

Friends of Kyrgyzstan

DECEMBER 2007

Jani Jill Menen!



Greetings to our members during this holiday season. The board of directors has been hard at work and planning for some new programs that will create a stronger and more engaged organization.

In the area of membership we are working on letters that will be sent to people nominated to serve as well as currently serving and COSing volunteers so they will know that FOKGZ is here to support them while they serve and as a way to stay connected and engaged when they return. In addition FOKGZ will be working to promote/facilitate more meeting and activities

throughout the US for RPCVs to meet.

In addition the board is investigating an “adopt a volunteer” program for 2008. This program would pair a currently serving volunteer who is interested with a returned volunteer. The RPCV can help with projects, send care packages, and generally support the volunteer in Kyrgyzstan.

In addition FOKGZ will be reaching out to current volunteers for stories and other information to be included in the FOKGZ newsletter.

FOKGZ will also be working on fundraising this year. The donations we receive are used to sponsor currently serving volunteer’s partnership projects. The more we raise the more we can help.

Happy New Year!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Holiday greetings from the board
- ◆ Help send school supplies to Kyrgyz schools
- ◆ Where are they now?
- ◆ Special Announcements
- ◆ Visit the FOKGZ café press site for holiday gifts and cards
- ◆ Find two free ways to support FOKGZ!

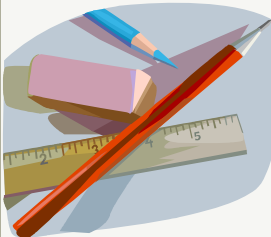
www.cafepress.com/fokgzshop

Check out the holiday cards and gifts on the café press site! 15% of each sale goes to FOKGZ!



The Americanski Bill Bame

Sponsor a box of teaching supplies for a PCV



Thanksgiving has just passed and I’m sure as we all gave thanks for the things we enjoy many of us also thought of Kyrgyzstan and the people we were lucky to

know who have much less.

Central States Representative Alice Lee has been working with the local Delta Pi (Dallas) branch of Delta Kappa Gamma (and honor society for educators) for several months to collect and send teaching supplies to village schools in Kyrgyzstan.

Alice and this group of educators have already sent 8 boxes of school supplies for teachers in Kyrgyzstan as well as 2 m-bags of books.

Alice has worked with currently serving volun-

teers to compile lists of supplies most in need in Kyrgyzstan. The supplies will be picked up in Bishkek and distributed to teachers in need.

They have focused mainly on math supplies, but will also be sending needed supplies to teachers in other areas as well.

It is not too late to help! Alice and the Delta Pi’s have another 8 boxes of supplies to send and another M bag still waiting to send. Sponsor a box for only 37 dollars!

Have a family member who has everything? Make a donation in their honor — give them better education for kids in Kyrgyzstan for the holiday.

Please contact me at aliceinkyrgyzstan@yahoo.com and I will give you an address to which you can send a donation.

Friends of Kyrgyzstan

Where are they now?

Amy Redwine K-6



After Peace Corps Amy went back to her hometown of Fayetteville, Arkansas and worked again as a 911 dispatcher, and true to form, it didn't suit her and so a crazy idea she had sent her to a different department within the city and she didn't like that job either. Finally a spot was offered to her as a member of the Mississippi Teacher Corps where she taught High School Spanish for 2 years in critical needs areas while simultaneously working on her master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction.

After completing her degree, she headed straight back to Kyrgyzstan and worked in an English

language institute for adults teaching English as a Second Language. She worked there for a year and then transferred to the international school in Bishkek where she taught 3rd and 4th graders for two years.

She is currently starting her new job as a second grade teacher at a private German bilingual school in Berlin. It's very surreal to be living overseas and not in Kyrgyzstan, but she'll survive!

She misses her days in Peace Corps and all the great friends she made, many of whom both local and PC, she is still in touch with. Feel free to contact her as any friend of Friends of Kyrgyzstan is a friend of hers, so if you are passing through Berlin one day, contact her AHEAD OF TIME and let her know if you need a place to stay.

Alicia Snyder and Gerald Meenaghan, K-8



2008 to attend graduate school - hopefully for a program at the University of Hawaii! My professional interests are in health and cultural psychology, and counseling. Since coming to Japan, I've become an avid skier and runner. I'm running my first full marathon this fall.

I'm writing to update you on myself and my husband, Gerald Meenaghan, also a K-8 Karakol, Issyk-Kul. We have been living and working in north-east Japan (Iwate Prefecture) since Fall, 2002.

I'm employed by the board of education in Iwate's capital, Morioka. I teach EFL at a large, inner-city junior high school. I also make regular visits to elementary school classrooms around the city to promote international awareness. I am currently working with the Earlham College (Indiana) Teaching English in Japan program as a coordinator for Assistant English Teachers. I plan to return to the US in Fall,

My husband, Gerry, is working as an English teacher at a private high school, also in Morioka. He teaches students of all tracks, and runs special programs for the international education track students. His job involves lots of translating, interpreting for foreign guests, organizing international school events, and most recently creating an English school promotion DVD for international distribution. Gerry also spends free time skiing and running, and has competed in many triathlon, cycling, running and open-water swimming races. His goal for this year is to pass the Level 1 Japanese proficiency test.

Friends of Kyrgyzstan

Where are they now ?

Tiffany Tuttle K-6

I am living in Paradise! Yup, Paradise, CA, just 12 miles outside Chico. After the Peace Corps, I moved to California, living on the coast in Arcata for 3 years soaking up the hippie vibe before I decided to go back to grad school for my MA. I attended Washington State University in Pullman, WA. My thesis dealt with the effects of tourism on shyrdak design and the revival of tradition, and I spent 3 months in Kochkor working with the wonderful women at the NGO Alтын Kol to collect my field data. I studied cultural anthropology for two years, but drank with the archaeologists on the weekends because they're just more fun. After defending my thesis in 2005, on a whim, I attended WSU's archaeology field school in New Mexico. I moved back to Arcata and, despite my best intentions, almost immediately began working as an archaeologist. Job opportunities moved me to Redding, CA, which is 150 miles inland and where no hip-

pies have been sighted since 1967. I got a black lab mix who I named Cara (of course), and began frequenting the dog park, which is where I met my sweetie, Tom, and his german sheppard, Diezel. New job opportunities have led the four of us to the Chico area, where Tom is running a new office for his company, and where I am doing contract archaeology at CSU Chico. No, I don't dig up fossils or alien artifacts or golden masks, but I love it anyway.



Alice Lee K-7, Sarah Zins K-7 and Tiffany Tuttle K-6 at the Friends of Kyrgyzstan reunion.

Congratulations!



Gina (Berko) Solomon, K-10 gave birth to a bouncing baby boy Ian Alexander Solomon July 20th. Ian weighed 6 lbs. 2 oz, when he was born. Here he is enjoying his first swim!

Congratulations to Leslie (Hein) Strojwohns, a K-10 who served

in Chong Sary Oi. Leslie married to her boyfriend, Greg Strojwohns, on September 22nd.

Congratulations to Hugh Ho a K-7 who served in Bosteri Issyk-kul. Hugh has recently finished his master's of public administration from the University of Washington. Hugh has also been accepted into a 2 year fellowship program in DC at the Department of Energy in the office of Program Analysis and Evaluation.

A cause worth supporting

If you are like me the charities have discovered that you have a weakness for a good cause. I know it gets overwhelming but I know many of you have fond memories of the Darien Book Aid Plan.

The Darien Book Aid Plan sent me books without requiring anything from me — I didn't even have to pay the shipping. Maybe not exactly what I wanted but as close as they could get.

The recent increase in postal rates has hit them hard. The cost of shipping a 30 lb box of books went from 31.50 to 76.20.

If you can afford to give a donation send it to:
Darien Book Aid Plan Inc.
1926 Post Road
Darien, Connecticut 06820

Have a story to tell? An announcement? Or just want to tell us what you are up to now?

Submit it to Linda Lee to be included in the next edition at

lindalee_b@yahoo.com

Friends of Kyrgyzstan

Fundraising!

Help us give more grants to projects in Kyrgyzstan!

Visit our Café Press Site!



Are you looking for the perfect gift this holiday season? Why not get them a T-shirt or other Friends of Kyrgyzstan item? It is the gift that gives twice —when you

purchase a Friends of Kyrgyzstan item at our cafepress store Friends of Kyrgyzstan receives 15% of the purchase price.

<http://www.cafepress.com/fokgzshop>



would like? Request it and we will attempt to design it for you! (Please note we are not professional designers!) Send your suggestions to

lindalee_b@yahoo.com

Who doesn't need a Friends of Kyrgyzstan barf bag or bib? These items are great exposure for the group, make fantastic presents and help us make more grants to Kyrgyzstan! Don't see an item you



Join NPCA!

Friends of Kyrgyzstan is an affiliate group of the National Peace Corps Association. Friends of Kyrgyzstan receives \$15 for every person who joins NPCA and chooses FOKGZ as their affiliate group.

In addition to helping FOKGZ survive, NPCA does a variety of things to help support the goals of Peace Corps. To find out more visit:

www.rpcv.org

Ways to give back that cost you NOTHING!

Shop On-line with www.igive.com and give back to Friends of Kyrgyzstan!

Select Friends of Kyrgyzstan as your charity at www.igive.com and a portion of each purchase goes to Friends of Kyrgyzstan without adding a dime to your total. Many of the biggest on-line retailers are members of [igive.com](http://www.igive.com) including Barnes and Noble, Land's end, Babies R Us, Expedia.com and hundreds more!

The screenshot shows the iGive.com website with a navigation bar at the top: MY GIVE, SHOPPING, SPECIALS, MY CAUSE, IGIVE.COM. A user is logged in as Linda Lee. The main content area features several promotional banners for different retailers:

- BARNES & NOBLE:** Summer Clearance + FAST & FREE shipping on \$25+ orders at Barnes & Noble! (2% Donation)
- PIPERLIME:** Lime Tag Sale at PipeTime.com! Click here for savings of up to 40% off the shoe brands you love. (4% Donation)
- OfficeMax:** FREE Delivery* orders over \$50 (1.6% Donation)
- Coldwater Creek:** Unique Women's Apparel & Accessories (Shop)

On the left side, there is a 'shopping search' bar and a 'my stats' section with links for Shopping, Bonuses, Tax-Deduction, Checks, Referrals, My Info, Newsletter, Subscriptions, Tax Status, Cool Stuff Settings, Change My Cause, Cancel Membership, and tell-a-friend. At the bottom, it shows 'Total Earnings' for the user's cause: \$5.99 through iGive.com.

The screenshot shows the GoodSearch website interface. At the top, it says 'GoodSearch YOU SEARCH WE GIVE'. Below the search bar, there are several sections:

- CHARITY OF THE DAY:** A section with a star icon and a link to 'Friends of Kyrgyzstan (Albany, NY)'.
- WHO'S BOGGING GOOD?:** A section featuring a photo of a woman and the text 'Kate Conic and the National Colorectal Cancer Alliance'.
- SEARCH:** A search bar with 'Web', 'Images', and 'Video' tabs. Below it, there is a search box with the text 'Friends of Kyrgyzstan (Albany, NY)' and buttons for 'Clear Selection' and 'Amount Raised'.

At the bottom, there is a section for 'SUCCESS STORIES' with the text '38,000+ nonprofits are'.

Don't Google, Good Search!

The next time you are searching the internet for a good Manti recipe, use Good Search and you will earn one cent per search for Friends of Kyrgyzstan. You can even download a convenient search feature to your tool bar so you don't have to visit the site in order to search and raise money for Friends of Kyrgyzstan.

Members have already done more than 1,100 searches for Friends of Kyrgyzstan this year! If all of our members started using Good Search, those pennies would quickly add up to more grants to support projects in Kyrgyzstan!