



Connecticut RPCV E-News

BEST SEEN by linking to <http://www.ctrpcv.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/CTRPCV0813.pdf>
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CTRPCV annual summer picnic at Hammonasset State Park, Madison, August 10

Next Step Travel – Dominican Republic and Guatemala – Summer 2013

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Gracias note from CT Quest for Peace and Maureen Shanley for support for computers to Nicaragua

International Game

Peace Corps Advocacy

You are one of over 300 returned Peace Corps volunteers and/or friends of the Peace Corps who are receiving this e-newsletter. **The Connecticut RPCV has about 75 dues paying members. If you are interested in participating in the following CTRPCV events, please also consider joining our group. Please click here to join and/or pay your annual membership fees!**

Please also consider joining the Connecticut Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/37593849149/>.

Upcoming Events:

CTRPCV Calendar – more details below.

Saturday, August 10	CTRPCV Annual Summer Picnic Hammonasset State Park, Madison, CT
August – September 2013	Next Step Travel – Guatemala
Saturday, September 7 am	<i>Darien Book Aid</i>
Saturday, September 7 pm	Fall CTRPCV Potluck Picnic Sean Sullivan's in Darien
Monday, September 9	Commemorate 9/11, being organized by Anthony Trujillo at atrujillo2@peacecorps.gov
Saturday, October 19	CTRPCV Annual Meeting

Peace Corps Response

Have you paid your annual dues? You support helps us stay connected!

Click [here](#) to join or pay your membership fees!

Stay connected through our Peace Corps links - just click below!

CT RPCV Website

Get updated news about events and our members!

National Peace Corps Association

Stay connected to our national community and representation in Washington!

Letter from Congressman Joe Courtney supporting the Peace Corps

Peace Corps Website

The Mother Ship – full of information for RPCVs from how to spread the word to finding great job opportunities!

Contact Us

<http://www.ctrpcv.org>

ctrpcv@gmail.com

Other links of interest :

Peace Corps Online

CTRPCV Picnic at the Beach!!!

What: Potluck style picnic at the beach

When: Noon – 3pm, Saturday, August 10th

Where: Picnic Shelter #4 (Meigs Point)
Hammonasset State Park
Madison, CT (just off I-95)



Our big annual potluck picnic – all are welcome including perspective RPCVs

Only lightning & thunderstorms will make us cancel because we have a large pavilion to protect us from the sun and rain.

What to bring: your own drinks, something to grill, and a dish or dessert to share.

(CTRPCV will provide the paper and plastic products and mustard, ketchup, mayonnaise, charcoal.)

Raffle: There will be an INSTANT RAFFLE and the proceeds will go to the CTRPCV Community Service Grant Fund. Please bring something from your travels, a plant, a bottle of something, use your imagination... the more items we have the more winners there will be!

Come out and join your fellow Connecticut RPCV's for an afternoon of fun in the sun!

Our annual picnic will be held this year on Saturday, August 10th from 12-3p.m. at Hammonasset State Park in Madison, CT, just off I-95. We will be at **picnic shelter #4**. Please note, that there is a parking charge for entering the state park. However, if you are 65 or older, you can apply for a senior park

*The Independent News
Forum serving Returned
Peace Corps Volunteers*

PC Online Crossroads *Links
to every Peace Corp website
you can think of!*

pass, which lets you enter free of charge. You can also purchase family park passes that allow you access to all state parks. Check out www.ct.gov/dep for more information on these passes.

If you have any questions about the picnic, or about rain cancellations on the day of the picnic, please call Maureen Shanley's cell (203)788-0163. We hope to see you there!

Next Step Travel

National Peace Corps Association members love to travel and to travel with a purpose. And who better to travel with than Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and their friends and families?

NPCA Next Step Travel program features small group travel (up to 20), hands-on service projects, educational programs and a close-up view of the impact of volunteer service. Our all-inclusive trips are operated by Discover Corps, a program of Terra Education, an experienced leader in educational travel. Their CEO, Andrew Motiwalla, is also a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (Honduras 1996-98)! Tickets are available – purchase early using the registration forms below and make your plans.

- **Request More Information**
- **Phone: 1-619-202-4114 1-619-202-4114**
- **Email Us**
- **Registration Form** (*Fill out, print, and submit via mail, email, or fax*)

Upcoming Trips – Spaces Still Available!

Guatemala – [click here to find out more](#)

- August 24 – September 2, 2013
- August 24 – September 6, 2013

**CT RPCVs Help [Darien Book Aid](#) Help
PCVs**

September 7, 2013

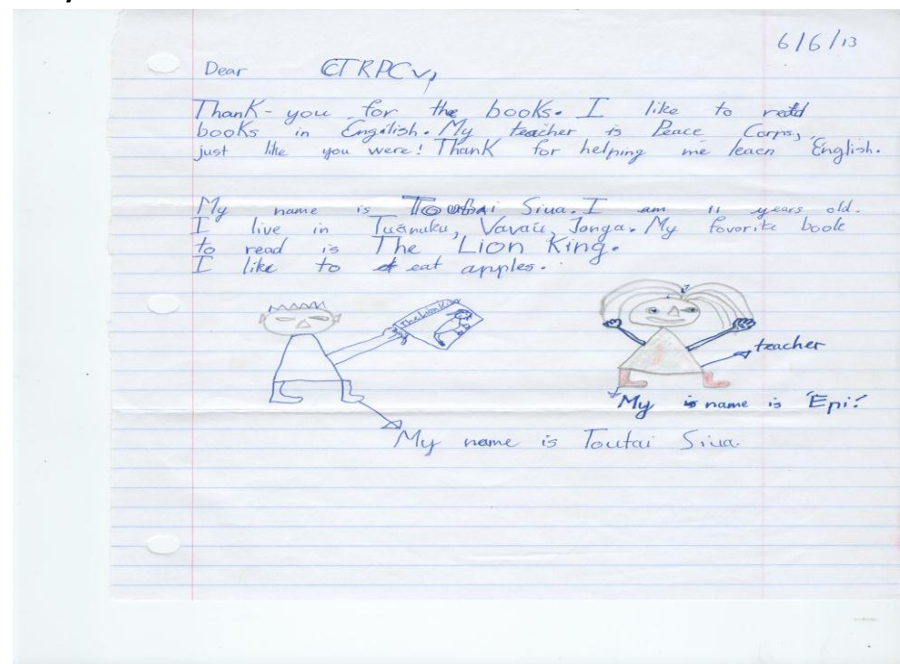
Saturday... 9 AM to Noon

Join us for a few hours of community service before the picnic at Sean's home.

If you can help with the packing of books. PLEASE CONTACT MAUREEN so that she will know who is planning on attending this event.

[MaureenShanley@hotmail.com or 203-775-9222]

Last February we packed more than 50 boxes of books for PCVs. Just last week I received a packet of THANK YOU notes written in English by PCV-Abby's students.



June 6, 2013

Dear Maureen and all CTRPCVs,

I just wanted to thank you again for the wonderful work you are doing. It is amazing how much good one box of books can do. The day we brought the books to the school our principal was so excited that he had the students help him build a small classroom library right then and there!

These books are much loved. Every student has a favorite book that they know that they can read. They LOVE to read it to anyone who will listen.

Thank you so much for all you do for kids around the world.

Sincerely,
Abby Kloberdanz
PCV Tu'anuku GP8, Tonga

Darien Book Aid is a non-profit, all volunteer organization dedicated to fostering peace and friendship through the distribution of free books. Approximately 60% of DBA's shipments fulfill requests from current PC Volunteers. Darien Book Aid would love to hear for you. For more information about them, visit on the web at <http://dba.darien.org>. If you're interested in volunteering individually, you can call (203)655-2777 or email darienbookaid@yahoo.com.

Directions to Darien Book Aid Plan, Inc.

Northbound: Take I-95 to Exit 10. Take Noroton Avenue toward Long Island Sound. It T's at US Route 1 - the Boston Post Road.

Take a left and you will find Book Aid on the right, about 1/2 a block down at 1926 Post Road.

The white wooden building looks like an old firehouse with a "bell" tower on top of the building.

Southbound: Take Exit 11. Make left onto US Rt. 1 for about 1+ mile. DBA is on left just after the 5th light.

Followed by ...

Come to a Potluck Picnic in Darien

Come for a gathering of the Peace Corps clan at the lovely home of Sean Sullivan, in Darien.

CTRPCV Sean Sullivan will be hosting a Potluck Picnic at his home on Saturday, September 7 from Noon to 3 PM.

[Rain date, Sunday September 8]

What bring:

- your own drinks,
- something to grill,
- and a dish or dessert to share.

CTRPCV will provide the paper and plastic products and mustard, ketchup, mayonnaise, charcoal.

Come out and meet your fellow Connecticut RPCV's.

Directions:

From the east, off I95 at exit 11, immediate right onto Route 1. Right at third light, (Tokeneke Road), right at light (Old Farm Road, which runs

behind a school), second right (Tokeneke Trail) to stop sign (Cross Road). Right at stop sign. Stay right up hill (Homewood Lane). Second house on left.

From the west, off I95 at exit 12, immediate right onto Tokeneke Road, right at light (Old Farm Road, which runs behind a school), second right (Tokeneke Trail) to stop sign (Cross Road). Right at stop sign. Stay right Homewood Lane) up hill. Second house on left.

Participate in a Positive Way to Commemorate 9/11

Save the Date! CTRPCV, PC/NY, & AmeriCorps are planning to join forces once again to for a 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance. Last year's service event Hartford was a big success and we hope to continue the tradition this year in New Haven. The type of service project and location is still being confirmed but the event will start in the early evening. Please send a message to Anthony Trujillo at atrujillo2@peacecorps.gov if you are interested in participating or would like to get more information once the details are confirmed. All the event details will also be included the September CTRPCV E-Newsletter. We hope that you will mark this date on your calendar and join us!

CTRPCV Annual Meeting



CTRPCV Annual Meeting & Potluck Dinner
Saturday, October 19 at 6:30 PM
at CT Forest and Parks Bldg. in Rockfall

Come share some RPCV food, learn about how our grant program supports community programs at our annual potluck dinner and meeting.

The CTRPCV Board Meeting will be from 4:30 PM until 6:15 PM immediately before the Annual Potluck Dinner Meeting. Everyone is invited to attend the Board Meeting. New ideas are always welcome!

Who:

Anyone interested in being with Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and hearing our stories!!!

What:

Board Meeting followed by a short General Meeting & Potluck Dinner. We have not decided on the entertainment or a special speaker for this event. If you have any ideas, please contact Maureen.

What to bring:

Food for 6 to share according to the first letter of your last name

- A-H: main dish for 6 people
- I-S: dessert for 6 people
- T-Z: side dish or salad for 6 people

A raffle item or two (optional) - the perfect opportunity to regift!

Just look around your house...you probably have something that someone else would love. Perhaps you have something special from your country of service! A plant, a cake, a bottle of wine... you name it... all the proceeds from the Instant Raffle goes to our CTRPCV Community Service Grant Fund.

Come share some RPCV food, learn about how our grant program supports community programs at our annual potluck dinner and meeting.

Annual Potluck Directions...

Connecticut Forest & Park Association headquarters is located in the middle of Connecticut on Route 66 between Meriden and Middletown. It is a spacious room with all the tables and chairs that we could possibly want. There are large windows to let in sunlight.

We will meet on the first floor that is on ground level that makes it easy to get into the building because there are no stairs. There is a full kitchen and a bathroom for us to use.

Where:

CT Forest and Park Association 16 Meriden Road, Rockfall, CT 06481...between Meriden & Middletown on Rt. 66

Directions: Connecticut Forest and Parks Association
<http://www.ctwoodlands.org/> (860) 346-2372]

Take I-84 to I-691 which becomes CT-Rt. 66. Coming from the Waterbury, drive approximately 4 mi. on Rt. 66 , CFPA will be on your left. It's just after the 4th stop light. Once you pass a used car lot that was a Citgo gas station, it will be the next driveway on the left. The driveway is hard to see at night.

Help Wanted at CTRPCV:

- We need someone who will be our CALENDER poster who will update our CTRPCV calendar, post our events on the NPCA website, and just get our info about events “out there”.
- Connect RPCVs with requests for speakers. We get about 3- 6 requests a year.
- Restaurant/Potluck/Friday Night Out... Coordinator...
Basically someone who is interested in hosting one of these events contacts you and you share “The Plan” that CTRPCV has developed to help them organize their event.

JOBS ARE BEING FILLED:

- Fundraiser- we need to think of ways to replenish the funds for our CTRPCV Community Service Fund. We can think big& small... all ideas are welcome. **[Al May is heading up this committee, but he would love some help. Any ideas are welcome!]**
- **Jonathan Rosario will be connecting CTRPCV members through the social media** on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc.

GRACIAS... CTRPCV

Connecticut Quest for Peace sends Computers to Nicaragua

Written by... Maureen Shanley (RPCV Colombia)



In addition to being president of CTRPCV, I am also VP of Connecticut Quest for Peace. Connecticut Quest for Peace is a 501(C)3 nonprofit organization founded in 1985 by a group of dedicated individuals whose mission is to help the poorest people of Nicaragua. Connecticut Quest for Peace seeks to improve the lives of the poor in Nicaragua by working through proven Nicaraguan organizations to provide humanitarian aid in a variety of educational choices, health care, arts, and microfinance initiatives primarily directed toward women and children.

Thanks to a donation of \$1,000 from CTRPCV, Connecticut Quest for Peace sent and will connect to the internet 10 computers (laptops) in two very rural schools in Somotillo, Nicaragua. These computers will not only be used to teach children valuable computer skills that can transfer into better job opportunities, but they will also open the “world” to this poor, tiny, rural community in northern Nicaragua. At night these computers will also be used by townspeople for a small fee. Thus the school can use the computers to pay for the school’s internet charges and the townspeople will have an inexpensive way to broaden their world.



Recommended places for unwinding

Introducing a new section for the CTRPCV e-newsletter where members share a special place for unwinding in the world. The location may be in Connecticut or anywhere away from home. Please send a short description (100 words) to the [e-newsletter editor](#) with the name of place, location, cost for the rental, amenities, local places of interest and restaurants, transportation, contact information, and other details.

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An International Game

Visit the Peace Corps Challenge Online Game –

<http://www.peacecorps.gov/kids/>

suggested by David Stoloff – stolofffamily@yahoo.com

Advocacy for the Peace Corps

Have you ever been inspired to speak to your local Congressman or Senator to discuss the value of Peace Corps service and the need to expand Peace Corps efforts internationally or thank them for supporting Peace Corps endeavors in the past? Join the hundreds of Return Peace Corps volunteers advocating for Peace Corps locally. If you are interested in participating follow the steps below. Every volunteer has a unique story to share of their service. Sharing your story, may impact government to continue Peace Corps service. Follow the steps below if you would like to advocate in Connecticut.

Step 1: The first step is to go to the bottom of our August District Advocacy Page - <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/district-meeting-days/> to see if anyone is listed yet as planning to help coordinate meetings in your region. If someone is listed, please contact them to express your interest in participating or assisting. **This is very important**, as the National Return Peace Corps Association wants to make sure they don't have multiple people requesting a meeting with the same congressional office.

Step 2: If no one is listed for your area and you are willing to organize one or more meetings in your area, contact the National Return Peace Corps Association at advocacy@peacecorpsconnect.org today. Let them know where you live and what office (or offices) you would like to organize a meeting with.

In the coming days, the National Peace Corps Association will reach out to you with some basic instructions on how to schedule meetings with your district offices. You will take the lead on scheduling the meeting and (if possible), finding 1 – 3 other local RPCVs to form an advocacy team. The National Peace Corps Association will help provide you with participants if necessary. They will also provide you with background materials and key talking points to help you plan and prepare for your meetings.

For additional information, please contact Terese Maineri [<mailto:tmaineri@yahoo.com>]

An example of advocacy,

CTRPCVer Atty. Joan Leonard, jaleonard@snet.net, Clinton, CT received this letter from Congressperson Joseph Courtney discussing his support for the Peace Corps, shared at

<http://www.ctrpcv.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/response-from-Joe-Courtney-0413.pdf>



From <http://www.peacecorps.gov/response/>

Addressing Critical Needs Around the Globe

Peace Corps Response provides qualified professionals the opportunity to serve in rewarding, short-term assignments, in various programs around the world. When you serve as a Peace Corps Response Volunteer, you bring your skills and experience to projects in places where you are needed most.

Search for positions, apply, or modify an existing application here:

[Search](#) ♦ [Apply](#) ♦ [Update](#)

From Peace Corps Connect - www.PeaceCorpsConnect.org

July 25, 2013

www.PeaceCorpsConnect.org

Today, the Senate Appropriations Committee included language for the Peace Corps Equity Act in the State/Foreign Operations Bill for Fiscal Year 2014. This is language that would fix the

current inequity through which Peace Corps Volunteers are the only individuals serving our nation overseas who are not allowed abortion services in the narrow circumstances of rape, incest or life endangerment.

Our next step is to collect thousands of RPCV signatures and comments on a Peace Corps Equity Act Statement of Support that NPCA and other groups are starting to circulate.

TAKE ACTION NOW:

Please follow this link and take

action:<http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/support-equity-act/>

After you sign the Statement of Support, share this message with other Returned Peace Corps Volunteers through your various networks.

Thank you for taking this important action.

Upcoming events of potential interest:

**These are events that involve fellow RPCVs...
we'd like to let you know about them...**

**(send David info about an event
that you want to publicize!!!)**

1) Walktober

Eastern Connecticut, October – November 2013

If you might be interested in a fall-time stroll in the forests and historic towns of Eastern Connecticut and the Last Green Valley, please see the developing list of events at

<http://www.tlgv.org/resources/walktober2013info.html> David Stoloff, RPCV Zaire 1973-75, will buy CTRPCV members their first beer sampler at WilliBrew -

<http://willimanticbrewingcompany.com/> if he is available after

your walk, if you contact him at stoloffd@easternct.edu .

2) **WYNTON MARSALIS...**



PRESENTS

“ABYSSINIAN: A GOSPEL CELEBRATION,”

October 22 ~ Woolsey Hall at Yale University

Attention jazz and gospel music fans:

Christian Community Action (www.ccahelping.org), a New Haven-based ecumenical social services agency where CTRPCV Vice President Al May (Costa Rica 70-72) serves as development director, is sponsoring a fundraiser on Tuesday, October 22 at Woolsey Hall at Yale University in New Haven. It will feature the noted jazz musician Wynton Marsalis. Called “Abyssinian: A Gospel Celebration,” the show was written by Marsalis for the 200th anniversary of New York City’s historic Abyssinian Baptist Church. Also featured will be the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra. This will be the only New England performance of this show this year.

Tickets go on sale after September 1. For further information, contact Al at (203) 777-7848 x 19 or amay@ccahelping.org.

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Send me your news and announcements for the next E-news!
MaureenShanley@hotmail.com.

Have you paid your dues??? Do you have a new email address??? [Click here to join or pay your membership fees!](#)