

# Balitaan

## *Celebrating the Peace Corps' 50th*

Newsletter 52, Spring 2011

[www.rpcvphilippines.org](http://www.rpcvphilippines.org)

PO Box 100114, Arlington, VA 22210

## **Mabuhay to the Alumni Foundation**

*A message from Willy C. Gaa,  
Philippine Ambassador to the U.S.:*

I am pleased to convey my warm personal regards to all the members of the Peace Corps Alumni Foundation for Philippine Development (PCAFPD) as you celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Peace Corps and Peace Corps Philippines this year.

The Philippines and the United States share



Ambassador Gaa

a long history of friendship and common adherence to democratic ideals. Our bilateral ties are marked by active political and security engagement and robust economic and trade relations.

Through people-to-people connections, this partnership is made more meaningful and its impact truly enduring. The Peace Corps program in the Philippines, one of the largest and longest running programs in the world, has brought more than 8,000 American volunteers to different parts of the Philippines.

Over the course of 50 years, Filipinos and Americans have collaborated in a grassroots-led and people-oriented system that helped reinforce programs that

improve education, community services and environmental protection in many localities.

I wish to thank you, Peace Corps volunteers to the Philippines, for your contribution to efforts to improve conditions in the countryside. I thank you more so today, for your continued involvement in the lives of my fellowmen.

It is my sincere hope that PCAFPD will be assured of the kindness of many individuals so that you will be further emboldened to reach out to more Filipinos. *Mabuhay!*

### ***A special issue***

*PCAFPD has advanced its usual spring newsletter to observe the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's executive order that established the Peace Corps. This special issue of Balitaan features recollections of RPCVs and Filipinos about our service; an article about the start of the Peace Corps in the Philippines and an essay from a successful PCAFPD graduate. Essays from current scholars will be resumed in our next issue. Mabuhay! And please remember how important your contributions are to the continuation of our scholarship program, a very tangible evidence of the Peace Corps legacy in the Philippines.*

## A Peace Corps 50<sup>th</sup> party in Manila

Parties to celebrate the birth of Peace Corps were held around the world on March 1. In Manila, U.S. Ambassador Harry K. Thomas hosted a Peace Corps 50<sup>th</sup> birthday reception at his home in Forbes Park. Guests included current and past Philippines volunteers, volunteers who had served in other parts of the world and now live and work in the Philippines, and Filipinos from Peace Corps host agencies.

Ambassador Thomas welcomed the celebrants and spoke about the ability of the Peace Corps “to cross barriers of language, culture, and customs in order to speak a common language of humanity.” Peace Corps Country Director Sonia Derenoncourt spoke briefly about the Peace Corps history in the Philippines from 1961 to present. Thanks to the support of Derenoncourt, PCAFPD and representatives of the PCAFPD Scholars & Alumni Association (PSAA) not only attended the reception but also spoke to the gathering about the ongoing commitment of RPCVs to the Philippines. “PCAFPD took center stage during the ceremonies,” said Foundation Vice President Roland de Jesus.

Board member Hans Groot spoke about being a PCV in 1961 and about PCAFPD’s work. Graduate scholar Aries Asilo, the president of PSAA, and current scholar Krisna Ocong, were “the stars of our presentation,” Groot said. Aries spoke about PSAA community projects and its partnership with the Students for the Advancement of Global Entrepreneurship. Krisna described what makes the PCAFPD scholarship distinctive and special, providing her not only with financial support but also with moral and social support and opportunities for community service.

Our team in Manila – Roland de Jesus, Hans Groot and Geri Maiatico, with help from Aries – put together a slide show about PCAFPD that was on exhibit during the reception.



Aries Asilo, graduate scholar and PSAA president, with current scholar Krisna Ocong, at Peace Corps’ 50<sup>th</sup> celebration in Manila.

## 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary events, Washington and elsewhere

Remember to watch websites for information about activities celebrating the Peace Corps 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – many take place throughout the year and throughout the country. The websites also tell you about activities on the big weekend in Washington, D.C., Sept. 22-25.

During that weekend PCAFPD will host an event (or events) specifically for all Philippines RPCVs. A committee is working on ideas and venues. We will announce specifics through our new e-mail communication *The Bulletin* as well as through Yahoo Groups and our website.

To communicate with us about the September celebrations, please e-mail to [board1@rpcvphilippines.org](mailto:board1@rpcvphilippines.org). To be sure we have your correct e-mail address please register on our website.

# A passion for dreaming

By **Fernando D. Eco**

There was this young schoolboy I met in one of my travels in a poor village in the Bicol Region way back in 2000. Up to this day I wonder where he is and how he is doing. I'm curious because I really wanted to see him succeed and achieve his ideals in life after he struck me with his answer when I asked him, "What are your perceptions about poverty and the power to dream?"

He responded with so much zeal and fortitude and said, "If you look at our situation we are indeed poor but having less in life doesn't give you reason not to dream. Poverty is a very good motivator because it drives you to do even what others conceive as impossible. Why not, if you have the greatest weapon within you – the passion to dream and the determination to achieve the dream."



Fernando Eco

Fast forward to today. My curiosity took me again to his village where I conscientiously asked around about him, which led me to his parents. I was ushered into their humble home and there I saw a laminated diploma with a medal hanging proudly in the living room. Then his mother said, "Ah, those were his graduation memorabilia when he graduated from the university. They are being treated as treasure by the family." I can feel the sincerity in the tone of her voice and can't help but ask where he is right now. His father then responded and proudly said that he is now working for a multinational company in Manila as a financial analyst. Then his parents started to relate a story about that young boy, which made me realize that he indeed held on to his passion and his dreams.

After our chance encounter in 2000, he graduated at the top of his high school batch. He had with him lots of accolades and

awards for academic excellence. He had a chance to travel in some parts of the country to compete for different scholastic competitions, and won. He had this passion for writing in school publications, which also earned him a place in editorial writing in the national finals. On that day his parents were so proud about him but they were confronted with a serious problem. They didn't have enough money to send their son to a good university.

His mother remembered one day that her son actually asked for \$3 to pay for an entrance exam to a premier state university in the Bicol Region. She didn't have even a penny and had to borrow from a neighbor in to give it to her son, who was crying and begging as the deadline for submission for

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*A PCAFPD graduate's story demonstrates the difference that Peace Corps Volunteers and PCAFPD supporters can have on the life of a bright young man without financial resources.*

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the entrance test was about to close. She knew very well that even if he passed it she was certain that he can't still pursue his studies because of their financial problems.

Time came that he sometimes thought that every dream and plan he had built throughout those years would soon become futile and collapse. He was so serious in joining different scholastic competitions in high school for he knew that the prize money could ultimately help him get through college. He indeed won in National History Quiz and other competitions, thousands in pesos but that was only good enough to support him initially. But it was his passion for writing that led him to people that could help him achieve his dreams.

In 1999, he met American Peace Corps  
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## Passion for dreaming

*(Continued from Page 3)*

Volunteer Justine Hamilton-Ordoña in a provincial school paper-writing competition. He got a chance to talk to her and relate his dreams to finish his studies, including his dilemma. One morning he woke up with everything ahead of him all straightened up. He passed the tough entrance examinations for Bicol University for the course in accountancy, and was also granted the rare opportunity to enjoy the scholarship given to him by the Peace Corps Alumni Foundation for Philippine Development (PCAFPD) through the consistent and unconditional efforts of PCV Hamilton-Ordoña and his sponsors.

He left his community fully revived and with strong faith and determination that he could finally fulfill his dreams. He tried his best to maximize the skills and wisdom he could gain from his tertiary education. When he came back to his community, he brought two of the greatest possessions in life – a diploma and a medal with the Latin phrase *cum laude* – with praise. He somehow couldn't believe that his humble achievement could bring new light of hope to his community. He saw and felt that everybody was inspired from what he attained and they too began to build their own dreams.

The changes were remarkable and it was only the start of a new and brighter beginning. Today, he is now part of the younger Filipino professionals who are moving and driving the future of this country. As a Certified Public Accountant, he became part of the booming business process-outsourcing in the country. This young industry is contributing a lot to the Philippine economy.

He managed to join and become part of large multinational companies that operate back-office operations in Manila. Who would have thought that a young boy from that impoverished village could someday handle and do accounting with the books of these companies? All our dreams can really

come true if we have the courage and the will to pursue them.

Looking back, I can still remember vividly the innocent but determined face of that young boy that I met 11 years ago. It is good that he held on to his dreams and refused to



give up despite the countless trials

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Eco in 2004 at Bicol University graduation,

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that he faced. I can fully understand him now and can fully relate to him. I can

feel his pain from the start as well as the joy of his victories.

Maybe if you ask him that same question again, he can still answer it but this time with more meaning and confidence . . . and I should know better because that young boy is also the man who is wholeheartedly writing this article.

*Fernando D. Eco, from Camarines Norte, received a degree in accounting from Bicol University in 2004.*

## Getting rid of excuses

*From a report by PCAFPD scholar Orange Happee Galanay P. Omengan, from Mountain Province, majoring in psychology at St. Louis University in Baguio City:*

I had 28 units this semester and sure it was a lot of work. I had visited the hospital more than usual, my valuables were taken by a thief who robbed my room and school is just too stressful at times. Situations will always be there to deal with; problems will not stop challenging and testing my tolerance. . . .

Failure starts controlling me the moment I think of it, so whenever situations get rough, I should redirect myself to the bright side. Counting my blessings reminds me that I am as graced like anybody and that I should keep going. Not everyone is a scholar, not everyone is supported in her endeavors, and these are my motivations.

## 'Dirty dancing' at the barrio fiesta

*In the last issue of Balitaan we invited RPCVs to share favorite memories from their service. We received many responses; here are a few. We'll put all of the responses on our website.*

This year I hope to make another *babalik* to the Philippines. Although I visited there in 1978, '86, '96, '00 and '04, I want to reunite with former biology students and their families during Peace Corps' 50th anniversary year. Some 30-plus students have kept in touch through the years, and half a dozen have visited me in Georgia. I get e-mails or Facebook messages almost daily and attend special celebrations with Filipinos who live near me. You might say I am a perpetual PCV as I've maintained contact since I taught at Manila High School 1962-1964. – *Farrar Atkinson, Group V, Manila, 1962-64*

**We were two women** and two men assigned to San Joaquin, Iloilo, as an "experiment" to see if male and female volunteers could co-exist in the same place. The villagers had us paired up immediately, my roommate Lin Henry with Mark Magee, and me with Bob Miller, even though we kept a strict, platonic relationship. Later, when my now-husband, Lee, visited San Joaquin to see me, he lodged with Bob and Mark. Later still, when I announced to the villagers that Lee and I were getting married, they all asked, "But what about Bob?"

While at Los Baños, the country director had hauled in Bob and me to tell us to stop doing that "dirty dancing." Of course, the entire Filipino population wanted to see and do the Twist. Bob, who had had choreographic experience, did great Twist routines more acrobatics than dance. In San Joaquin, the basketball court, plaza, whatever, would clear so we could have the entire space at a "fiesta" to do that infamous



Linda Cover Bigelow and Bob Miller entertain at a fiesta in San Joaquin, Iloilo.

dance, the *Tweest*. – *Linda Bigelow, Group II, Iloilo, 1961-63*

**One of my favorite** memories of teaching at Mindanao State University 1962-64 was the most interesting reactions of students in my English classes as we read Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*. Our group constituted the entire English department at this brand-new university in Marawi City.

Finding no curricula to follow (or textbooks), we put our heads and footlockers together to decide what to teach, selecting examples of writing types from the Peace Corps book lockers we had been issued.

I believe *The Crucible* may have been our only copy of a play and hence our choice for drama. What we didn't realize was how our students would respond to the ideas of witchcraft and "possession" by the devil.

We were surprised (and amused) as the students expressed agreement with old Salem's fear of witches and the work of the devil! Certainly that turned the whole play on its head -- but made for lively discussions about *aswangs* and other evil creatures. – *JoAnn Hersh, Group VI, Marawi City, 1962-64*  
(Continued on Page 6)

## RPCVs recall Philippine days

*(Continued from Page 5)*

**I was a PCV in Batanes**, the small, windswept island province in the far north of the Philippines. The houses were built of stone, and in the typhoon season the roofs were tied down with heavy ropes. For two years, I lived with a host family and shared a bedroom with my younger host sister and brother (and often several neighborhood children). I quickly had to re-evaluate my need for privacy, my definition of private property, and just about everything else about myself and my culture. One of the most memorable moments of my Peace Corps experience happened many months after my arrival. I came home late one evening, tired and muddy from a day of helping the neighbors harvest *uve*, a staple food on the island. In the stone kitchen with walls blackened by the smoke of thousands of cooking fires, my host father lifted the basket of *uve* from my back and called out in Ivaton, “Mother, come look at our daughter!” It was the first time he called me “daughter.” I was no longer just the tall, white *Amerikana* who mangled the local language – I was part of the family. The experience of being a Volunteer changed the way I thought about myself, about others, and about the world. Through the lens of friendship, caring and love, I began to see the world as a much smaller and interconnected place. – *Carol Hammaker Radomski. Group 168; Batanes 1980-83*

**I arrived in the Philippines** on Feb. 1, 2003, with 47 other lost souls. A few things occurred on that date that assures it will live forever in my heart and memory. The most dramatic was learning that the Space Shuttle Columbia had disintegrated over Texas during re-entry into earth’s atmosphere, resulting in the death of all seven crew members. Less dramatic but memorable was being taken from the airport in the middle of the night to a *pension* where we were assigned either four or five to a room. I have forgotten which, but I know that it was too

many! We were Batch 261 and I, at age 69, was the oldest Volunteer to come to the Philippines. I usurped that position from a man who later became a good friend of mine, Dick Durbin.

Our Batch went to Tagbilaran City, Bohol, for two months of training. My Philippine host was Rose Buffington, who had been married to an American seaman. He had died and left her a large house, so she rented rooms to college girls and took in a Peace Corps Volunteer.

Living with her and her two granddaughters, Kayla and Naomi, ages 5 and 6, was one of the highlights of my training period since I had left two granddaughters of my own of the same age at home in Washington, D.C. The other memorable moment of that period was that I met for the first time the woman who would eventually become my wife. We have a five-year-old son now.

I was assigned to Legazpi City, Albay, where under the auspices of the City Social Welfare and Development Office, I worked with underprivileged children for the next two years.

Before joining the Peace Corps, I worked for the Department of Defense for 42 years. I retired on March 3, 1996, and immediately realized that retirement was not my cup of tea. So I went down to Mexico to the University of Guadalajara and qualified as a teacher of English as a Second Language (ESL.) I went back to the Washington, D.C., area and taught ESL in Falls Church, Va., for three years.

I got antsy again so I went on the Internet looking for countries in Asia who needed ESL teachers. I chanced upon an advertisement for the Peace Corps. I sent them my application in July 2002 and on Jan. 27, 2003, I found myself at what the Peace Corps called “a staging area” in Seattle, Wash.

The rest, as they say, is history – a history that contains two of the most satisfying, gratifying and completely beautiful years of my working life. – *Bernard Moses, Jr., Group 261, Albay, 2003-05*

## **Filipinos remember early Volunteers**

*PCAFPD put notices in Fil-Am publications in the U.S., inviting commentary from Filipinos who had connections with Peace Corps Volunteers over the years. Here are two; more will be on our website. (We have no contact information for these RPCVs – if you know of their whereabouts, please let us know at Board1@rpcvphilippines.org.)*

### **A memorable Volunteer**

In 1963 a young American lady named Elizabeth Marvin was assigned as a Peace Corps Volunteer to our barrio of Tambuan in Malinao, Aklan. She became an instant celebrity being young, pretty and with a great personality. She loved children, and the children loved her. I was one of them. She boarded initially with my uncle, who has a house in front of the elementary school where she served as our English teacher.

Soon, a house was built for her made of nipa and bamboo. When she moved there, we kept her company during noon breaks and after school hours. She had so many magazines and books. I got introduced to the Disney characters, as well as the fairy tales of Hans Christian Andersen, the books of Mark Twain, etc. Seeing how we loved books, she asked donations from the US for books, and thus started a library in our school. We named it after her, the Beth Marvin Library.

Beth also got us involved in sports activities, like baseball, biking, and hiking. She got us to swim in the river and organized excursions like the one all the PCVs in Aklan did to Boracay Island.

In May 1967, she returned to Malinao to wed her fiancé. He was Catholic and she was Protestant, and she wanted to be married in our century old church, so she converted to Roman Catholicism prior to her marriage. Her mother came all the way from California to attend their wedding. The whole town was abuzz with excitement as so many Peace Corps people attended her

wedding. The town gave Beth a party. There was a Gala the night before her wedding, with cultural presentations, folk dances, singing, and of course speeches! Her mom was so delighted watching the kids dance the *tinikling!* The following day was an elegant wedding, followed by a "Barrio Fiesta" reception at the residence of Dr. Nelson Ibaretta. Then there was a torch parade as she went back to our barrio, three kilometers from the town on foot (as our barrio was not accessible by cars then), with all her American friends with her, followed by all-night dancing at our Barrio Hall. It was a night we will never forget.

There has never been another one like her that caught the imagination of our townspeople. When I came to the U.S. in 1980, people from our town kept asking if I was able to communicate with Beth Marvin. I haven't had luck yet in finding her but I am still trying. – *Luther R. Tamayo, M.D., FACP, Northport, N.Y.*

### **An excellent English teacher**

I am happy to know the golden anniversary of Peace Corps activities in the Philippines. I was 12 then, a first-year high school student in Davao City.

In my third year at Davao City High School, school year 1963/1964, a very young wonderful lady Peace Corps volunteer was assigned as our English subject teacher – Miss Nancy Harris. That was the first time that we had a Peace Corps volunteer in our class. I did not know then her qualifications as a teacher but I am grateful that she has contributed well to her students' knowledge in English, and I am lucky because I belonged to the higher section. If not, I would not have had the experience of having an English teacher like her. Miss Harris was with us until our fourth year in high school and we really missed her. How I wish to hear from Miss Harris wherever she is now. – *Nicanor Cabatuan, Queens, New York*

## New books mark Peace Corps' half century

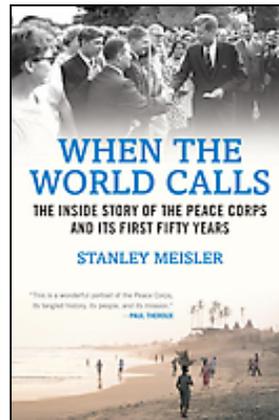
***Answering Kennedy's Call – Pioneering the Peace Corps in the Philippines.*** Fifty years after President created the Peace Corps, nearly 100 former volunteers who joined the new organization for service in the Philippines recall why they joined, what they experienced and how their service in the Philippines affected their lives. Peace Corps staff members at the time and a number of Filipinos have also contributed their recollections. The book creates an archival record of what it was like in 1961 to join a fledgling new government agency fired by the idealism of the times and to live for two years “like the people” in small communities far from Manila. Above all, the stories tell of the determination and spirit of these early volunteers in establishing a strong base for Peace Corps, one of John F. Kennedy's enduring legacies. Edited by Parker Borg, Maureen Carroll, Patricia Kasdan and Stephen Wells (all members of the first groups), the book is 508 pages and its list price is \$25 plus postage and handling. It is available now through the Create Space E-store address <http://wwwcreatespace.com/3528295> (preferred ordering route) or through [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com). [Read an excerpt from the book on Page 9.]



Unlike *Answering Kennedy's Call...*, which focuses on the beginnings of Peace Corps Philippines, *Ask not ... Huwag nang itanong*, edited by Hans Groot of Philippines I reviews the whole 50 years of the Peace Corps experience in the Philippines. The coffee-table book contains recent and historical writings and

recollections of staff and volunteers, key documents and photos, program activities over the years, and descriptions of continuing efforts of former volunteers in Philippine development activities long after their service has ended. *Ask not* will be published sometime in March and will be available online from <http://www.blurb.com/bookstore>

*All profits from the preceding two books will support PCAFPD's scholarship program.*



***When the World Calls – The Inside Story of the Peace Corps and Its First Fifty Years*** by Stanley Meisler has recently been published by Beacon press and is receiving very good reviews.

Meisler, a career journalist and foreign correspondent, was Deputy Director of Evaluation and Research at the Peace Corps in the mid-1960s. The book is available from Amazon and from bookstores.

Other Places Publishing has released *Making Peace With the World*, a collection of photographs of Peace Corps Volunteers at work worldwide. Among the volunteers featured is Phillip Olaley, currently serving in the Philippines. “My goal was to make an honest record of what it is like to be a volunteer,” says photojournalist and Jamaica RPCV Richard Sitler, who documented the daily lives of 32 volunteers serving in 22 countries across the globe. *Making Peace with the World* can be previewed at <http://www.otherplacespublishing.com/mpw-tw-preview.html>

# How the Peace Corps came to the Philippines in 1961

By Parker W. Borg  
*Philippines I, 1961-63*

Despite his speeches and pronouncements, President Kennedy is said to have had doubts about the Peace Corps as a new form of national service. As a way to flesh out and get a handle on the vision that was capturing popular opinion, the President asked his brother-in-law and close advisor, Sargent Shriver, to develop a plan for what might come next.

Among the many ideas to emerge about the Peace Corps during these early days was one put forward by Warren Wiggins, an official with the International Cooperation Administration (the predecessor of the Agency for International Development). On Feb. 1, 1961, two weeks after the inauguration, Wiggins circulated a paper titled *A Towering Task*, with an aim to “stimulate thought” about the proposal. The question in Wiggins’ mind was not whether the Peace Corps should be established, but its scope and timing. He pointed out that most proposals argued for small pilot projects that could be gradually expanded if they were successful. These proposals argued for a safe approach: a few initial projects, a small number of volunteers, and no great expectations about results, but with the advantage that such an approach would avoid “a fiasco” during the early days when success would be important for political reasons.

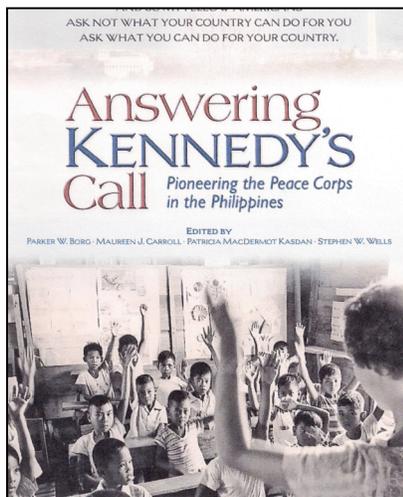
Wiggins argued that a slow and steady approach would be a mistake: a small program could fail as easily as a big one, a

small program would make little difference in the world at large or on American society, and a small program would be an inadequate response to the growing demand for service opportunities among American youth. Rather than starting with a program of 1,000 or 2,000 volunteers in the first year, Wiggins proposed a “quantum jump” in the first 12-18 months to 5-10,000 volunteers with a plan to grow in a few years to 30,000 volunteers and possibly higher. The question for him then became how could the Peace Corps implement such a massive program in a short period of time?

As an illustration of how a “5,000-youth, one-country program” might work, Wiggins picked English teaching in the Philippines as his single example. He argued that large numbers of American volunteers could teach English because the volunteers would all possess a common level of skill and would be recognized from the beginning for their competence. The Philippines would be a good target country because English was “not only the medium of instruction in the public schools but also the official language of government, trade and commerce.” Wiggins concluded his argument for a

large program in the Philippines by noting that the country’s history, the existing rudimentary English skills, the demand for English, and the institutional capacity of the educational system would permit the absorption of large numbers of American youth.

Four days after Wiggins issued his paper, Sargent Shriver read it in the middle of the night. Shriver dispatched a wire on Feb. 5, which Wiggins received at 3 a.m., telling him to bring 15 copies to a planning meeting the following morning at 10 am. At the end of the meeting, the planners were in agreement that Wiggins’ paper should be the basis for the plan to launch the Peace Corps on a bold scale. Thus, *A Towering Task* was  
*(Continued on Page 8)*



## *How the Peace Corps came to the Philippines*

*(Continued from Page 7)*

the “pivotal founding” document in the establishment of the Peace Corps. At Shriver’s request, Wiggins dropped everything and began working for him full time. Shriver reported back to the President that contrary to the views of some of his advisors, the Peace Corps “should be of significant size and launched immediately.”

The President signed the Executive Order creating the Peace Corps on March 1, 1961, and shortly thereafter named Shriver the first Director. The first discussions with Philippine officials about a Peace Corps program led to the early realization that while the Philippines would welcome English language support, the country already had an excess number of teachers. The original concept had to be modified.

### **“Education aides”**

While Wiggin’s document spelled out how American volunteers might work in six classes a day, it also “made absolutely clear that no Philippine teacher will be made unemployed as a consequence of this program.” As a result, the concept of the “education aide” evolved.

Dr. Lawrence Fuchs, the dean of faculty at Brandeis University, was named the first Director of Peace Corps Philippines (officially known as the Peace Corps Representative) in August 1961. On Sept. 26, after he’d been in the Philippines for three weeks, he addressed an open letter to all the trainees at Penn State about the warm welcome he had received from Filipino officials and his first days with fellow staff members Bill Warren and Paul Hare who were also on duty.

Noting that some Philippine leaders were critical that the project was not adequately focused on promoting economic and technical growth, Fuchs explained that accordingly “the Volunteers will be available in the schools to help with science

and math as much as English and that Volunteers will also be free to participate in a wide range of community projects . . .” Science and math were now on an equal footing with English and the door was open for community development.

After his two years as Director, Fuchs wrote that the most striking feature of the Philippine program was its size. By the middle of 1963, nine waves of volunteers had begun their jobs, about 600 of whom were education aides and 22 community development workers. He continued, “For nearly a year, about a quarter of all Peace Corps Volunteers were serving in the Philippines.”

### **More than 8,000 have served**

Over the years more than 8,000 volunteers have served in the Philippines. The activities of Peace Corps Philippines have changed over the years, but education remains a prominent part of the program—its largest component. Ironically, the project is described on the Peace Corps website in terms that are not too different from the project in 1961:

“Volunteers are assigned to primary and secondary schools as resource teachers for English, math, science, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), and special education. They help Filipino teachers improve English language fluency and introduce new teaching methods. At universities, Volunteers teach classes and work with student teachers and staff to prepare new teachers.

“Volunteers help improve the quality of learning by enhancing school libraries and developing low-cost instructional materials. They organize teacher-training programs to provide professional development for Filipino teachers.”

*This article is an edited excerpt from the new publication of essays by early volunteers: Answering Kennedy’s Call: Pioneering the Peace Corps in the Philippines, edited by Borg and other RPCVs and available from Amazon or from [www.createspace.com/3528295](http://www.createspace.com/3528295)*

## Remembering Sarge

### Fish eyes, and a rationale

By Patricia MacDermot Kasdan

*Panay, 1961-63*

Sargent Shriver's death in January triggered treasured memories of his visit to members of Philippines II on the island of Panay in August 1962.

"Sarge came to my house for dinner," Nancy Dunetz recalled, "and I had the family I lived with serve him fish eyes. What a good sport! Then we took a banca to visit Chuck Gostlin on his island, and Sarge rolled up his pants and waded ashore."

After Shriver visited Joan Aragone and me in Banate, Iloilo, I wrote home:

"He pulled together our wandering thoughts into a real purpose, accepted our problems, listened and *heard*, explained his ideas, and what a difference it has made! Now I know what I'm doing and why -- to grow into intelligent, experienced, perceptive Americans who know the state of the world, care about it, and are not afraid to act on their beliefs; to help underdeveloped nations where they ask for help (not where *we* think it should go, like other U.S. agencies); to straighten out the warped view of Americans abroad."

He said he couldn't possibly be a happier man, with friends, family and the chance to do what he felt he should to act on his convictions.

### Service was his mantra

By Sarah Wilkinson McMeans

*Moalboal, Cebu, 1962-1964*

"Of all our ideals none surpasses the importance of service." That statement sums up the life of founder of the Peace Corps and its first director, R. Sargent Shriver.

I met Sarge in August 1963, when he came to Manila to accept the Magsaysay Award for International Understanding given to Peace Corps Volunteers in Southeast Asia.



Philippine II PCVs Joan Aragone, left, and Pat MacDermot Kasdan with Sargent Shriver on his visit to Panay in August 1962.

I was one of two PCVs selected to go to Manila for the award ceremonies. His enthusiasm for Peace Corps and his interest in the work of volunteers was electric.

The second time I saw him was Sept. 22, 2001, when he came to the dedication of a playground in Southeast Washington, D.C., which RPCVs and others built with Kaboom! as part of NPCA's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference. The first words out of Shriver's mouth were "Serve! Serve! Serve!" All those years later, it was obvious that he retained an enormous enthusiasm for voluntary service of every kind.



Sarah Wilkinson McMeans, next to Sargent Shriver, left, and other winners of the Magsaysay Award in 1963 by the Rizal Monument in Manila.

## Donors respond to the challenge of rising costs

By Stephen Dienstfrey

Treasurer (Mindanao, 1965-67)

The table below shows that PCAFPD just completed a very good year financially. The credit for our success goes to you. Because of rising costs in the Philippines, we needed to make two special appeals for increased donations last year. Your response was swift and gratifying. We would have had to decrease our operations considerably without the increased donations. The table shows our financial statements for 2009 and 2010.

Category	2009 Final	2010 Final
<b>Revenues</b>		
Direct Individual Donations (via mail)	\$31,725.87	\$40,368.59
Indirect Individuals Donations (via the internet)	1,459.75	2,970.00
Group Donations	4,900.00	13,750.00
Interest and Other Income	209.76	118.13
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$38,295.38</b>	<b>\$50,206.72</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Newsletter printing/postage	\$ 3,344.10	\$ 3,105.79
US Administrative Costs	1,542.11	1,972.62
Scholar Costs	32,254.73	45,018.76
Philippine Administrative Costs (including scholar alumni association)	1,649.83	1,739.92
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$38,790.77</b>	<b>\$51,837.09</b>
<b>CONTRIBUTION TO (REDUCTION IN) RESERVES</b>	<b>(\$495.39)</b>	<b>\$ 5,369.63</b>

Direct donations sent via mail were slightly over \$40,000 while donations sent via the Internet through the Network for Good or as part of the membership to the National Peace Corps Association were slightly under \$3,000. This is an increase of over 30% from 2009. The Group Donations include individual scholar sponsorships by organizations or individuals and, as reported in our fall newsletter, a one-time donation of \$10,000. Without the \$10,000 contribution, revenues for 2010 would have been only \$2,000 more than for 2009.

On the expense side, the largest category is Scholar Costs. This is a function of the number of scholars, the mix of public vs. private schools, and any increases in costs. Last year the Foundation supported 45 scholars, 13 of which will graduate this year. For the next academic year we anticipate supporting about 40 scholars. The board felt this reduction was prudent, anticipating the possibility of unexpected increases in tuition and fees.

Please continue to give as generously as you have in the past. Think of it: For a donation equivalent to the cost of an evening out for dinner and a movie for two, you can make a difference in the future of a young Filipino student struggling to gain an education as a pathway out of poverty.

## Contributions from our generous supporters

We thank those listed below whose contributions to PCAFPD were received between Oct. 19, 2010 & Feb. 10, 2011. **The plus (+) identifies those who made more than one contribution in calendar year 2010 or since October 2010, including contributions made with NPCA membership renewals.** Although we know that many of you like to know the site, group number and dates of Peace Corps service of our contributors, we have not provided that information here so we have space to present all of the stories we want to tell in this special 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue. The names of those residing outside the U.S. and notes on numbered contributions are at the top of the next page.

Anonymous		William Q. Graham	DE	Eric & Pamela Melby	MD
Paul Aleckson	VA	<b>Jennifer Grimm +</b>	FL	Karen Miao	CA
Chuck Alexander	FL	Stephen Growdon	WA	<b>Harve Mogul +</b>	FL
Wally Allen (1)	AZ	<b>Dan &amp; Ana Gudahl + (5)</b>	AR	<b>Loretta Moser +</b>	CA
Heather & Richard Ames	NH	<b>Robert Hale +</b>	OH	<b>Kate Mulvaney +</b>	IN
<b>Chuck Amorosino +</b>	VA	Steven D. Hall	IL	<b>William Murphy +</b>	FL
<b>Jeff Amundsen +</b>	MN	Judith Harmatys	MN	<b>Jerry &amp; Iris Nelson +</b>	CA
David Baden (2)	MN	Ben Harvey	CT	<b>Jerry Ogawa +</b>	TN
<b>David Barnstable +</b>	MD	Ken Heatherington	FL	Paul & Estela Ohlrogge	WI
Teddi Barron	IA	Jeff Heilman	OR	<b>Jeanne Ormsby +</b>	NC
Claire Bartlett	MA	Linn Hendersen	IL	Rebecca Holt Palmer	CA
Bill Benjamin	ND	Jim & Portia Henle	MA	Barry Parks	CA
Jane Bensinger	DE	<b>Joyce G. Henzel +</b>	NY	<b>Kay Linder Parrish +</b>	MO
Anne H. Bing	CT	Carolyn Herne	NY	Judy Patberg	OH
Olive Elica (Valiente) & Tom Blackburn	FL	<b>Barbara Hiller + (7)</b>	IL	Anne Pearson	MA
Michael Blaylock	CA	<b>Jerry &amp; Marie Hilliard +</b>	CT	<b>Ron &amp; Lilia Peters +</b>	IL
Ben Bloom	OH	<b>Deborah Hoagland +</b>	NM	<b>Jim Peterson +</b>	IL
<b>Sylvia Boecker + (3)</b>	VA	William R. Holman	CA	Michael J. Purcell	IL
<b>Kenneth Bollerud +</b>	NY	Calvin & Nita Holt	VA	<b>Margaret Purves +</b>	OR
<b>Parker &amp; Anna Borg +</b>	VA	<b>Mark Holt + (8)</b>	DC	Barbara Rabin	NY
Albert Bradford	MD	Larry & Betty Howard	PA	Carol & Mark Radomski	MD
<b>Anthony J. Brancato +</b>	NC	<b>Connie Curry Hughes +</b>	PA	<b>Barbara Rang +</b>	WI
<b>Thomas &amp; Marilyn Lathrop Brown +</b>	MO	<b>Nancy &amp; Derek Hulse +</b>	NY	Suzanne Woods Read	CO
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Elinor Capehart	VA	Joe Jerardi	PA	<b>Larry Robertshaw + (12)</b>	AZ
Maureen Carroll	DC	<b>Pat MacDermont Kasdan + (9)</b>	DC	Diane Rodill	DC
<b>Bruce Casey +</b>	SD	<b>Mary &amp; Ralph Kemphaus +</b>	OH	Eudora K. Roseman	PA
John H. Clark	DE	Anna Whitcomb Knight	MA	David & Maureen Ross-Lang	MO
Linda Miller Clark	MA	Jim Krogh	ND	Judith Senecal	OH
Kathryn Conway	NY	Harriet Kulis	IN	<b>Marianne Santodomingo +</b>	CT
<b>Helen R. Cooper +</b>	MA	Karen Johnson Larson	AZ	Mary Ann & Jim Scheirer	NJ
<b>Pera &amp; Margo Daniels +</b>	NV	Barbara Leitch LePoer	DC	Nancy Jeffers Schmidt	NV
<b>Owen Davis +</b>	MD	<b>Judith Lesner + (10)</b>	CA	<b>Charles F. Schwartz +</b>	DC
Dennis & Carol Ann Dettlef	VA	Stephen M. Limon	MA	<b>John D. Seidensticker + (13)</b>	TX
<b>Neil &amp; Kay Deupree +</b>	WI	<b>Jay Litt +</b>	FL	Richard Shirey	NY
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William Donohue (5)	NJ	Alan & Eva Mair	HI	<b>Karen Steele +</b>	NY
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<b>Bruce Falk +</b>	IL	Kathy Mario (10)	NY	<b>Milburn Stone +</b>	CT
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Kate French	MN	Chris Evans McCarthy	OH	<b>Sid Tice + (14)</b>	CA
Cathy Garman	VA	Sarah Wilkinson McMeans	DC	Virginia Cyboski Trinidad	VA
<b>Arlene Goldberg +</b>	VA	Mike McQuestion	MD	Katherine Tucker	MA

Lynn Gorton	FL	William L. Mehlhoff	OR	Vladimir Velasco	CA
Guia Villapando	NC	<b>Dr. Linda M. Wicks +</b>	NY	<b>Adamson Diaz Wong +</b>	NJ
Ken Weaver	KS	<b>Dave Wilder +</b>	PA	<b>Deane Wylie +</b>	CA
Jamie English Westcott (15)	CO	<b>Shirley Scott Williams +</b>	TX	Mr. & Mrs. John Zerolis	IL
Clara Wheatley	KY	David Winick	MN		

Those residing outside the US:	<b>Linda Cover Bigelow +</b>	France	Toni Ferrara & David Leong	Hungary
	<b>George Grills +</b>	Canada	Chris & Glenda Newhall	Philippines

**Key to donor list:**

Numbered contributions are designated: (1) for Maureen Carroll Scholarships; (2) in memory of Jaime Pimentel; (3) for the education of Prince Ann Daniel; (4) in honor of Beatrice Cabus; (5) in memory of Ed Adriano; (6) in honor of Kay Hebert; (7) in memory of Phillip Hiller; (8) half of gift for USDA Scholar; (9) in memory of Alice Waters Spring; (10) for Rachel Singer Memorial Scholarship; (11) in memory of Pamela Johnstone Moguet; (12) in honor of Willie Butler, wherever he may be; (13) one gift in honor of the Santiago family in Negros Occidental; a second gift for a student in or near Murcia, Negros Occidental and a third gift in honor of Arling and Selislina Toledano; (14) a December gift in honor of Geri Maiatico and a January gift in memory of Sargent Shriver; (15) in honor of Mark Holt.

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**Peace Corps Alumni Foundation  
for Philippine Development  
P.O. Box 100114  
Arlington, VA 22210**

**Got news for BALITAAN? Put a note in your donation envelope or send an e-mail to us at  
[board1@rpcvphilippines.org](mailto:board1@rpcvphilippines.org)**