking talent, and we expect that there will be a large audience to hear him. The most recent issue of the *NY Review of Books*, has an article by him entitled “The Torturers Among Us.” It tells the stories of immigrants to this country suspected of having tortured people when living elsewhere. [www.nybooks.com/articles/article-preview?article\\_id=15289](http://www.nybooks.com/articles/article-preview?article_id=15289). Dr. Schulz’ bio is at [www.kepplerassociates.com/schulz.htm](http://www.kepplerassociates.com/schulz.htm). Our sponsorship will be noted in the event program.

### **What would you Like Our Chapter to Do, and Be?**

The steering committee of our revived chapter is interested in planning activities and projects that will both make us a fun group and to be a force in the community as well. But this will take a bit of thought and input from our collective membership. There are some 500 of us at least, and together we could be very effective in this area, and a wonderful network. Check the National Peace Association Website, and then go to the links of the various chapters across the country. Look at what other groups have done or are doing. We could do these things too. Let us know on the email ring.

### **Temple University Seeks RPCV Teachers**

We’ve been asked to include this if we can: Temple University’s College of Education is seeking returned Peace Corps Volunteers to apply for its Peace Corps Fellows/USA master of education and teacher certification program. Fellows work in Philadelphia

public schools while studying secondary education in sciences, foreign languages, English, or social studies. Benefits include teachers’ salaries, scholarships for two-thirds tuition, and relocation stipends. Strong applicants will have ties to Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, or Delaware, and display a commitment to establishing a career within Philadelphia public schools. Admissions deadlines are rolling with classes beginning in January, May, and September. For more information contact Dr. David Fitt at 215-204-6110 or [dfitt@temple.edu](mailto:dfitt@temple.edu). Fellows/USA works with more than 30 universities that offer financial assistance to RPCVs who wish to attend graduate school in a variety of subject areas. Through internships, RPCVs work in underserved U.S. communities. Find out more at [www.peacecorps.gov/fellows](http://www.peacecorps.gov/fellows) call 800-424-8580, ext. 1440, or write to [fellows@peacecorps.gov](mailto:fellows@peacecorps.gov).

**The Liberia dinner**, for which John Kucij (Liberia, 69-71) is mainly responsible each year, will resume for the 8<sup>th</sup> year this coming fall. More about that in a later newsletter.