



Friends OF COLOMBIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE COLOMBIA RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of Colombia,

I am writing to you from the Canadian shore of Lake Erie, enjoying cool, clear air, a lovely peninsula, and family gathered in my home. I hope your summer is equally enjoyable.

You probably heard about the disaster that struck Mocoa in the Putumayo of Colombia. Overflow from the Mocoa River caused an avalanche which covered a good portion of Mocoa, resulting in deaths, injuries and displacement of the population.

One of our members, David Taylor, was stationed in Mocoa from 1964-66. David and his wife, Norlene Wolfe, RPCV Sogomoso/Tunja 1964-66, offered a matching grant to FOC's fundraising efforts in support of relief efforts. As a result, FOC donated \$15,000 to Give to Colombia, the organization selected by the Colombian Government to receive donations for Mocoa relief. (See David's story about his Peace Corps experience in Mocoa on page 4 of this newsletter.)

The National Peace Corps Association's annual conference will be held this year in Denver over the weekend of August

4th, 5th, and 6th. FOC board member Pat Wand is organizing the Colombia events, which she has done for many years and for which we are very grateful. Pat has the best resources for finding stimulating speakers through her international network of librarians. This year she chose Oliver Kaplan as the speaker for our event. Oliver conducts fieldwork in Colombia where he studies how civilian communities organize to protect themselves from wartime violence. He is currently Assistant Professor at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver. You will find more information about the events in this newsletter.

Please note that our membership renewal date for everyone is January 1. If you are not a member, I hope you will join by accessing the membership form attached to this newsletter. I hope you will take time to read on and open the links to the articles in this newsletter.

Sincerely yours,

Arleen Stewart Cheston
President, Friends of Colombia



SUMMER 2017 ISSUE

FROM THE FIELD	2
AFTER PEACE CORPS.....	4
PROJECT UPDATES.....	6
BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS.....	9
IN MEMORIAM.....	11
MEMBERSHIP FORM	12

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT Arleen Stewart Cheston
VICE PRESIDENT Ned Chalker
SECRETARY Irv Dubinsky
TREASURER Jim Kolb
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR Gale Gibson
BOARD MEMBER Pat Wand
BOARD MEMBER Jerry Norris
BOARD MEMBER Jim Todd
BOARD MEMBER Mary Ray
BOARD MEMBER Don Goldberg
ADVISOR TO THE BOARD Helene Dudley
ADVISOR TO THE BOARD Bob Arias
EDITOR Pat Kelly
WEBMASTER Michael Band
DESIGN BY Vanguard Communications

FROM THE *Field*

COLOMBIA IS COFFEE, EMERALDS AND...DIAMONDS!? BY HOWARD ELLEGANT AND CAROL ELLEGANT

Well, diamonds in the rough that is—in the public schools in the disadvantaged barrios in the mountains high above Medellín. Almost every other year since 2010 my wife Carol and I have volunteered during our winter to help teach English in public schools under the auspices of the Fundación Marina Orth. There we met bright-eyed, smart children eager to learn a foreign language that could be a key to a better life.

I was a PCV in Medellín in the mid-1960s. I was drawn back to help after my first visit to that city in more than 40 years, following the 2008 RPCV Conference in Cartagena. In Medellín, other RPCVs and I toured Escuela Marina Orth (EMO), originally built with the help of Maureen Orth when she was a Volunteer. EMO sits just below the crest of the mountains on the west side of the Valle de Aburrá in which Medellín is located. Carol and I volunteered in two public schools—EMO (where the English teaching program originated) and Camino de Paz—also high in the mountains but on the side of the valley opposite EMO.

In the intervening years since I was a PCV living there, Medellín grew from a city of about one-half million people to a metropolis of more than three million. Small colonial towns which were located on the outskirts were incorporated into the large metropolitan area. The flow of people into the communities high up on either side of the valley continues to be from persons displaced by the violence in the countryside as well as those seeking opportunities in the city.

The experience of helping teach English in the schools was more satisfactory in some years than others. Carol and I worked together in classrooms helping

teachers. Often we had classes totally to ourselves. Sometimes we worked with other volunteers, including one from the UK and another RPCV living with his wife in Medellín. We worked with students in third, fourth, fifth and sixth grades, sometimes in small groups with better students identified by their teachers. Other times we assisted the regular English teacher in the second through fifth grades. We helped to form an after-school English club attended by students from the ninth, tenth and eleventh grades.

Experiences as volunteers were always a mixed bag. Too many times we would arrive at school only to find the class we were supposed to teach or help had been canceled for a variety of reasons. The classes were large and students lacked discipline. Schools do not have textbooks for teaching English. At times we had access to audio-visual resources allowing us to show videos on the internet to support our teaching. Nursery rhymes, “The Wheels on the Bus,” and Adele songs proved popular depending upon the

(Below) Carol Ellegant works with a group of students using visual aids to learn English.



The core mission of the **Marina Orth Foundation** is to teach technology, English and leadership in its more than 15 schools so far. It does this through boot camps in English for teachers, Robotics Clubs, Girls Who Code projects, and partnering with Microsoft in a program for teaching dropout youth employable computer skills. International volunteers have helped teach English. And the foundation has given university scholarships to talented students who never imagined they would go to college. Now the foundation aims to be the first program in Latin America to create a new way for teachers of English to reach their students using a blended model of teacher training with both online and face-to-face support. Bloomberg Philanthropies has underwritten an ambitious strategic plan to help the foundation get started on this new mission.

FROM THE FIELD (CONTINUED)

COLOMBIA IS COFFEE (CONTINUED)

students' ages. This past year the teacher with whom we worked was very adept at finding resources on the internet to support his English lessons. Sometimes the wi-fi failed for a period, but hey, that happens at home too!

No matter what difficulties we encountered, finding children eager to learn English, some of whom were already quite accomplished given their circumstances, made our work gratifying. They are the diamonds in the rough. Some students had scholarships to attend Saturday morning English classes at the Centro Colombo Americano in Medellín. Students attending the Centro quickly advance their skills. This past winter we met two fourth graders well on their way to English proficiency. One was already attending the Centro Colombo Americano and the other should shortly receive a scholarship. In the same class were several others who, with some individual tutoring, could be on their way. Through Facebook and contacts in Medellín we have followed the progress of some of the students we taught as they finished high school and progressed on to university or technical schools.

Five years ago we met a shy teenage boy whom we were asked to help with an essay he was writing for the Centro Colombo Americano. Carol and I were so impressed with his seriousness, ability and drive that we invited him to spend seven weeks with us in the USA that summer in order to improve his English. At the end of those seven weeks he was telling jokes in English, cooking his own breakfast and spending time with friends he had made, including a brother and sister from Italy. Forward to today. He is now in the middle of his third year of Law School on full scholarship at the Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana in Medellín. His future looks bright as he points toward a career in the law and public service.

There are more of these "diamonds in the rough" waiting to be polished. All it takes are interested, committed Friends of Colombia to help with the task. Check out the Fundación Marina Orth website to see the latest developments and programs of the foundation as well as opportunities to help. Check with the Foundation. And please donate to FMO!

To sum up, we had amazing opportunities to experience public schools in disadvantaged urban barrios. We met some really smart students and committed, wonderful teachers, native English speakers and Colombian. We also made Colombian friends whom we see on every visit and with whom we maintain contact via the internet.

Howard Ellegant was a Peace Corps Volunteer Architect living in Medellín from 1964 to 1966. He was engaged principally in the design of one-room schools in the Department of Antioquia, in sites where Rural Community Development Peace Corps Volunteers were working with local communities. Howard and his wife Carol live in Evanston, Illinois.

(Left) Carol Ellegant works with a group of students using visual aids to learn English. (Below) The Ellegants work with classes of older students to learn and practice English.



“No matter what difficulties we encountered, finding children eager to learn English, some of whom were already quite accomplished given their circumstances, made our work gratifying.”

After PEACE CORPS

MY MOCOCA BY DAVID TAYLOR

I was in Mocoa from September 1964 until June 1966, a little less than two years. Mocoa has been in me, in my heart and mind and memories, for more than 50 years.

Mocoa first became a geographical reality for me when I saw my name pinned on a map of Colombia at the end of Peace Corps training in Kansas City, Missouri. The pin was green. The location was the small administrative capitol of the Territory of Putumayo; Mocoa, population approximately 2,000 souls. They were settlers who had emigrated to the Putumayo to both homestead and to escape the political violence engulfing the rest of the country.

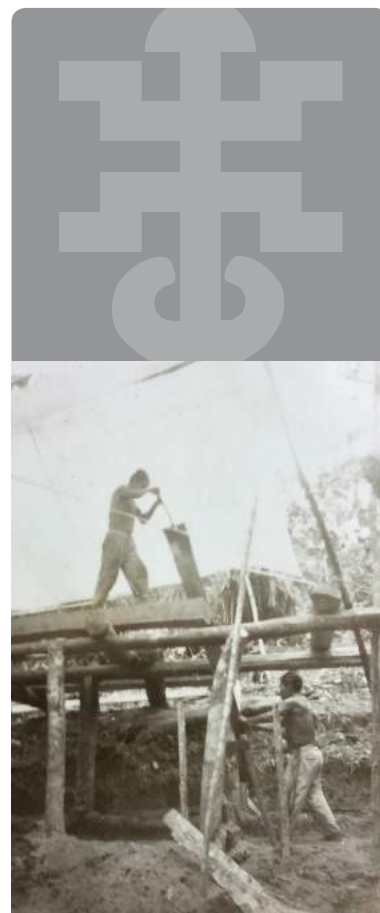
Mocoa first became a physical reality for me when I rode in a green Willys jeep, over possibly the most treacherous road in Colombia, from Pasto at nearly 9,000 feet in the Andes to Mocoa at a 2,000-foot elevation in the foothills of the Andes and at the headwaters of several rivers that flowed into the Mocoa River, which flowed into the Putumayo River, which in turn flowed into the Amazon River. I was driven by the PCV I was replacing in Mocoa, who had recently been elevated to PCV Leader, Elliott Smith.

A green pin on a map. A hair-raising ride in a green jeep, which at times had me turning a bit green as I looked over the precipitous edge and as we passed innumerable crosses alongside the road memorializing prior travelers who had not made the trip successfully. A green door on my cold-water room in Mocoa. Green was the prelude to my 21 months walking, riding (my horse Rocinante), working and wrangling in the deep green jungle around Mocoa.

Wrangling? Most of my time and energy was spent as a sort of circuit rider among the various *veredas* surrounding Mocoa. Sometime during my first year, before I became fully fluent in Spanish, one of the first projects I became involved with was the building of a corduroy trail for one of the outlying communities, La Florida. The purpose of the trail was to allow the settlers of this vereda to travel from their remote location in the jungle to the main road and to Mocoa year round on a trail that often became more of a swampy canal, and thus impassable during the rainy season. With the chainsaw given to me by CARE slung over my back in a rubberized waterproof bag, I tromped off into the jungle. Meetings were held, elections were held, and the project decided upon; improve the trail for year-round access. The newly elected president of the junta asked to be instructed in the use of the chainsaw. I bartered this instruction for his teaching me how to use an axe. Additionally, his newly acquired skill with technology bolstered his authority and status in the community. The first stage of the project consisted of bringing sand and gravel up from the nearby Rumiyocho River to fill in the rut that the trail had become. The next step was to fell hardwood trees approximately eight to twelve inches in diameter and cut them into lengths of three to four feet and lay (wrangle actually) them transversely over the sand and gravel. The project lasted over a year and ended with the construction of nearly five miles of year-round trail.

In addition to the opportunity to work with and witness the great energy and creativity of these people starting new

(Right) Community members work together to construct a trail linking their town to other locations.



“
The first stage of the project consisted of bringing sand and gravel up from the nearby Rumiyocho River to fill in the rut that the trail had become.
”

AFTER PEACE CORPS (CONTINUED)

MY MOCOA (CONTINUED)

lives in the jungle, the aspect of the project that remains most prominent in my memory is the time I returned from one of the several day-work sessions late in the day. It had rained on my way back from Mocoa. I was wet and dirty and sweaty and tired from the work. As I entered Mocoa and crossed the central plaza, I encountered a group of the local wise guys/jokers hanging out after work. They asked where I had been and what I had been doing. My Spanish was adequate by this time, but I was not yet fully fluent. I told them about the corduroy trail. I told them I had been carrying logs. In Spanish the verb *cargar* means to carry. It is not uncommon for new (green) speakers of Spanish, especially if they are tired, to not pronounce or accentuate the 'r' in Spanish as fully as they should. They heard me say *cagar*, which in Spanish means to defecate. This, coupled with the fact that the word for log in Spanish, *palo*, is also slang for turd, set me up with these jokers for the best time they had in weeks. They

had me saying I was shitting logs. For how long? Three days. How long were they? Three or four feet. How big around? Eight to twelve inches. How many? Too many to count. They were falling all over themselves with laughter. I was perplexed. It was great to make people laugh, but I didn't understand why. Then they brought me into the joke with a short vocabulary lesson. I laughed as hard as they did and still do at the thought. Later, when I told the story to Don Jorge, the German living outside of Mocoa and who was the touchstone for most international visitors to the Putumayo, he and his wife Concha could not stop laughing and it became one of their favorite stories to tell visitors. Don Jorge assured me I had been fully accepted in Mocoa.

The people of Mocoa sent me back to the United States with this story, and a treasure trove of other experiences and memories. They got so deep inside of me that I wanted years later to name my son Mocoa. Mostly I remember their unique combination of hard work and humor. Just as they built a new life after political violence, I believe they will do the same and prevail after the recent violence of Mother Nature. And perhaps with the help of a little green from us.

(Left) PCV David Taylor uses the chain saw given to him by CARE. (Below) Workers carry lengths cut from hardwood trees over the sand and gravel to build the road.



On April 4, more than 50 years since David Taylor lived and worked in Mocoa, a deadly flash flood surged through this small city. Mocoa was vulnerable because of its location, amid a confluence of rivers in this wet subtropical Amazon region of southern Colombia. When a month's worth of rain fell in a single night, more than 200 residents perished, according to news reports. In an effort to help his adopted city, David and his wife Norlene Taylor offered to match donations raised by Friends of Colombia to help Mocoa residents. In June, FOC was able to donate \$15,000 to Give to Colombia, the organization selected by the Colombian Government to receive donations for Mocoa relief.



Project UPDATES

THE COLOMBIA PROJECT (TCP) GOES GLOBAL

BY HELENE DUDLEY, COLOMBIA 65

Colombia RPCV John Hatch, founder of FINCA Village Banking, challenged delegates at the 2014 Micro-Credit Summit in Mexico to extend micro-loans outside population centers. He noted that rural, remote areas as well as handicapped populations remained largely underserved. Those were empowering words for The Colombia Project (TCP), which already was achieving success in small communities throughout the country.

Thanks to generous support from Friends of Colombia, Rotary International and Colombia RPCVs, TCP Global has established six sustainable loan programs in the last nine years. A \$32,000 investment in rural La Victoria, Genova and Obando,

with populations under 15,000 each, funded 1,000 loans worth \$254,000 (each donated dollar invested eight times) while a 2013 grant of \$17,500 from Rotary International established three sustainable programs serving handicapped groups in Barranquilla. (A TCP Global site is considered 'sustainable' when it continues to recycle funds received previously, requiring no additional outside donations for loan funds.)

Suan is the newest small town in the TCP Global family and the first of what is hoped will be many loan programs with a Peace Corps Volunteer (PCV) connection. In an October 2016 workshop, TCP Global introduced Peace Corps Colombia staff and Community and Economic Development (CED) trainees to its loan model. Thanks to PCV Andrew Koch, Fundación will issue its first TCP micro-loans this summer. While mentoring by e-mail with periodic visits has produced good results, with a PCV working with the grassroots organization, results are expected to be even better.

(Below) Delvis and Alejo—who run the program in Suan—started with an introduction by Response Volunteer Will Osolinsky. (Above right) The October, 2016 meeting with PC trainees and staff.



OUR HISTORY

In response to suggestions by leaders of the displaced community in Bogotá, Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of South Florida created The Colombia Project (TCP) as a committee in 2000 and served as its 501c3 for 13 years. TCP Global evolved as an independent pro bono consulting team in 2014. Through a recent Sponsorship Agreement, the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) serves as the 501c3 for all TCP Global micro-loans, accepting tax-deductible donations and forwarding funds to loan sites. An anonymous donor pays NPCA's 15% fee so that 100% of donations are distributed as loans.



“
A TCP Global site is considered 'sustainable' when it continues to recycle funds received previously, requiring no additional outside donations for loan funds.
”

PROJECT UPDATES (CONTINUED)

TCP GOES GLOBAL (CONTINUED)

The Suan and subsequent Colombia PCV sites would probably not have materialized were it not for RPCV Betty Scalise (67-69), whose generous donation toward rural Atlantico loan programs provided the incentive to overcome significant obstacles. Working closely with Suan Response Volunteer Will Osolinsky, that program finally opened a month after Will left, with contributions from RPCVs Maureen Orth and Elizabeth Jenkins Joffee to supplement Betty's original \$1500 allocation.

During an October visit, TCP Global team members found the Suan leaders and borrowers highly motivated and well organized. The first eight micro-loans were for expansion of existing small enterprises, including raising pigs and chickens, and production of cleaning supplies. Recipients meet monthly to share experiences and build community ties. Although Will has completed his service, he remains involved by email. Suan received a second \$1500 allocation, supporting 25 loans to date with an excellent repayment rate.

While the program in Colombia continues to grow in new and exciting ways, in 2015 TCP Global expanded to Guatemala, Peru and Niger... and to the Philippines in 2016, with excellent results. Earlier this year, TCP Global issued its first loan in the U.S. to a young Haitian woman. She is mentored by Educate Tomorrow (ET), a non-profit established by RPCV Virginia Emmons to mentor youth who age out of the Florida foster care system. Rather than being on their own at age 18, mentees receive state funding for education and living expenses plus mentoring from ET and, as of May, three have also received TCP micro-loans. ET also administers the TCP loan program in Niger.

Not a stand-alone model, TCP Global adds small, zero overhead, sustainable loan programs as another tool for existing anti-poverty tool kits of organizations working effectively in marginalized communities. Since partners already know their

(Left) A mother and daughter in Suan—both attended an entrepreneurial workshop before receiving a loan. *(Below)* TCP Global reps meeting with all of the loan recipients in Suan in October 2016.

“
No matter what difficulties we encountered, finding children eager to learn English, some of whom were already quite accomplished given their circumstances, made our work gratifying.
”



PROJECT UPDATES (CONTINUED)

TCP GOES GLOBAL (CONTINUED)

communities, they are prepared to assess the viability of loan applications. With rent, salaries, Internet and other services covered, they incur minimal administrative costs for a small loan program of 30-45 open loans. Small programs are manageable and ensure that borrowers receive the individual support that promotes success.

Our education, health and community organizing partners find that increasing family income helps achieve their primary missions to address poverty. With extra family income, students can stay in school and families can afford clean drinking water, smoke-free cooking stoves and healthier food. An additional benefit to the community: borrowers who are successful in small business are frequently empowered to become community leaders.

The Colombia Project has consistently pursued two goals: provide loans to marginalized entrepreneurs and strengthen grassroots organizations that effectively serve marginalized populations. While TCP Global pays partners nothing up front for good intentions, it rewards partners generously for good results. If loan partners maintain a 95 percent repayment rate and promptly reinvest payments in new loans, they may use 50 percent of funds originally received through TCP, plus all interest earned for special projects.

Since 2007, ten Colombia partners have earned over \$60,000 for community projects such as facilities for the handicapped, home repairs for poor families, a sewing cooperative and completion of community centers. Other earnings were used to purchase equipment and pay communication costs. In Niger, program earnings help an RPCV-funded school become sustainable.

The TCP Global goal is to perpetuate our simple, sustainable, replicable model through global organizations like Peace Corps, Rotary International and the NPCA. RPCV Friends-of-Groups would play an important role. FOC has helped TCP every step of the way in Colombia—with publicity, culturally appropriate strategy, and financial support. Similar groups for the Philippines, Niger, Guatemala and Peru could help those programs grow stronger. Members of Friends-of-Groups have the cultural awareness necessary for program success. For example, Kabey Fo, where the Niger program operates, is a community of displaced Muslims from Mali. Virginia Emmons (RPCV Niger) understands how both the Muslim ban on interest, and prejudice against refugees, impact the program. So Kabey Fo charges a fee rather than interest, and Virginia will expand the loan program to benefit nearby Niger communities so that Kabey Fo is seen as a resource rather than refugees competing for economic prosperity at the expense of Niger natives.

It takes relatively little money to build a sustainable loan program in a small community—roughly \$12,000 over a four-year period. Donations to TCP Global provide a significant ‘bang for the buck’ with each donated dollar matched once per year by loan repayments. With support, we can fully fund the seven international sites still in development, and build momentum to have our model adopted by global development organizations.

Tax deductible donations can be made online to the NPCA Community Fund (designated for TCP Global) or by a check sent to NPCA-Community Fund, 1900 L Street, NW, Suite 610, Washington, DC 20036. To benefit a particular country, just indicate Colombia, Guatemala, Peru, Niger or Philippines in the memo line.

(Above right) A loan recipient.



“With extra family income, students can stay in school and families can afford clean drinking water, smoke-free cooking stoves and healthier food.”

Books, BOOKS, BOOKS

KILL THE GRINGO

BY JACK VAUGHN (A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS)

A REVIEW BY JERRY NORRIS, COLOMBIA VI

Perhaps our Friends of Colombia readers will excuse my use of his Christian name throughout this book review. It came about honestly. Just after Jack had succeeded Sarge as Peace Corps Director in 1966, I was a recent hire. A national celebration of cooperatives in the month of October was a major event. Since Peace Corps had several cooperative projects abroad, such as in Colombia, it called for Jack to make a public presentation at the Pan American Union. I was tasked with providing him with some “talking points.” I approached him with a file folder, saying: “Mr. Vaughn, these are some materials on our cooperative projects.” He responded: “My friends call me Jack.” I said: “That’s fine, mine call me Mr. Norris.” Jack rocked back on his feet in laughter. Thank goodness he had a sense of humor!

So, Jack it is. The title of his book comes from his days as a boxer in Mexico just before World War II. In his first fight, the crowd roared: *Mata al Gringo ... Mata al Gringo ... Mataloooo al Gringo!* Jack wrote: “The bad news was that I was the gringo. The good news was that I had not yet become familiar with the Spanish verb ‘to kill’.”

Jack went on to serve as an officer with the Marine Corps on Guam, then Okinawa. Although many of us on the Peace Corps Washington staff were aware that he had contracted malaria from his time in the South Pacific and still had lingering bouts, I didn’t know until this book that he had been wounded several times. Once so badly on his shoulders from white phosphorous shell fragments that these wounds weren’t finally rehabilitated until 1970 when he underwent plastic surgery in Colombia. This procedure finally stopped the continuous peeling of burnt skin.

Jack began his romp through the ranks of major organizations, beginning with the

U. S. Information Service. His first job in Bolivia almost became his last. One day in Cochabamba, as he was walking across the University campus, he was accosted by a group of some 30 students. In the middle of the campus, they strung him up to a tree. They accused him of being a Yankee Imperialist and were bent on hanging him. Every now and again one of them would jerk the rope, pulling Jack off his feet. Just as things were beginning to look hopeless, a military patrol jeep came racing across the square, chasing the students away.

Jack went on to the ICA (the International Cooperation Administration), a precursor to USAID, for a field assignment in Panama. He was then transferred back to Bolivia where his new boss was none other than Warren Wiggins, later to be one of the seminal thought leaders in translating the Peace Corps concept into an operational environment.

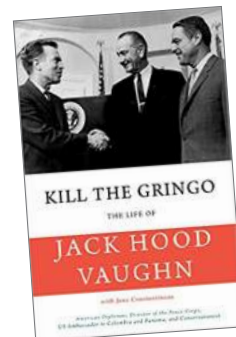
His next assignments took him to Senegal. One night during the Presidential election of 1960, he watched the debate between Nixon and JFK at the residence of the American Ambassador. Afterwards, JFK flew to the University of Michigan, Jack’s alma mater, and from the front steps of the Student Union he delivered at 2 a.m. the first reference of what would become the Peace Corps, saying “How many of you who are going to be doctors are willing to spend your days in Ghana?”

In 1961, Vice President Lyndon Johnson visited Senegal. Because Jack was fluent in French, he was assigned to take him around on official visits. This also gave Jack his first opportunity to meet Bill Moyers and both became key pillars in Jack’s subsequent rise through the government’s foreign aid bureaucracy. After they departed Senegal, another key figure in Jack’s career came for a visit: Sargent Shriver. Although Peace Corps had been officially launched in March

of 1961, it was virtually unheard of and Sarge was in Senegal to drum up support for requests.

Of the many stories that Jack recalls in his book, one describes the riots that broke out in Panama in 1964 as a military coup was unfolding. A truckload of angry rioters pulled into a rural town, saying they had come for “las Americanas” volunteers. But villagers surrounded the women’s bungalow, pulled out their machetes and told the young men: “You’re going to have to take us first.”

Jack then went on to become U. S. Ambassador to Panama; then Assistant Secretary of State for Latin America and Coordinator of the Alliance for Progress; onward to be the second Director of the Peace Corps; followed by his Ambassadorship to Colombia; then to become President and CEO of the National Urban Coalition; Campaign Manager for Senator Fred Harris’s run for the Democratic Presidential Nomination; Dean of International Studies at Florida International University; Director of International Development at the Children’s Television Workshop, successfully launching what became Sesame Street on three continents; President of Planned Parenthood; then Resident Vice President for Development and Resources Corporation’s infrastructure projects in Iran; Senior Director of a new international bank called Pierce International; service as a Board Member of Columbia Pictures; Acting Director for USAID’s Latin American Office; Latin American Advisor and Board Member for Conservation International; Vice President of Development Associates; then Election Observer for Freedom House on Presidential Elections in Central America; and ... whew—finally, Senior Advisor at the



BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS (CONTINUED)

KILL THE GRINGO (CONTINUED)

Regional Office for Central America (ROCAP), an off-shoot of USAID!

When ending his well lived life as a Man for All Seasons with ROCAP, Jack reprised his boxing days. He was mugged one night in New York City. Using an expertly placed left hook to the temple, Jack dropped the guy onto the street

for a ten count. The next day, the New York Times ran an article entitled: "Pity the Mugger".

* The book is co-authored by Jane Constantineau, Jack's daughter, who masterfully pulled together his extensive notes, speeches, letters and audio tapes to compile this publication when Jack journeyed off on January 22, 2012 to seek the warmth of other suns.

PEACE CORPS CONNECT

LEGACY OF PEACE CORPS AND COLOMBIA'S NEW CHANCE FOR PEACE

Featuring research in Colombia by **OLIVER KAPLAN**, author and professor

The first Peace Corps volunteers arrived in Colombia in the early 1960s, an opportune time to promote peace and reconciliation. Yet Colombia went on to suffer a decades-long war and nearly became a failed state. What, then, were the legacies of the development efforts like Peace Corps? What implications do previous rural development programs have for peace following the recent agreement with the FARC?

All are welcome!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 2017 | 3:00 – 5:30 PM

Hosted by Friends of Colombia and National Peace Corps Association
In conjunction with Peace Corps Connect – Denver

Details & Registration: <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/cpages/peace-corps-connect>

Program Location: University of Denver, Sturm Hall Room #251

Welcome from Friends of Colombia Board.
Brief update and introductions

Patricia Wand, host and FOC Board member,
RPCV/Colombia 1963-1965.

Speaker Oliver Kaplan conducts fieldwork in Colombia where he studies how civilian communities organize to protect themselves

in wartime violence. His most recent research is published in *Resisting War: How Communities Protect Themselves* (Cambridge University Press, 2017). His work appears in *The Journal of Conflict Resolution*; *Journal of Peace Research*; *The New York Times*; *Foreign Affairs*; *Foreign Policy*; *CNN*.

Kaplan, Assistant Professor at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver, was recently Jennings Randolph Senior Fellow at the U.S. Institute of Peace and previously a postdoctoral Research Associate at Princeton University, Woodrow Wilson School, and at Stanford University. Kaplan earned a Ph.D. in political science from Stanford University and B.A. at UC San Diego.

DINNER FOR FRIENDS OF COLOMBIA AND GUESTS
(no host dinner)

FRIDAY EVENING, AUGUST 4, 2017 | 6:30 PM
Restaurant and details TBA soon

Is your RPCV/ Colombia group hosting a reunion in 2017-2018?
Please notify Patricia A. Wand at patwand@mac.com.

Send Gale Gibson, RPCV Colombia 1962–64, your current contact information galegibson@msn.com.

Hosts for Peace Corps Connect / Friends of Colombia activities

- National Peace Corps Association
- Friends of Colombia
- Colorado RPCVs

Please forward this message to those interested in Friends of Colombia.

Peace Corps Connect is the Peace Corps community's annual conference hosted by National Peace Corps Association and its affiliate groups to connect, engage, and inspire our community. At this year's conference—Partnering for Progress: Taking Collaborations to New Heights—we look forward to forging, celebrating, and building on the great partnerships of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and the greater Peace Corps community.

FRANKLIN LEE ARBUCKLE

GROUP 22, CO-OPS

BY ROBERT A. ARCHER,
GROUP 22, CO-OPS

Lee was raised on a Montana ranch that his grandfather had homesteaded in 1889, the same year in which it became a state. Lee's early education was in a one-room schoolhouse where he was the only student in his class. Here, he showed the hunger and aptitude for knowledge that was to characterize his entire life as he moved on to Dartmouth College. After completing his sophomore year, Lee became one of the youngest members of the Peace Corps, serving in La Plata, Huila where—along with his site partners—he developed agriculture cooperatives and schools.

Immediately after Peace Corps service, Lee remained in La Plata to oversee filming of "La Cooperativa de San Andres", a color documentary narrated entirely in Spanish on cooperative development principles. It is still in circulation today. One of his site partners recently returned to La Plata and found that two of those cooperatives—including San Andres, and one school were still in operation—after 53 years! Following his volunteer service, Lee returned to Dartmouth and went on to its graduate MBA program where he ranked second in his class. Subsequently, he earned an MA in Agriculture Economics at Montana State University.


Lee served as Peace Corps Associate Director in Bolivia where he met his wife,

Maggie, a national then working for Peace Corps in Cochabamba. They formed a formidable pair for the next 46 years, shepherding two sons into adulthood and professional careers while spending eleven years working for USAID in Honduras on agriculture and credit development projects. Returning to Montana in 1997, they found time to jointly develop and patent at home and abroad a Seed Harvesting Machine called "The Arbuckle Native Seedster".

For more than three decades, Lee battled MS, determined that its presence in his life wouldn't define the limitless possibilities that he envisioned. Then, in his words, another "stranger came into my life" and though unwelcomed, Lee stoutly informed this new arrival to take a number and await its turn in line.

He was in a group that also remains unique among all others worldwide: of the more than three dozen volunteers who got off that airplane at Bogotá's airport in 1964 to begin their service—all were still present two years later in 1966. And within that group, seven extended their service for a period ranging from one to five years.

Lee's fellow co-op volunteers considered him "their oracle; that when he spoke, they listened, he embodied gravitas, and though now diminished without his presence, they remain enriched by his memory".



“
Lee's fellow co-op
volunteers considered
him "their oracle; that
when he spoke, they
listened, he embodied
gravitas, and though
now diminished
without his presence,
they remain enriched
by his memory.
”



Membership FORM

FRIENDS OF COLOMBIA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please complete one form for each member.

Date _____

Name _____

Name in Peace Corps _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____ Fax _____

Dates of Peace Corps Service _____ Group # _____

Site (include city, village, department) _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

☐ New ☐ Renewal

☐ Annual Individual \$ 25.00 \$ _____

☐ Annual Couple \$ 40.00 \$ _____

☐ Lifetime Individual \$ 500.00 \$ _____
(payable over a two-year period)

☐ Donation to FOC for projects in Colombia \$ _____

☐ Donation specifically for *Paso a Paso* \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

RETURN TO: FRIENDS OF COLOMBIA
PO Box 15292
Chevy Chase, MD 20825

NOTE: FOC is a registered 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.
Consult your tax accountant regarding personal tax deductions.