

April 5, 2012

Dear Friend of Thailand,

Well, this is a long overdue Update, or so it feels. We hope you enjoy reading the latest news from Friends of Thailand for March and April, 2012!

In this evening's message, you will find the following

- **ENGLISH-TEACHING POSITIONS IN SONGKHLA**
- **FOT-FUNDED PCV PROJECT REPORT**
- **PEACE CORPS' THAILAND 50TH ANNIVERSARY, JULY 11-18, 2012...AND A SPECIAL BANGKOK OPERA**
- **PEACE CORPS CONNECT: MINNEAPOLIS 2012.....WITH THAILAND RPCV ANITA ROOT**
- **NEW FRIENDS OF THAILAND BOARD MEMBERS**
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- **FOT WEB SITE'S NEW LOOK**

### **ENGLISH-TEACHING POSITIONS IN SONGKHLA**

Bill Shaw, FoT Member of Thai XII and former PC Thailand staff member, has written that he and his wife are currently assisting the Songkhla Vocational College in hiring additional English teachers for the school's program. The positions will be for one academic year, and will involve 18 classroom hours per week. Candidates will need a teaching degree, TEFL/ TESOL certification, or equivalent English-teaching experience. The college will provide visas and work permits, housing and a monthly salary.

If you would like to learn more about teaching at the Songkhla Vocational College, please contact Bill directly at [billshaw22@yahoo.com.sg](mailto:billshaw22@yahoo.com.sg)

### **FOT-FUNDED PCV PROJECT REPORT**

Debi Ou-Yang of Thai 123 recently sent a report and photos for the Thai Youth Theater Festival 2012 held in Phitsauloke from January 27-29 of this year. Thanks to *Lindsay Dolin Sapp* (Thai 118), *Mark Oshiro* (Thai 66), *Stanley Shipp* (Thai 34), *Peter Coombs* (Thai 27), *Jan Hudanish* (Thai I), *Gerald Shogren* (Thai I) and *Nancy Ross* (Thai III) for their donations to the FoT Project Fund. Their generosity made it possible for us to provide funding for this excellent Festival a fourth time. To read about this project and view the photos, please go to

<http://www.friendsofthailand.org/projectsponsorship/projects2011/07TYT/main.html>  
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**And if you would like to make a donation to a future PCV project, please go to the following link to download a donation form or to make a donation using the Google**

**button at the bottom of the page**

<http://www.friendsofthailand.org/donate/main.html>

## **PEACE CORPS' THAILAND 50TH ANNIVERSARY, JULY 11-18, 2012...AND A SPECIAL BANGKOK OPERA**

Reservations for the 50th Anniversary are coming in, and it promises to be a wonderful celebration with RPCVs from across the five decades in attendance. We hope you are also planning to attend and encourage you to visit the 50th Anniversary section of the FoT web site to learn more about the celebration, including an updated list of those from the United States and Thailand who will attend. To learn more, as well as access various documents related to making reservations for various parts of the celebration, go to the following page on the FoT web site

<http://www.friendsofthailand.org/50thanniversary/thailand/main.html>

We also encourage anyone planning to attend the Peace Corps Thailand events on July 12 and 13 to consider making a special donation to cover their cost. You can learn more about how to make such a donation by clicking on the [Donation Information for Peace Corps Thailand Events on July 13](#) at the bottom of the 50th page. You can also write to me for further information.

And if you plan to stay on in Bangkok through July 25, you might be interested in attending the following musical premiere of a special opera written in memory of HRH Princess Princess Galyani Vadhana, information for which FoT member Howard Stateman sent along a few days ago.

*The world premiere of Somtow's **Requiem for the Mother of Songs**  
Presenters: Bangkok Opera; Ministry of Culture Thailand - Department of Cultural Promotions; Opera Siam Sucharitkul  
Artists: Nancy Yuen (Soprano); Grace Echauri (Mezzo Soprano)  
Ensembles: Siam Orpheus Choir; Siam Philharmonic Orchestra  
Conductor: Somtow Sucharitkul  
Location: Thailand Cultural Center  
Time and Date: 8 PM on Wednesday, July 25, 2012*

To read more about the opera and Mr. Somtow, please visit the following sites

<http://www.instantcore.com/concert/details.aspx?Pid=5091069>

<http://www.somtow.org/2011/12/requiem-for-mother-of-songs.html>

## **PEACE CORPS CONNECT: MINNEAPOLIS 2012.....WITH THAILAND RPCV ANITA ROOT**

For those of you not planning to travel to Thailand for the 50th celebration, you might

want to consider attending Peace Corps Connect: Minneapolis 2012, the National Peace Corps Association's first annual gathering. It will be held from June 29 - July 1 in that fair city. And to make it even more special, FoT member Anita Root of Thai 122 (newly returned from two years of service) has offered to organize a Thai dinner for any Thailand RPCVs who may be planning to attend the Gathering. To contact Anita to discuss joining her for a Thai meal in Minneapolis, write to her directly at [anita@anitaroot.com](mailto:anita@anitaroot.com)

To learn more about the Minneapolis gathering, please go to the NPCA's social networking site at <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/annual-gathering/>

### **NEW FRIENDS OF THAILAND BOARD MEMBERS**

The Friends of Thailand Board of Directors is pleased to announce the addition of two new members. They are Rachel Cooke of Thai 101 and Ted Chase of Thai 24. Both have been Friends of Thailand members for a number of years, and Ted previously served on the earlier FoT Project Review Board. We thank both of them for volunteering to serve on the Board, and we know they will assist the organization in many ways as we move through our second decade.

To read more about Rachel, as well as most of the other Board members, go to <http://www.friendsofthailand.org/friendsofthailand/aboutus/board.html>

When Ted's page is loaded, I will let everyone know it is available.

### **CALLING ALL THAILAND RPCVS**

Pat Hughes (Thai 34) and Sandy Keith (Thai XI), Membership Co-Chairs of the FoT Board of Directors, would like to share the following with the entire Thailand RPCV Community. Please take a moment to read it and, hopefully, pass it on. Thanks for your assistance with this effort.

*As you know, Peace Corps Thailand will celebrate its 50th Anniversary in Bangkok this coming July. Friends of Thailand is trying to locate ALL the Peace Corps Volunteers/Staff who have served in the Kingdom. If you are already on our mailing list, please pass this message along to your friends who served in Thailand and ask them to contact Friends of Thailand at [carolynnickels@earthlink.net](mailto:carolynnickels@earthlink.net) to become part of the Friends of Thailand community.*

**ROSE MARIE WANCHUPELA OF THAI I FEATURED IN BANGKOK POST**

On March 22, 2012, Rose Marie Wanchupela of Thai I was featured in the Bangkok Post. Her "story" reflects upon the 50 years she has spent in the Kingdom since she was assigned to Songkhla in 1962 as a volunteer with the first Peace Corps group to serve in Thailand. It is a lovely story of the life Rose Marie has made for herself there, and details the energy and love she has invested over the past five decades in providing quality education for children of all ages.

To read the Bangkok Post article and view a very sweet picture of our Rose Marie, please go to

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/feature/people/285421/inspired-to-teach>

### **FOT WEB SITE'S NEW LOOK**

To celebrate the 50th Anniversary year of Peace Corps Thailand, Friends of Thailand's web site has a new look. Most of the content is still the same, so your favorite pages are still online. But we now feature more photos in the common areas that celebrate the five decades of volunteer service.

If you would like to add your photographic memories to the site, please send them along via a return message, and I will load them as they arrive.

To explore the web site from the beginning, please go to

<http://www.friendsofthailand.org/>

And that is that for this evening. Thanks for reading this to the end and we hope you enjoyed it all.

Carolyn (Thai 34) for the Friends of Thailand Board of Directors...

Ted Chase (Thai 24)

Rachel Cooke (Thai 101)

Katharine Hendrix (Thai 85)

Patricia Hughes (Thai 34)

Darryl Johnson (Thai III)

Alexandra Keith (Thai XI)

Bill Knowlton (Thai 98)

Sumner Sharpe (Thai I) I)