



Connecticut RPCV E-News

Co –Presidents: Al May -AMay47@sbcglobal.net and Terese Maineri-tmaineri@yahoo.com
November 2013 David Stoloff, eNewsletter editor, stoloffd@easternct.edu

For the latest CTRPCV e-news - <http://www.ctrpcv.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/CTRPCV1113.pdf>

All membership, donation, activity announcements, Peace Corps stories, and correspondence may also be sent to CTRPCV, P.O. Box 1803, Hartford, CT 06144.

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Survey says –

It is not too late to participate in the CTRPCV survey.

Just link to

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SLPQLF8> .

Sixty-eight (68) RPCVs have responded to the survey so far. Of this group, 80% are receiving the CTRPCV e-news – if you are not, just send your email address to stoloffd@easternct.edu . Eighty percent have participated in a CTRPCV event or activity, with an equal percentage (77%) favoring the community service projects and the social events to attend. Sixty-three (63%) are planning to participate in a CTRPCV event in 2014. Of the 62 RPCVs that provided service information, the largest groups are from Philippines (5), Ecuador (4), and Kenya (4). We hope to hear from more of you before the survey closes.

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

If you would no longer wish to receive this e-newsletter, please send an email to stoloffd@easternct.edu to unsubscribe.

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

The Bridge Family Center

7th annual Run for Refugees, Feb 2, 2014

International Game

Peace Corps Advocacy

Peace Corps Response

Have you paid your annual dues? Your 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

Upcoming Events:

CTRPCV Calendar – more details below.

<p>Saturday, November 16th, 3:00pm, home of Ian Hefele, RPCV Mozambique 221 Sugar House Hill Road Guilford, VT 05301</p>	<p>“RPCVs in New England” Potluck: <u>RSVP</u> to Joan Perreault by email jimperreault@gmail.com , or by calling/texting me at 617-642-4330</p>
<p>Saturday, December 7, 5 pm</p>	<p>CTRPCV Holiday Party December 7, 2013 at 5 PM at the home of Pete Govert (Swahili Pete) 24 Cedar Meadow Rd., Moodus, CT, tel. no. 860-873-9714, email: swahilipete@sbcglobal.net Bring paper plates, plastic ware</p>
<p>Friday, February 7, 6 pm</p>	<p>Friday, February 7, 2014 Event at Soul De Cuba with raffle as fundraiser</p>

News about Maureen Shanley, CTRPCV President

Maureen is getting better, but it just takes time...
So Maureen is going to make time for herself...

I would like to thank my fellow RPCVs who have emailed, sent cards, called, visited, and supported me spiritually. All these forms of support have helped me to stay positive during this ordeal. I have been in Bethel Health Care for 7+ weeks and I don't expect the doctor to give me permission to be weight bearing until, at the earliest, 10/23. That is the date he set for my next appointment. You know I asked if I could have a earlier appointment, to which he responded, "Yes, but it won't make any difference". So my prayer is that I will be able to put some weight on my leg on that date and then learn how to get up the stairs because my bathroom is a half flight from the main entrance.

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

The Independent News Forum serving Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

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

While I know that my leg will be as good as new in the spring, I have realized that I need to make changes in my lifestyle. So it is with great regret that I am stepping down as President of CTRPCV. It has been a honor to represent the Connecticut Returned Peace Corps Volunteers as a board member, Vice President, and President since sometime in the 80's. I really can't remember the years when I held a certain position because CTRPCV just became a part of ME. Because I have been representing CTRPCV I have been afforded the opportunities to meet many dignitaries like US and foreign Presidents, senators, congressmen, and governors. However, my PC experiences also brought me to CT Quest for Peace whose mission is to feed and educate children in Nicaragua. Collecting, sorting and packing humanitarian aid for Nicaragua is like being a PCV here in the USA. Most importantly, being President of CTRPCV has enabled me to meet and become friends with so many RPCVs who live in CT. If it were not for my involvement with CTRPCV, I would not have had the pleasure of your company. So I thank you for giving me the privilege of being your representative for so many years.

I am very happy to announce that Al May & Terese Maineri have offered to be co-Presidents. They asked me to continue as Vice President, but I will only do that for one year with the intent of helping to make a smoother transition for CTRPCV. As long as I am in CT I will, of course, continue to support CTRPCV. However, I am asking all of you to please step-up and offer to help Al & Terese so that CTRPCV will continue to be an active RPCV group. Again... thanks for the memories... they are good ones ;)

Lost and Found

Found at our August 10 RPCVCT picnic: prescription glasses with clip-on sunglasses. Also one pair of woman's nonprescription sunglasses. If yours, contact Al May at amay47@sbcglobal.net.

A good time was had by all at the picnic. Please share any photos or memories for the next issue.

We are seeking a location for next summer. Any suggestions?

CTRPCV Annual Meeting



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

UNAPPROVED MINUTES FROM THIS MEETING:
Submitted by Terese Maineri

Peace Corps Minutes 10/19/13

Reviewed Minutes from 4/47/13

Bank of America

- \$11,824.30 starting balance
- \$75 deposits
- 0 withdraws
- 322.01 checks
- 11,577.29 ending balance

Membership

- Keri G. not in attendance, Terese M. provided 2012 database of CT RPCV members she received when she hosted 50th Anniversary Party
- List had 215 members (missing those with names beginning with As and Bs)
 - Survey to members (will be sent Monday, October 21, 2013)
 - Are you currently a paid member of CT RPCV Association?
 - Have you ever participated in a CT RPCV activity?
 - If you have attended an activity, what was it?
 - What kind CT RPCV activities or events would you be interested?
 - Community Service, social events (dinners, happy hours), or other
 - Would you be willing to work on an event? organizing a happy hour, dinner, etc.

Community Service

Who is on the committee to review applications?

- Maureen, Louise, Louis
- Was funding sent to Quest for Peace since April, this was not reflected in Bank Statement

Events

Holiday Party

December 7, 2013 at 5 PM with Pete Govert (Swahili Pete)

Moodus, CT

Bring paper plates, plastic ware

Friday, February 7, 2013

Event at Soul De Cuba with raffle as fundraiser

Post upcoming activities in the community that relate to Peace Corps

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.

INVITATION FROM RPCV GROUP IN NEW ENGLAND

“RPCV Potluck:

When: Saturday, November 16th, 3:00pm

Where: The home of Ian Hefele, RPCV Mozambique
221 Sugar House Hill Road
Guilford, VT 05301

RSVP to Joan Perreault by email

jimperreault@gmail.com , or calling/texting me at 617-642-4330 (FYI-I'm out of the country until Oct. 28, so if you text before then, I'll get back to you next week!)

RPCV Potluck:

When: January (details TBD)

Where: The home of David Modz
Springfield, MA (Just off Rt. 91)“

Letter from the National Peace Corps Association (NCPA) - Teresa Devore, Member-Elected Board Member Northeast,

Hi CTRPCVs -

I hope you are all well. See below for info on Next Step Travel and a letter to Obama regarding funding for Peace Corps. I've seen that many of you have been having a great collection of social and

philanthropic activities during the past couple months. Please let me know if there are any issues or questions that you would like me to raise with the NPCA staff and/or other NPCA Board members- we will have our next meeting in person in early December and a few phone calls between now and then.

Next Step Travel

Are you getting the travel bug but don't want to go alone? Look into Next Step Travel.

NPCA's Next Step Travel program provides respectful hyper-local immersion in developing countries: 360-degree "anti-tour" itineraries that combine unparalleled local access, cultural immersion, non-extreme adventure, and hands-on volunteer opportunities that open pathways for connection with local people.

The chance to get a close-up view of Volunteer service is a unique feature of Next Step Travel. In-country staff make it a point to seek out local craftspeople, small businesses and cooperatives, so that your money goes directly into the hands of those who need it most. Each trip (a maximum of 20 travelers) is all-inclusive, freeing you to fully experience every minute of your trip.

Next Step Travel trips are operated by Discover Corps (<http://discovercorps.com/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). Most trips offer both a 14-day and a 10-day option, unless otherwise specified. All trips are accompanied by an NPCA Host.

NPCA letter to Obama on funding for Peace Corps

Attached is the final version of the group letter to the President concerning his next budget and funding request for the Peace Corps.

NPCA is now ready to collect signatures from a designated group leader on behalf of your group. **The deadline to sign onto this letter is Monday, December 2nd.**

To sign on, please email the following information to npcaintern@peacecorpsconnect.org.

- **Formal name of your group**
- **Name of the group leader signing on behalf of the group**
- **Title of the group leader signing on behalf of the group**
- **City, State where the group is based (or where the signer resides)**

Congratulations to the **Friends of Ghana**, the **Friends of Nigeria** and the **Friends of the Dominican Republic**, who are the first three groups to sign on. Let's meet or exceed last year's record 115 group signatures!

Teresa Devore
 Member-Elected Board Member
 Northeast
 Ukraine 1998-2001

A Letter from Glenn Blumhorst, President, NPCA

"The ongoing story of the Peace Corps is a story of human capital. It is a story of our nation investing in our citizens who wish to serve others and do great things. It is also a story of individuals around the world taking advantage of the Peace Corps's investment to achieve great things that they might not have believed imaginable."

-- Rep. John Garamendi (RPCV Ethiopia)

Dear Returned Peace Corps volunteer,

How can you measure the millions of lives that Peace Corps Volunteers have touched over 52 years? And how do you begin to tell that story?

You start with one.

That's what the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) is doing through the **Global Leaders Program**, which supports the annual Harris Wofford Global Citizen Award.

The award is given annually to an outstanding global leader who grew up and continues to live in a country where Peace Corps Volunteers served, and whose life was influenced by the Peace Corps.

This year's winner was Dr. Mohamud Sheikh Nurein Said, a distinguished Kenyan volunteer, philanthropist and humanitarian. Dr. Said has been engaged in medical service and human rights activities on the local, national and international levels – including his current governorship of the Kenya Red Cross Society – for his entire life, and directly credits his Peace Corps teacher, Dr.

Russell Morgan, with setting him on this life path.

It's a great story. And that's the point. By bringing leaders like Dr. Said to the U.S. to meet with members of Congress and the media, the National Peace Corps Association wants to cut through the noise and make a powerful case for the enduring value of the Peace Corps.

How can you help? Two ways.

First, think about nominating a host country national for the 2014 Wofford Award. The nomination deadline is midnight EST on October 31. Nomination information is on our website.

Second, donate to NPCA's Global Leaders Program. You know that the Peace Corps is a worthwhile investment. Now we're asking you to invest in *us* -- help the National Peace Corps Association share more of these compelling stories about the far-reaching impact of the Peace Corps.

You made a difference as a Volunteer. You can make a difference again today. It starts with one: You.

In gratitude,
Glenn Blumhorst
President
Guatemala 1988-91

The National Peace Corps Association - The Next Step in Changing the World.

As the Advocate for CTRPCVs, Atty. Joan Leonard, jaleonard@snet.net, has signed onto the following letter to President Obama on our behalf. We hope that all RPCVs across the country will follow our lead.

Please consider sending this letter to President Obama –

December 5, 2013

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

As representatives of _____ member groups of the Peace Corps

community, we ask you to revive the call to service in the Peace Corps by seeking robust Peace Corps funding in your Fiscal Year 2015 budget request and moving Peace Corps funding back towards its Fiscal Year 2010 high-water mark of \$400 million.

We applaud your July 15, 2013 Memorandum on Expanding National Service. We are pleased representatives of the Peace Corps are included on your task force on expanding national service. **We strongly urge that task force recommendations for expansion include a robust commitment to expanded international service – including and especially service in the Peace Corps.**

In your memorandum, you note “National service and volunteering can be effective solutions to national challenges and can have positive and lasting impacts that reach beyond the immediate service experience.”

We fully agree and are proud of the role Peace Corps Volunteers have played in demonstrating our nation’s cost-effective commitment to global engagement that promotes peace through collaborative development assistance, friendship and understanding.

At the same time, tens of thousands of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) serve as a daily reminder of the ongoing service commitment our community makes here at home. A 2011 survey of RPCVs confirmed this. Sixty percent of RPCVs reported their service influenced their choice of career. For two-thirds of those respondents who served in the 2000s, that choice involved continued service in the education or non-profit sectors. Many others reported working in the areas of government service, international development, health care and business.

While we appreciate the significant fiscal challenges our nation faces, we also believe in the significant return on investment our Peace Corps Volunteers provide to our nation. **We firmly believe that one tangible way you can advance your national service agenda is to request a significant increase in Peace Corps funding and reverse the recent downward trend in the number of volunteers serving overseas.**

Mr. President, we thank you for considering this request, and wish you the very best.

Sincerely,

For the chapter memory book –



Several Connecticut Returned Peace Corps Volunteers recently performed a morning of community service packing books to send to active volunteers around the world. Show here are, left to right, Al May, acting president of the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Connecticut (RPCVCT) (Costa Rica 1970-1972); Kim Nucifora (Tanzania, 2003-2005), and Kathy Taylor (Azerbaijan, 2009-2011).



Lauren Hofer, Macedonia 2010-2012, also volunteered at the Darien Book Aid.



Following their service at Book Aid, several returned volunteers attended a picnic graciously hosted by former Peace Corps staffer (Mauritius) and Country Director (Kenya) Sean Sullivan (third from left) at his Darien home. Thanks, Sean, for welcoming us to your home. Left to right, Al May, Lauren Hofer, Sean Sullivan and Robert Stein (Chile 1966-68).

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.

An opportunity for service from Michael Hilton, CTRPCV
Treasurer – mjhilt@comcast.net



The Bridge Family Center operates five Short-Term Assessment & Respite (STAR) homes in West Hartford,

Southington, Manchester, Wolcott, and Harwinton Connecticut. All STAR homes have a licensed bed capacity of six (nine in West Hartford) girls or boys (Wolcott is for boys and the other four for girls) ages 11-18 who receive assessment and clinical services in a small, structured home-like setting. The goal of the homes is to provide a high quality of care for every youth served. This means providing for, or advocating for, every need that a child has when she/he enters the program. Those needs include shelter, food, clothing, medical and dental care, counseling and family reconciliation support, primary education, life skills training, drug and sex education, and recreational and social activities.

What: We will be collecting winter gifts for the 9 resident's (girl's ages 11-18), plus needed supplies for the West Hartford, CT STAR Home, for the holiday season. It would be great to expand this to another home as well if we have enough participation.

How: All items can be sent through mail to: **Michael Hilton, Treasurer, Connecticut Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, P.O. Box 1803, Hartford, CT 06144.** If you have any questions, please contact Mike at mjhilt@comcast.net or (860) 568-1039. ****Also, could arrange pick-up as well if needed.* For information about the Bridge Family Center, please visit www.bridgefamilycenter.org

When: All items should be received by December 15, 2013. We will wrap all the gifts and hand deliver everything to the West Hartford STAR Home in time for the Winter festivities. Any help will make a huge difference.

Gift suggestions for residents:

Gift Card's to: Target, Wal-Mart, Kohl's, Old Navy, Sears, JCPenney, etc.

Gloves, scarves, hats, slippers, socks, etc.

Body sprays, skin lotion, chap stick

Make-up, nail accessories, hair products

Teen appropriate books

Journal's, writing supplies, arts and craft supplies

Puzzles, games, jump ropes, stuffed animals, etc.

Needed supplies for shelter:

Gift Card's to: Stop-n-Shop, Target, Wal-Mart, etc.

Twin size sheet set's, pillow cases, pillows, quilts, blankets

Bath towels, face clothes
Silverware, plastic small cups, serving bowls, Tupperware
DVD's – used/new rated PG/PG-13
Puzzles, Art and Craft supplies, books, educational supplies
Cleaning supplies, broom's, mop's, etc.



Calling all RPCVs: Please come to the 7th Annual Run for Refugees on Sunday, February 2, 2014!

Mark your calendar for our 5K run/walk on Super Bowl Sunday! Join 800 other friends of IRIS (including many Returned Peace Corps Volunteers) to support refugees with a brisk run or walk through East Rock Park in New Haven, followed by a fun and delicious post-race party.

Sponsorship opportunities are available: contact [Chris George](#) (IRIS Executive Director and RPCV - Oman 1977-79) at 203 562 2095 x 206 or cgeorge@irisct.org.



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

Knovation (2013, August 12). In Search of the Ways of Knowing Trail. Retrieved from http://www.brookfieldzoo.org/pagegen/wok/index_f4.html .

suggested by David Stoloff – stolofffamily@yahoo.com



The Next Step In Changing The World

Advocacy for the Peace Corps

“NPCA and its supporters advocate on issues of importance to the Peace Corps community, including an independent and robust Peace Corps, and policies that respect, honor and support the Peace Corps community.

We serve to convey the voice of the Peace Corps community and ensure that the Peace Corps remains true to its founding vision and mission.

We also seek to add the experienced voices of returned Peace Corps Volunteers to other issues of global concern.”

View the [past legislative victories](#) of the NPCA and the Peace Corps community.

Quick Links

- [Top-Line Issues](#)
- [Upcoming Activities and Opportunities](#)
- [Stay Up to Date](#)
- [Donate to Support NPCA’s Advocacy](#)

For more information, please go to <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/advocacy/>

An example of advocacy,

CTRPCVer Atty. Joan Leonard, jleonard@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

Peace Corps Connect – Nashville 2014

I just returned from my first site visit to Nashville and it was great! I'm very excited for Peace Corps Connect - Nashville. It's a great city that has a lot to offer our community. We hope

your group is planning to join us! We'll be getting things together and completed earlier this year, so please be thinking about how your group can get involved. We'd love to be able to showcase all the NPCA Member Groups. For specific questions about and/or suggestions for Peace Corps Connect - Nashville, please email us at events@peacecorpsconnect.org. We will also be providing regular updates about Peace Corps Connect – Nashville in these monthly emails.

Please email me at emily@peacecorpsconnect.org if you have questions about any of these topics.

Thank you for all that you do for the Peace Corps Community!

*Emily Bello
Manager of Membership and Operations
Benin '02-'04*

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 .

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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!](#)