

May 6, 2012

Dear Friend of Thailand,

Well, 2012 is just zipping along. Very soon, a number of us will be gathering in Bangkok to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Peace Corps Thailand. While many will not be able to attend, you will be there in spirit. And those of us who attend promise to take lots of photos to share when we have returned. In the meantime, we hope you enjoy reading the latest news from Friends of Thailand!

In today's message, you will find the following

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PEACE CORPS' 50TH ANNIVERSARY, BANGKOK: JULY 11-18

This is just a reminder that the 50th Anniversary of Peace Corps Thailand is quickly approaching. If you want more information about all the events, please go to <http://www.friendsofthailand.org/50thanniversary/thailand/main.html>

The schedule for the week includes two Friends of Thailand dinners on July 11th and 18th, and the main Peace Corps Thailand event on Friday, July 13th. At the bottom of the page are documents and forms you can download, including a reservation form for the two dinners, a reservation form for the Royal River Hotel and information about donating through Peace Corps for the July 13th main event.

Speaking of the July 13th Event, the schedule has been revised. We invite you to have a look at the latest version in the 50th section to see who will speak and what will transpire. **NOTE:** If you are planning to attend, I will be sending out more information about several of the events very soon, including dress protocol. Stay tuned!

Be sure to write if you would like further information, and we look forward to hearing you will attend.

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 message 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 carolynnicks@earthlink.net to become part of the Friends of Thailand community.

RPCVs WHO SERVED POST-1975 IN REFUGEE PROGRAMS

Dear Thailand and other RPCVs,

Responses by 1 June 2012, please, or BEFORE to: wmc Carrollbusiness@yahoo.com or MikeCarroll@etal.uri.edu

Call for RPCVs who worked in "Refugee Camps or the Refugee Resettlement Programs" in Thailand, post 1975. - Carolyn (Nickels-Cox) has asked myself and Jim Ogata...to assemble a sub-set of former Peace Corps Volunteers in Thailand (other other countries as far as I am concerned) who assisted with the refuge program. We think that the best way to assemble the sub-set of post-PC assistance (and some of us at the same time), is for those RPCVs who worked in refugee programs in Thailand post-1975 to correspond with myself and submit a paragraph (500 words or as long as you like) summarizing their experience in the refugee programs (and photographs please!) about how Peace Corps prepared them to better work in this field. As Julia Child would assemble a nice Somtham or Dam Makhung, I have volunteered to assemble these statements by RPCVs with photos if they choose. (videos welcome ala Youtube). I can write an introduction, but not too long.

Jim and I, with Carolyn, will work these statements into a final form and let Carolyn handle the logistics of posting the sub-set on RPCV assistance to "Indo China" refugees and/or displaced persons in Thailand or the region.

NOTE from Carolyn: Those RPCVs who worked in post-1975 refugee programs are, in my estimation, unsung heroes, and are part of the rich history of Peace Corps Thailand. I am just sorry it has taken so long to acknowledge the work these fine people did so long ago. Their written contributions will become part of the 50th edition of the Peace Corps Thailand book, *Big Frog in Little Kalasin*, to be published and made available shortly, as well as the FoT web site.

COLLIN TONG WINS PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

The Friends of Thailand community is pleased to share the following announcement about Collin Tong, RPCV of Thai 24. We thank Collin for his dedication over the years to so many worthy causes. He does us all proud!

The University of Redlands has named **Collin Tong** the recipient of its 2012 Distinguished Alumni Service Award for outstanding achievement in public service. Past recipients include the late U.S. Secretary of State Warren G. Christopher, CBS News White House correspondent Robert Pierpoint, and ACTION director Sam W. Brown, Jr., all U of R alumni. University president James R. Appleton will confer the award at a special Presidential Convocation on Oct. 20, 2012.

A former member of the National Peace Corps Association board of directors, Collin taught English as a foreign language in Phuket from 1968 to 1969. He is a Seattle-based freelance journalist and contributing writer for Crosscut Public Media and the New York Times. Collin was senior director of communications for Washington State University and visiting lecturer at WSU's Edward R. Murrow College of Communication. He also served as public affairs director for the Alliance for Education and taught East Asian history at City College of San Francisco and Lone Mountain College.

The U of R Distinguished Service Award service cited Collin's leadership on a range of issues both local and national. Following the 1982 tragic shooting death of his older brother, Roland, a civil rights attorney in San Francisco, Collin established and endowed memorial scholarship at the University of Redlands to benefit outstanding students of color preparing for careers in public service. In January 2003, he organized a nationwide campaign of 2,000 RPCVs in public opposition to war in Iraq that resulted in two full-length New York Times advertisements.

In his most recent public advocacy efforts, Collin led a statewide campaign to restore funding for adult day health centers in Washington that were threatened with elimination as a result of the state's severe budget crisis in 2009. For his efforts, the National Adult Day Services Association awarded Collin the Katryna Gould Award for consumer advocacy. For his five-year leadership in advocacy on behalf of Alzheimer's family caregivers, Collin was named the Volunteer of the Year by the Western and Central Washington chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. Collin's wife of 40 years, Linda Tong, died in April 2011 of early-onset Alzheimer's Disease.

Collin was a World Affairs Council Fellow and Michele Clark Fellow at the Maynard Institute for Journalism Education at the University of California, Berkeley. He has received awards from the Fund for Journalism on Jewish Life, Washington Press Association, Leadership Tomorrow, and Council for Advancement and Support of Education. In 2004 Collin was nominated for the Jefferson Award, the nation's highest honor for community and public service, established in 1972 at the American Institute for Public Service by the late Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and Sen. Robert Taft.

FOT FUNDRAISING

Many of you have received a message from FoT about its fundraising efforts for the PCV Project Fund. We thank all of you who have made a contribution in response to that letter. We are very thankful for our membership and the broader FoT community for their ongoing support of this aspect of the Friends of Thailand mission. We will forward a report on the effort in the coming weeks.

ADDITIONS TO THE FOT WEB SITE

In the past months, we have received some very interesting additions to the FoT web site. Read on!

Mike MacLeod of **Thai IX** has contributed some Thai language lessons from training he unearthed after all these years. He also includes notes with mention of how he came to search for them.

<http://www.friendsofthailand.org/thailandrpcvs/groups/thai09/main.html>

Steve Aufrecht of **Thai XIX** sent along a wonderful album of photos he took during his years as a PCV in Kamphangphet. I need to add captions one of these days, but many of the photos speak for themselves.

<http://www.friendsofthailand.org/thailandrpcvs/groups/thai19/main.html>

Jim Ogata of **Thai 50** forwarded four letters he received, one from PCW and three from Rick Hushaw's family members, when he served on PCT staff and investigated the bus accident in 1981 that claimed Rick's life.

<http://www.friendsofthailand.org/thailandrpcvs/groups/thai66/main.html>

There are probably many more additions, and when I remember them, I will include them in another FoT Update. If you would like to forward any documents or photos for inclusion on the site, please do so whenever you find them.