

Talks About Peace Corps Trip

SEE PAGE 5



ACTION UPDATE

September 30, 1981

IYDP Recognition Week: Honoring Contributions of the Disabled



Tom Pauken congratulates Susan Dunn. Also in photo, from left to right, are Jackie Harker, deputy director, Office of Voluntary Citizen Participation; George Wakiji, Office of Recruitment and Communication; and John Maddix, ACTION IYDP Committee chairman.

International Year of Disabled Persons Recognition Week opened at ACTION headquarters on Sept. 14, with a proclamation by ACTION Director Tom Pauken, pointing out ACTION's long history in working with the disabled. "Through ACTION's various programs," Pauken said, "disabled individuals have been involved, not just as recipients of service but, more importantly, as volunteers helping others."

Noting that disabled veterans will play a key role through the new Vietnam Veterans Leadership Pro-

gram, to help Vietnam veterans make a successful transition into civilian life, Pauken also announced that Chuck O'Brien, one of eight disabled people to climb Mt. Rainer recently, would serve as volunteer chairman of the Philadelphia Vietnam Veterans Project. O'Brien lost part of a leg, while serving in combat in Vietnam.

A highlight of the ceremony was a performance by blind actress Susan Dunn of excerpts from her play, "The Drummer I Must March To." Dunn introduced her performance by explaining that her play "chronicles the five years during which I became blind."

Dunn, who has a long history as a community leader promoting independent living for disabled citizens, moved the audience with the closing lines of "Drummer," declaring that "people say they can never face blindness, but you don't know what you may be able to handle. I am so like all the other people in the world!"

Pauken called Dunn "a great example to all. Her loss of sight as an adult has not prevented her from making a tremendous contribution."

Addressing the group, John Maddix, chairman of the agency's IYDP Committee, noted that ACTION/Peace Corps currently supports more than 35,000 disabled volunteers. "Our volunteers,"

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Susan Dunn performs excerpts from her play.



FROM THE DIRECTOR



I'm jumping the gun a bit, since ACTION Update will be featuring our RSVP Anniversary celebration in the next issue, but I want to share my pride and pleasure in a particular event of September 23, with you, while it is still fresh.

It was a real honor to stand in the White House Rose Garden and share in President and Mrs. Reagan's reception of over 50 of our RSVP volunteers, representing every state, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The President's welcome to the volunteers and his congratulations to them and to all those RSVP project directors and volunteers across the nation they represented were a fine tribute to millions of hours of selfless service. But an even greater tribute lay in his extemporaneous remarks addressing an issue of vital concern to most older Americans. There, surrounded by a group with whom he felt an obviously sincere affinity, the President asked that they return to their homes and spread the word that he would return fiscal stability to the Social Security program. No one who stood there could doubt the President's concern for the health and well-being of our nation's senior citizens or mitigate the seriousness of the challenge he faces.

The Rose Garden reception was capped by the President and First Lady signing the four-foot RSVP birthday card - a symbol of the nation's gratitude to all RSVPs who give of themselves that others might receive.

With warm regards,

Tom Pauken

SCP, RSVP Events

September has been a busy month for the staffs of our older American programs, featuring two major events in the Washington, D.C. area - the Senior Companion Program conference and the RSVP 10th anniversary celebration. Stories about both occasions will be featured in the next issue of Update.

Volunteer Leader Honored



Left to right: Tom Pauken, Judy Anderson, Lawrence Pratt.

JUDY ANDERSON of Burke, Va., was presented a certificate of appreciation by ACTION Director Tom Pauken, to honor her achievements as founder and director of Good Neighbors, Inc., a community volunteer organization in Fairfax County, Va.

Anderson was nominated for the award by Virginia House of Delegates Member Lawrence Pratt, who represents the eighth congressional district of Fairfax County.

In a presentation ceremony at ACTION headquarters, Pauken praised Anderson for her organizing efforts and dedication in bringing neighbors together for volunteer service. "You have shown what a community can do when neighbors get to know one another and exercise personal responsibility in working to solve their own problems," Pauken said. He added that, "We want to let others know what can be accomplished by groups like Good Neighbors."

Delegate Pratt told the gathering that, "Mrs. Anderson has built community spirit by teaching residents that they need not feel there is nothing they can do about problems in their communities. The rewards of service accrue, not only to recipients of aid, but to the volunteers themselves, as well. Neighbors helping neighbors," added Pratt, "is part of the fabric of American life."

Good Neighbors, Inc. was founded in Burke by Anderson to help her neighborhood recover from a brutal 1979 snowstorm. The organization was originally called the "Good Neighbor Club."

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FROM THE DIRECTOR



My trip to Swaziland was extremely successful. Not only did the Reagan administration choose to have Peace Corps represented in its delegation to the king's Silver Jubilee, but I was able to visit our Peace Corps volunteers while there. For me, it was particularly interesting to travel so far abroad and to see such a wide range of people in the midst of their daily activities. King Sobhozu II, now 82, has been reigning over Swaziland for 60 years.

Among the many fascinating and colorful events held in honor of the king's reign, were parades of thousands of Swazi warriors. Within their ranks, marching alongside, was a Peace Corps volunteer, so loved and respected by the community that he had been asked by the chief and the prince to participate, as if he were one of the local warriors ... The special aside to this is that the volunteer, Richard Fine, is Caucasian. This confirmed what I heard many times during the celebration, in formal and informal remarks, about Swaziland's special feelings of human friendship, trust, with no barriers between people.

At one point, I opted out of a visit to the state parliament, and instead traveled over 100 miles to the outlying posts, where our volunteers are serving. Peace Corps has 115 volunteers in Swaziland, most of whom are math, science and agriculture teachers. It was a pleasure to see their projects first hand.

I rushed back to the capital that same evening to change into formal clothes -- with ten minutes to spare -- for the state ball. Throughout the night, as I met Princess Margaret, or the President of Kenya, or other world leaders, I was told, time and again, that Peace Corps was one of America's best programs. I agree with them all, but particularly that night, because the red dust from the land I had walked on was still with me, and so was the spirit of the volunteers I had visited.

On the domestic front, we just completed a visit to the Peace Corps birthplace, the state of Michigan -- which has, over the years, given us 4,500 volunteers, making it our fifth largest contributing state -- where a variety of RPCV meetings and media events were held in honor of our 20 years. Proclamations were issued to honor the Peace Corps and I was able to speak personally with many RPCVs and Peace Corps friends. Although the formal celebration of our 20th year is winding down, we expect to enjoy the momentum for some time to come.

For the first time in four years, Peace Corps has been able to meet its requests for volunteers -- I am convinced that our 20th anniversary celebration has been a factor in this success story. Many thanks to all of you who have contributed to our renewed vigor this past year... especially the staff of the 20th Anniversary Office and its leader, Bill Reese.

Finally, I am delighted to announce the publication of Twenty Years of Peace Corps by Dr. Gerard Rice -- just now off the press. The book provides an excellent overview of the important work of our volunteers on behalf of global development. We hope to obtain widespread publicity for this history, and we are planning a few activities centered around this goal.

Sincerely,

Loret Ruppe

PC Photo Contest Winners Honored at Reception

A reception was held at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. on Sept. 9 to honor prize-winning photographs on display from the Peace Corps 20th Anniversary Photo Contest. Attending the reception were some 40 people including PC Director Loret Miller Ruppe, PC Deputy Director Everett Alvarez, Associate Peace Corps Director Lon Randall, ambassadors of several Peace Corps countries, other PC staffers and returned Peace Corps volunteers, including four of the photo winners.

Ruppe addressed her guests, calling the photo exhibit "a primary example of the Peace Corps experience. It represents what Peace Corps is all about," she said.



With Loret Ruppe (center) are Peace Corps photo winners (left to right), Andrew Winters, Kathleen Mossman Vitale, John Rafter and Steve Sennert.

Community Energy Project Working and Growing

Voluntarism and self-sufficiency are major elements of ACTION programs, and the agency's Community Energy Project (CEP) is no exception. "With CEP's inspiration and modest assistance, cities and towns across the country have been able to reduce energy costs, and most importantly, through all-inclusive, do-it-yourself efforts that bring different parts of the community together, to work on a common problem," says ACTION Director Tom Pauken. "CEP continues to grow, and this agency is totally committed to its important work."

It all began in the fall of 1979 in the town of Fitchburg, Mass. With the help of ACTION's Office of Voluntary Citizen Participation, which provided technical assistance and encouragement, that town became the nation's first example of how a community can mobilize its own resources and leadership to save energy. After a nine-week energy conservation campaign, more than 3,000 of Fitchburg's 14,000 households took low-cost/no-cost conservation steps that resulted in a fuel use reduction of about 14 percent.

Fitchburg's success prompted the Department of Energy (DOE) in February 1980, to allot \$300,000 to ACTION for the purpose of establishing the Community Energy Project to initiate broad-based, energy-saving campaigns in 20 communities across the country, each receiving up to \$5,000 in ACTION mini-grants.

"As in Fitchburg, the key to the projects' success
(cont. page 7)



A community volunteer instructs residents in energy conservation.

Security Measures Tightened at Headquarters

Following a rash of burglaries of both personal and government property, tight security measures have been implemented in the Maiatico Building at 806 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.

As of August 31, ACTION and Peace Corps employees must show agency identification to a 24-hour guard in the lobby. All visitors, or employees who've forgotten their I.D.s, must present other forms of identification, sign-in and be issued a visitor's pass. Since the stairway doors will be locked on the lobby side, everyone must use for the elevators. (That should add a few minutes to everybody's day.) Those doors do open from the inside, however, because of fire regulations.

No government property can be taken out of the headquarters building without a property pass, which can be obtained in room M-206.

Please be on the lookout for unauthorized persons in the building, and report any suspicious activity to Ext. 48028



COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN

KICKOFF BEGINS OCTOBER 19!

COPE

Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

Employees and family members of employees wishing assistance in resolving personal, family, social, legal, financial, drug and alcohol abuse problems may obtain confidential help by calling :

COPE Counseling Center
484-7400

OPTC Head Shares Views on Peace Corps Trip



RICHARD ABELL, director of Peace Corps' Office of Programming and Training Coordination, recently returned from a seven-week field tour of Peace Corps countries in Africa and NANEAP. Abell, who served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Colombia in the late 1960s, visited Senegal, Togo, Ghana, Kenya, Nepal, the Philippines, Fiji and Samoa. Upon his return, he shared some of his impressions with ACTION Update.



Q. What was the major purpose of your trip?

A. To further familiarize myself with the area of the world in which I am involved. As OPTC director, I will be making and participating in a lot of decisions affecting this agency, and I want these decisions to be based, not on an ivory tower, bureaucratic frame of reference, but on what really exists out there in the world.

Q. Whom did you visit, and what were some of the major topics of discussion?

A. I visited trainees, volunteers -- usually at their training or volunteer sites -- Peace Corps staff, host country officials and the people of the country. We discussed a wide variety of topics -- satisfaction with training, problems with staff, achievement of Peace Corps goals, programming and training initiatives. I got varied comments, but people seemed generally pleased, and when they weren't pleased, they were usually frank about it.

Q. What programming and training initiatives did you discuss?

A. Two major ones stand out. One was support for further development of the core curriculum -- the standard set of qualitative training and learning goals set for all PCVs. This is something we also want to do over the next few years.

Secondly, I saw strong support for expansion of the CAST (Center for Assessment and Training), the pre-invitational process we use for about a third of our trainees to help determine someone's suitability for Peace Corps. Nearly everyone I spoke with about the CAST thought, as I do, that it usually produces particularly qualified volunteers. It is an expensive program, but in my opinion, cost effective in that we've lowered our rate of attrition.

Q. Were you able to assess the impact Peace Corps is making?

A. Definitely. In many countries, Ghana for example, nearly every young person I spoke with had personally known or been taught by a Peace Corps volunteer. This has a key impact on how Americans are viewed around the world, and in many countries I saw examples of technology that were a direct result of the work of Peace Corps volunteers. In Western Samoa, for instance, both a new parliamentary building and the privy system had been built by host country people with the help of Peace Corps volunteers.

But the biggest impact I saw was a philosophical one. I talked with volunteers from agencies of other countries, and while these volunteers were offering higher technical expertise than PCVs, the projects that they initiated were frequently too sophisticated for the people at the village level to understand, not to mention too expensive. So, many of these projects didn't really relate directly to the people, often weren't used, and therefore just "died."

Peace Corps volunteers, on the other hand, were working at a grassroots level with the people, helping them to help themselves, and therefore acting as catalysts for change. We play a pivotal role in training people to do things for themselves, one step at a time. I think this concept puts us light-years ahead of other countries doing volunteer work.

Q. Was there any one common concern among the volunteers and trainees?

A. Yes. The most common question put to me by both volunteers and trainees in every country I visited was, "What does President Reagan think of

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PEOPLE IN PLACE

ALEXANDER B. COOK, an attorney who has practiced in Cleveland, Ohio and Washington, D.C., has been appointed general counsel of the Peace Corps by Peace Corps Director Loret Ruppe.

Cook, 43, said he was delighted with the challenge of his new position and noted that he and former Peace Corps Director Richard F. Celeste are both from the same suburb of Cleveland, Lakewood, Ohio. "The Cleveland area has certainly been well represented on the Peace Corps staff," said Cook. "I hope the area is as well represented in the number of Peace Corps volunteers."

In fact, Ohio has been a major contributor of Peace Corps volunteers. More than 4,000 Ohioans have served during the past 20 years and currently, nearly 250 Ohio residents are PCVs.

From 1973 until his appointment with the Peace Corps, Cook was an attorney with the House Judiciary Committee. He participated in the vice-presidential confirmation hearings of Gerald Ford and Nelson Rockefeller and the impeachment proceedings of former President Richard Nixon. His

(cont. page 8)

JOSEPHINE "JODY" OLSEN, 38, from Baltimore, Md., was recently appointed regional director of NANEAP. She supervises the activities of about 1,600 Peace Corps volunteers and trainees in the region.

From July, 1979 to August, 1981, Olsen directed Peace Corps programs in Togo, West Africa. She and her husband, Robert, were Peace Corps volunteers in Tunisia, North Africa, 1966 - 1968. Robert Olsen now is completing the development of a housing project for the Ministry of Housing in Togo.

Prior to becoming Peace Corps director in Togo, Olsen was director of the University of Maryland Center on Aging in College Park for five years.

In 1974, she was the director of the Baltimore

City Area Agency on Aging, and the previous year, a project director of the Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland. She was an assistant director of the Governor's Commission on Nursing Homes in Baltimore in 1972.

Olsen was a social worker at the Kennedy Institute for the Habilitation of the Mentally and Physically Handicapped Child in 1971, and during the previous year, a medical social worker for St. Luke's Hospital in New York City.

A 1965 magna cum laude sociology graduate of the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, Olsen received a master's degree in social work and community planning in 1972 and a doctoral degree in gerontology and administration in 1979 from the University of Maryland.

She has been a member of the National Association of Social Workers, the Gerontological Society and National Association for Gerontology in Higher Education and from 1976 to 1978, she was the president of Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland, the largest program of its kind in the country.

Aside from her administrative duties as regional director, Olsen intends to maintain contact with returned Peace Corps volunteers and help them find ways to share their experiences with other United States citizens. "I want people to be aware that the Peace Corps is a vital agency and encourage them to become volunteers," she says. "I want people to realize that the Peace Corps is not a career, but an interruption that will enrich the rest of their lives."

Volunteer Leader (from page 2)

"That snowstorm generated the crisis that got us together," she recalls. "What we wanted to do was capture the cooperative atmosphere of that day."

Since its founding, Good Neighbors, Inc. has sponsored a variety of projects and activities, including a good neighbor referral service, youth job referrals, a transportation locator service, an energy information service and emergency and day care referral services.

The organization has recently expanded its services throughout Fairfax County. All of the group's activities depend on volunteers.

Despite its growth, Anderson says that Good Neighbors, Inc. continues to focus on voluntarism at the neighborhood level. "In most every neighborhood," she says, "we can very quickly become a vehicle to assist needs."

Individuals interested in more information about Good Neighbors, Inc., may call (703) 978-0631.



Alexander Cook



Josephine Olsen

STAFF EXCHANGE

For those waiting for elevators on the seventh floor of the Maiatico Building, there are now rows of chairs, neatly arranged, airport style, complete with ashtrays. Bring your own magazines...

Is ACTION/PC cleaning up its act? Cleaning men were seen last week polishing the facade of the Maiatico Building...

A new staff phone directory, compiled before the RIF/reorganization, will soon be distributed to all employees...Timing???

Get well wishes to Seattle Area Manager Tim McCormick who broke his ankle while getting off a bus.

CEP (from page 4)

cess rested on voluntarism, community leadership's commitment and participation of citizens at all levels," notes CEP Director Francis Luzzatto.

An extension of the original agreement in late 1980, allocated nearly \$2 million in DOE funds to expand CEP and to launch programs in 35 additional communities throughout the country, "not only in cold areas, but also in states like Alabama, Texas and Arizona," says CEP Program Assistant Tamera Stanton. "The high price of energy, whether for heating or for cooling, is a national phenomenon, affecting everyone," she adds.

CEP staff is also publishing a manual on planning and running a community energy program. The manual will be based on their experience in the first 20 involved cities and, according to Stanton, will be available to cities directly participating in CEP, as well as to any cities and towns who are interested in developing their own energy initiative.

"Now, we want to apply the CEP approach to additional energy issues - as well as to low-cost/no-cost energy conservation," Luzzatto says. Demonstration areas under consideration include water conservation, energy conservation in the multi-family sector, local financial energy enterprises and job training.

"One area we want to pursue is automobile fuel efficiency," Stanton says. "We are talking to representatives from a national vocational organization about a project that will mobilize citizens to reduce their costs of driving, perhaps using youth

as the volunteer trainers. The project could work through vocational schools, clubs and educational programs."

She adds that CEP is exploring statewide mechanisms for training and increasingly would like to place resources and responsibilities at the state level to reach as many communities as possible. A statewide convention in Minneapolis, Minn., for example, will train JAYCEES from 40 chapters throughout the state to teach energy saving techniques, with emphasis on the elderly and disabled as training recipients. RSVP volunteers and JAYCEES will be working together in many cases, in this endeavor, according to Peter Marks, ACTION state program director in Minnesota.

And in Missouri, several energy training conferences will bring together RSVP directors and volunteers and community leaders from both the government and the private sector. Participants, in turn, will train fellow citizens and serve as catalysts in mobilizing a community energy program.

"It is obvious that states and communities must be imaginative in their use of available resources, such as block grant monies, in tackling energy related issues," Luzzatto says. "They must explore creative ways of drawing on volunteers and local resources in building a constituency for a variety of long-term energy-saving efforts. We are helping them to do this, but in every case, the community is responsible for its own success."



Tamera Stanton, CEP program assistant; and Francis Luzzatto, CEP director.

FROM THE FIELD...

SPRINGFIELD, ILL...The annual Golden Age Day of the Illinois State Fair was the scene of a recent RSVP 10th anniversary celebration. Illinois Governor James Thompson was on hand to present awards to outstanding senior volunteers and to proclaim September as RSVP Volunteer Month. Over 2,500 senior citizens, many of them RSVPs, heard Illinois State Director Paul Gibson speak on the subject, "Ten Years - A Moment in Time, A Lifetime of Caring." Gibson noted, "RSVP is one of the most cost-effective government programs."

GREENCASTLE, IND... Two Japanese visitors toured the Greencastle RSVP office to learn about voluntarism in the United States and to take back ideas to their country in order to develop a volunteer program, according to Tom Haskett, ACTION state program director for Indiana. The visitors were impressed with the program, and spent two hours asking questions, perusing forms and visiting volunteer stations. As a token of their appreciation, they contributed \$100 to the program.

NEW YORK, N.Y...Region II's communication staff visited Covenant House for runaways, and met with the home's public relations director to discuss pamphlets, speakers bureaus, films and other media techniques for reaching and educating the public to the problems of runaway youth. The staff visit was a follow-up to the meeting, earlier this summer, of ACTION Director Tom Pauken and Region II Director Herbert Stupp, with Covenant House Director Father Bruce Ritter, in an effort to more clearly understand the problems of runaways, as well as the media approach to those problems. (See story on Covenant House in last issue of Update.)

CINCINNATI, OHIO.. Detroit Area Office Recruiter Jackie Thompson visited the Butterfield Senior Center here to seek out and recruit seniors for Peace Corps. She was there to tell the seniors that they were definitely wanted in the Peace Corps. Thompson was able to set up a booth at the senior center through the efforts of Rick Sage, Cincinnati RSVP director. While in Cincinnati for the city campaign, August 11, 12, and 13, she organized a PC 20th anniversary recognition event at space donated by another ACTION sponsor. An anniversary cake, and beverages were donated by local merchants.

Cook (from page 6)

service with the committee also included work with the Subcommittee on Immigration and the Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy which produced the Refugee Act of 1980.

Prior to that, Cook served from 1967 to 1973 with the Federal Trade Commission as an attorney with the Bureau of Consumer Protection.

He was a practicing attorney with the Cleveland law firm of Hertz and Kates from 1964 to 1967.

Cook received his bachelor's degree in accounting in 1960 from Ohio State University, Columbus, and his J.D. degree in 1964 from Georgetown University Law School. He is a member of the Ohio and the District of Columbia bars.

Cook and his family now make their home in Alexandria, Va., where he has served on the Alexandria Drug Abuse Commission, and as president of his neighborhood civic association.

Richard Abell (from page 5)

Peace Corps and what does he plan to do with it?" My response was, "He is very committed to the existence and the work of the Peace Corps." After all, what concept is more conservative than that of the Peace Corps? Peace Corps is voluntarism at the grassroots level, people playing a key role in the development of their own community, not receiving handouts, but really learning to do for themselves.

IYDP (from page 1)

said Maddix, "show the world that disabled persons can produce, providing services and not simply receiving them."

The week also featured a series of speakers and films focusing on issues vital to disabled citizens, both in the U.S. and in the Third World. These events will be highlighted in the next issue of Update.

Joining in the week's affairs were a number of private and public organizations, including the Boy Scouts, Disabled American Veterans, the Veterans Administration, the Special Olympics, the Association for Retard Citizens, the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped and the National Easter Seal Society.

ACTION UPDATE

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