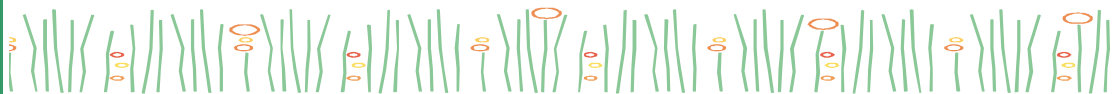




***Serving Communities at
Home and Abroad***

**Atlanta Area Returned Peace
Corps Volunteers**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2009**



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INTRODUCTION

Juli Powers, President

2009 was an eventful year for AARPCV. This report highlights activities in 2009 that demonstrate the organization's commitment to service at home and abroad. As in years past, AARPCV made important contributions to both an overseas project and community organizations in the Atlanta area.

The AARPCV Board kicked off the year with a planning retreat and set strategic priorities for 2009 that included: 1) quarterly themes reflecting Peace Corps technical areas but focusing on the Atlanta community; 2) continually emphasizing membership outreach and fundraising; and 3) maintaining a strong partnership with the Peace Corps Regional Office and the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA).

- **Activities aligned with Peace Corps Technical Areas:** AARPCV upheld its commitment to hold regular potlucks and organize service projects for AARPCV members. These quarterly activities were inspired by Peace Corps technical areas, but tailored to meet needs in the Atlanta community. The technical areas for 2009 around which volunteer activities and educational speakers were planned, included: community development with an Atlanta focus on hunger and refugee resettlement; environment; and health, with a spotlight on mental health.
- **Emphasis on Fundraising:** In order to continue providing a substantial annual donation to the Peace Corps Partnership program and increase local donations, AARPCV held its 4th annual wine tasting and concentrated on calendar sales. In addition, AARPCV ordered "We All" poster sets from the Madison RPCVs to augment fundraising efforts.



With a surplus of 2009 calendars remaining at the beginning of the year, the Board voted to return to pre-2009 numbers and order 200 fewer calendars for 2010. AARPCV launched calendar sales at a discounted rate at an August social event. AARPCV promoted calendar and poster sales at several community events: the Hotoberfest in Glenwood Park, Emory Refugee Connection event, and the National Council for the Social Studies annual conference. All events were free for AARPCV to display and provided opportunities to outreach to the community and RPCVs in the Atlanta area. Additionally, all Board members were responsible for selling a designated number of calendars.

As in years past, AARPCV also participated in the Ten Thousand Villages Non-Profit Benefit Shopping Night on 12/8/09. Members shopped on behalf of AARPCV and a portion of the proceeds benefited the organization.

- **Partnerships – a Key to Success:**

- David Leavitt, Public Affairs Specialist in the Peace Corps Southeast Regional Office, participated in the monthly AARPCV Board meetings to provide updates on Peace Corps activities and policies.
- In collaboration with the Regional Office, AARPCV participated in the 2009 Lillian Carter Award Ceremony. Details are highlighted later in this report in the “Special Events” section.
- AARPCV joined NPCA at the National Council for the Social Studies annual conference. Positioned at the entrance to the International Alley, AARPCV sold calendars and posters and helped answer questions about the NPCA materials. For two days, educators collected resources to help them bring global perspectives into classrooms and communities.

As with any successful organization, much of the credit goes to the many dedicated Board members who spent numerous hours in 2009 organizing events and representing AARPCV faithfully in the Atlanta community. While the elected officers and many committee chairs continued their service to AARPCV, the Board did welcome new members as well. The combination of seasoned veterans and newcomers made for an exceptional Board of Directors that organized a range of activities including diverse social engagements, volunteer activities, and community outreach events. The Board would also like to extend a special thanks to all of the AARPCV members who made these events and activities successful.

The President, Vice-President and Treasurer were re-elected at the December 2009 holiday party and will remain in their positions throughout 2010. A new Secretary joins the Board in 2010.

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE COMMITTEE

Kelly Callahan and Christine Jolley, Committee Co-Chairs

In 2009, AARPCV continued its relationship with the Peace Corps Partnership program through a donation to a PCV currently who listed their home of residence as Georgia. In May, the Board voted to donate \$3,000 for a latrine project to environmental education PCV Christopher Carpenter. Christopher is currently serving and residing in the village of Louly Ngogoom in western Senegal. The total request was for \$5,886.28. The majority of the requested funding was provided by AARPCV with the remaining balance of \$2,886.28 given by other donors.

Louly Ngogoom determined health and sanitation are among their major concerns and sought projects with their PCV to address these concerns and improve their environment. Peace Corps Partnership funds were therefore requested in order to provide one latrine per household to the local population of 620, totaling 50 latrines. The community will contribute roughly 30% of project costs in labor, material and cash with outside funding covering the remaining labor and material costs. As the latrines are being built in individual compounds, masons will share information regarding their maintenance and repair. The local community health worker and health PCV will then speak on the benefits of using the latrine and its proper usage as well as the importance of hand washing and disposing of dangerous items. After all latrines are completed, the community will provide a follow-up report, detailing changes that have occurred since the latrines' construction.



Volunteer Chris Carpenter is scheduled to close his service in May 2010 and will be asked to speak to AARPCV upon his return to Georgia. He will also provide a copy of his final report to AARPCV.

DOMESTIC SERVICE COMMITTEE

Allison Jennings and Kristin Unzicker, Committee Co-Chairs

The Domestic Service Committee provides a variety of volunteer opportunities for AARPCV members to facilitate fellowship among the membership, to highlight various community needs within Atlanta, and to expose the Atlanta community to Peace Corps. Throughout the year volunteers provided time, talent, and financial support to the following domestic service projects that reflected the 2009 quarterly themes.

- **Environment - Earth Day Beltline Clean Up.** On April 18, 2009, fifteen AARPCV members joined volunteers from across Atlanta to clean up the Freedom Parkway bridge to Dekalb Avenue as part of the Beltline's 2009 Earth Day activities.



- **Community Development: Hunger Issues – Atlanta Community Food Bank.** Ten AARPCV members volunteered at the Atlanta Community Food Bank's Product Rescue Center from 1-4 pm on Saturday, 6/20/09. Volunteers worked diligently to sort the donated food products. The Atlanta Community Food Bank supports a wide range of people around the metro Atlanta area by supplying food and other critical resources to low-income Georgians who suffer from hunger and food insecurities.
- **Refugees and Immigrants – International Rescue Committee and Lutheran Services of Georgia.** On September 12, 2009, 10 volunteers worked with the International Rescue Committee's refugee clients to complete job applications and to assist with interview skills. Atlanta is one of the top three largest resettlement areas for more than 55,000 refugees each year.
- **Mental Health for Refugees – International Saturday School.** On December 5, 2009, 12 AARPCV volunteers assisted in launching the first health fair for International Saturday School students and their families. AARPCV joined with HealthSTAT and the Emory International Nursing Student Association to deliver mini-sessions and health screenings.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Andrea Vaughn and Emily Martin Committee Co-Chairs

In compliance with AARPCV 501(c)(3) status, the Program Committee presented various educational events and activities for the membership in 2009:

- **January:** AARPCV hosted its first potluck of the year on January 31, 2009 at the home of Stephen and Linda Dorage. There were approximately 40 people in attendance and the program for the evening focused on AARPCV opportunities. The Board presented ways to become involved in the organization and an overview of planned 2009 events.



- **March:** AARPCV hosted a wine tasting fundraiser on March 28, 2009 at the home of Peter Kilmarx. Sommelier Ryan Mullins presented on “The Golden Age of Wine: Better Wine at Lower Prices.” Approximately 35 people were in attendance. The proceeds from the event support AARPCV donations to the Peace Corps Partnership program and Atlanta area organizations.
- **May:** On May 16, 2009, Amalia and Scott Stevens hosted AARPCV’s second quarter potluck, which focused on green building and sustainability in homes. Mateo Moore, a sustainable design consultant, spoke to a group of about 30 on how making changes in the home and using green design and technology can reduce one’s carbon footprint. Members also voted to fund the Peace Corps Partnership program latrine project in Senegal.

- **August:** On August 15, 2009 Bede Campbell hosted AARPCV’s third quarter potluck that focused on refugee resettlement in Atlanta. Approximately 25 people were present to hear two AARPCV members discuss the issues associated with refugee resettlement in the United States, and particularly here in Atlanta. JD McCrary, Resettlement Program Manager at Lutheran Services of Georgia, and and Harriet Kuhr, Management of Settlement Services at the International Rescue Committee (IRC), shared the challenges they face in their work on a daily basis and the struggles that come with refugee resettlement.



- **October:** AARPCV’s fourth quarter potluck was held on October 17, 2009 at the home of Andrea Vaughn. Rebecca Palpant, Senior Program Associate at the Carter Center,

joined approximately 35 AARPCV members and friends to discuss mental health issues, stigma, and efforts to build awareness.

Rebecca also described ongoing work at the Carter Center through the Rosalynn Carter Fellowships for Mental Health Journalism. Journalists on four continents are working to reduce stigma and raise awareness about mental health and mental illnesses in their communities. Fellowships currently are offered to 10 professional journalists in the United States, South Africa, and Romania, who use the stipends to investigate a wide range of mental health issues, producing award-winning articles, books, and radio and video documentaries.

- **December:** On December 12, 2009 AARPCV held its annual Holiday Party at Peter Kilmarx's home. Over 60 attendees joined together for food, fun, fellowship, and generously provided donations to help stock the Latin American Association's food pantry. In addition, this year the festivities included a white elephant gift exchange and holiday sweater competition.



SOCIAL EVENTS

There was not an active Social Committee in 2009. However, Board members supplemented regular AARPCV activities with additional social activities in the summer of 2009 to appeal to diverse membership interests.

- **June:** On June 19, 2009 AARPCV members enjoyed an evening of art and poetics in the studio of David D'Agostino at the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center. Some members even became part of the art when their voices were recorded.

Visual poetry merges poetry (text) with more visual (graphic) ways of communication such as painting, illustration or signs. David is currently experimenting with multi media techniques in critiquing urbanism and architecture in the field of liminal psychogeography.



- **August:** On August 1, 2009, David D'Agostino's studio was transformed as AARPCV members and friends gathered for the "Some Like it Hot" salsa social. Dance instructor Steve Reed of Salsacasino/ SALSAtlanta led the group in dance lessons. Participants practiced their caminas, turns, and sexy salsa moves. The event also included a salsa and guacamole contest and the winners were voted on by all attendees.



MEMBERSHIP AND WEBSITE

Bob Gerzoff, Membership Chair

For over 25 years, RPCVs in the Atlanta area have gathered in the spirit of fellowship and service to the community. In 2009, the group totaled 217 members and included a great mix of newly returned volunteers, some who were part of the original organization in 1983, and many who completed their service in the years since.

In 2009, AARPCV worked to improve upon member communications and increase use of the AARPCV website, www.aarpcv.org. All activities are posted and updated on the website. Additionally, members can pay for dues, make donations, and purchase calendars online. The AARPCV database is also linked to the website. AARPCV members are able to access member information online with a secure login and password.

With all of the universities and major employers in the city, Atlanta is filled with RPCVs. AARPCV continues to expand its efforts to reach newly returned volunteers and those who are not yet part of the group. The Mentoring program is part of these efforts.

MENTORING REPORT

Jessica Gershick, Mentoring Chair

In 2009 AARPCV actively participated in the RPCV Mentoring Program, which is supported by NPCA and Peace Corps. The Mentoring Program is a support system for recent returnees to link up with RPCV mentors who can help adjust to life back home.

The RPCV Mentoring Program includes a database to facilitate a matching process between mentors and mentees. Participants complete a questionnaire to assess program expectations and identify important factors for their preferred match. Mentors write about their own readjustment experiences when they completed their service. Mentees describe the kinds of issues they are dealing with and what they need most from a mentor. To ensure a successful match, it is important for both parties to have things in common, such as similar interests, careers, education, volunteer work, hobbies, geography, readjustment experiences, or needs.

Mentoring chair Jessica Gershick served as the program administrator and determined matches based on the needs of the mentee and what mentors were able to provide. In 2009, seven matches were made through the program. In 2010, AARPCV will continue to market and promote the RPCV Mentoring Program and sponsor events for newly returned volunteers.

2009 Mentoring activities included:

- **April:** On April 25, 2009, AARPCV hosted a New Member Brunch at the home of Vice President Elizabeth Dobbs. Twelve members attended. During an educational portion of the event, the RPCV Mentor Program was presented to the new returnees.
- **May:** At the May 16, 2009 potluck, the mentoring program was marketed to potential participants, both mentors and mentees.
- **November:** On November 13, 2009, AARPCV hosted a happy hour social event at Twain's Billiards and Tap. The social event was open to all RPCVs and information was provided about AARPCV committees and activities, including the Mentoring Program.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Peace Corps Week: On February 22, 2009, 75 RPCVs, Peace Corps applicants, friends, and family joined AARPCV at the Decatur Library for “*A Legacy at Home and Abroad: Stories from Around the Globe*” in celebration of Peace Corps’ 48th Anniversary. Four RPCVs shared their stories and spoke of their very different Peace Corps experiences. Jim Sheahan was part of the first group of PCVs in Sierra Leone and offered a glimpse into the early years of Peace Corps. Elizabeth Dobbs served in Poland in the early 1990s, a time when Poland strived to achieve a fully democratic government and a market economy. Kelly Callahan spoke of her time in Cote d'Ivoire and how Peace Corps set the stage for her career in international health. Finally, Willie Jackson spoke of his experience as a Black American serving in Kenya a few years ago. The event was a tremendous success in supporting the Third Goal and bridging multiple generations of Peace Corps experiences.

Lillian Carter Award Ceremony:

AARPCV participated in the Lillian Carter Award Ceremony on May 13, 2009, a biennial event organized by the Peace Corps Regional Recruiting Office in honor of an RPCV who served in the Peace Corps at the age of 50 years or older and exemplifies the third goal of Peace Corps. Dr. Catherine Taylor Foster of Orland Park, Illinois was honored for her work as a health volunteer in Nepal and her dedication and commitment to Peace Corps’ third goal following her service. She began her service in 1996 at the age of 59.



As part of the Lillian Carter Award ceremony, Peace Corps also celebrated the spirit of public service by recognizing the students in Baldwin County's High Achievers program and its participation in Peace Corps’ Coverdell World Wise Schools curriculum. The High Achievers are a select group of accomplished high school students who come from challenging economic situations. As part of the program, they complete extensive volunteer work in their community. Willie Pearson II read an excerpt from his service to community winning essay during the ceremony.

Thanks to the Regional Recruiting Office, AARPCV was included as part of the program and shared the stage with Acting Peace Corps Director Jody Olsen, former President Jimmy Carter, Jason Carter, and Willie Pearson II. AARPCV members also made up a significant part of the audience, contributing to the overall success of the event.

ARCHIVAL PROJECT REPORT

Wendy McLaughlin, Archival Project Coordinator

The Archival Project is carried out through an informal network of RPCVs who work directly with the John F. Kennedy Library to preserve the Peace Corps' legacy through oral history interviews and the collection of archival materials from those who served as volunteers in the field. The Project's basic resource is and will continue to be voluntary efforts of those RPCVs who've participated, operating mainly through NPCA affiliated groups. Each interview completed is one more voice added to the RPCV Collection for preservation for family, researchers and future generations. Five interviews were completed in 2009 with AARPCV members.

<u>Interviews</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Years</u>
Rebecca Hartz	03-14-09	Niger	2004-2007
		Uganda	2007-2008
William Thompson	05-23-09	Colombia	1965-1967
Suchet Loois	06-13-09	Jamaica	2001-2006
Bernadette Thompson	07-11-09	Colombia	1965-1967
Kathy Davis	07-19-09	Nicaragua	1975-1978

During 2010, the goal is to complete 9-12 archival interviews to be added to the collection.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Rebecca Wellborn, Treasurer

In 2009, in addition to its normal income and expenses, AARPCV continued to maintain the Sissala Fund memorial account on behalf of AARPCV member Susan Caster. Susan Caster is responsible for the administration of the fund and AARPCV maintains the account.

In addition to funding a major Peace Corps Partnership project each year, AARPCV provides a small donation to the organizations represented at AARPCV potlucks and the organizations where AARPCV volunteers. AARPCV had a total income of \$10,544.39 and expenses totaled \$8,812.98. AARPCV assets totaled \$7,658.35 as of December 31, 2009. Including the \$5,850.00 in the Sissala fund brings the total to \$13,508.35.

INCOME	
Sissala Fund Donations	150.00
Other Donations Received	65.00
TOTAL Donations Received	215.00
Fundraising	
Calendar Sales	7,405.90
Wine Tasting	898.63
Other Fundraising	69.00
TOTAL Fundraising	8,373.53
Interest	5.86
Membership Dues	
Local Dues	1,380.00
NPCA Rebates	570.00
TOTAL Membership Dues	1,950.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 10,544.39
EXPENSES	
Bank Charge	
PayPal Expense	69.44
Other Bank Charge	63.50
TOTAL Bank Charge	132.94
Cash – change for 2008 calendar sales; re-deposited in 2009	(50.00)
Domestic Donations	1250.00
International Donations	3,000.00
Fundraising Costs	2,741.90

Dues and Subscriptions	120.00
Licenses and Permits	55.00
Meeting Supplies	520.59
Office Supplies	20.25
Postage and Delivery	352.95
Venue Rental (Peace Corps Week)	75.00
Website (Website, Domain Renewal and Database)	594.35
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$8,812.98
NET INCOME	\$1,731.41
ASSET ACCOUNT BALANCES	
Checking	2,749.19
PayPal	476.46
Savings	4,432.70
Sissala Fund	5,850.00
TOTAL	\$ 13,508.35

DOMESTIC DONATIONS	
AID Gwinnett – 2008 donation	\$100
H.E.R.O. for Children – 2008 donation	\$100
Jerusalem House – 2008 donation	\$100
Beltline – volunteer project	\$150
International Rescue Committee - speaker and volunteer project	\$150
Lutheran Services Of Georgia – speaker and volunteer project	\$150
Atlanta Community Food Bank – volunteer project	\$150
International Saturday School – volunteer project	\$150
Carter Center – speaker	\$100
Kate Puzey Memorial Fund	\$100
TOTAL	\$1250.00
INTERNATIONAL DONATIONS	
Peace Corps Partnership - Latrine Project, Louly Ngogoom, Senegal	\$3,000.00
TOTAL DONATIONS	\$4,250.00

ELECTIONS FOR 2010

AARPCV conducted elections at the 2009 holiday party where the following officers were elected by unanimous vote:

- President: Juli Powers
- Vice President: Elizabeth Dobbs
- Treasurer : Rebecca Wellborn
- Secretary : Dwan Adams

The committee chairs are as follows:

- Kelly Callahan and Christine Jolley: International Service Committee
- Allison Jennings and Andrea Vaughn: Program Committee
- Haneefa Saleem and Kristin Unzicker: Domestic Service Committee
- Bob Gerzoff: Membership Committee
- Jessica Gershick: Mentoring Committee
- Amalia Stephens and Sara Andrist: Special Events
- Susanne Cooper – NPCA 50th Anniversary Liaison
- Wendy McLaughlin – Archival Project Coordinator