



Connecticut RPCV E-News

President: Terese Maineri-tmaineri@yahoo.com

February 2014

David Stoloff, eNewsletter editor, stoloffd@easternct.edu

For the latest CTRPCV e-news - <http://www.ctrpcv.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/CTRPCV0214.pdf>

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

In This Issue:

Upcoming events ~

Soul de Cuba gathering
– a success between
two storms

CTRPCV Board meeting
– Feb 15, CT Forests and
Parks building, Rockfall

Community Singalong
celebrating Pete Seeger
– Feb 16, Hamden

Looking for a location
for Summer Picnic

Help wanted at CTRPCV

International Game

Peace Corps Advocacy

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

SOUL de CUBA Restaurant Meeting

– a success!!!

The gathering at *Soul de Cuba* brought together 22 RPCVs on a delightful evening between two snow storms. The food was delish, the service terrific, the conversation magnificent. We highly recommend *Soul de Cuba* not only for its cuisine, but because the owner, Jesus Puerto, is an RPCV who has supported CTRPCV.

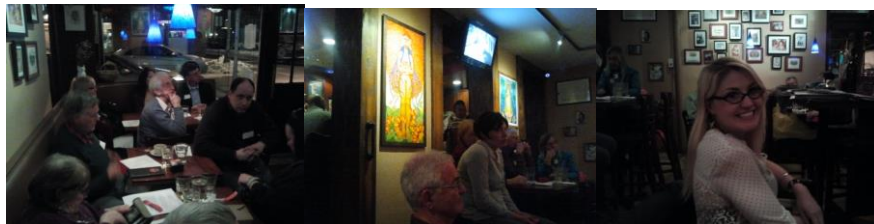
At the meeting we had such great gifts to raffle off for our CTRPCV Community Service Fund Grant Program that we were able to raise \$200. Terese Maineri, CTRPCV president, updated the group and introduced Shannon McBride, the new PC recruiter who is based in NYC. Thanks to Al May for making the arrangements.

Here are some scenes from the meeting –



Maureen Shanley organizing raffle.

Maureen, Al May, and Terese Maineri



Among the 22 who attended

Steve Kenton and Terese

Shannon McBride, PC Recruiter

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

The Independent News Forum serving Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

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

Some Upcoming Events:

CTRPCV Calendar – more details below.

| | |
|---|---|
| Saturday, Feb 15, 10 am – 12 noon | CTRPCV Board Meeting, Connecticut Forest and Parks Association |
| Sunday, Feb. 16 4 – 7:30 pm Unitarian Society of New Haven Social Hall | Community Singalong and Pot-luck to honor and celebrate the life and music of Pete Seeger |
| Saturday, April 19, 9 am - noon | Connecticut Food Bank in East Haven |
| Saturday, June 28 th 9:30 am - noon | The Hole In The Wall Gang Camp in Ashford, CT |

CTRPCV Board Meeting – Feb. 15 ... 10 AM – 2 PM

All CTRPCV members are welcome. We are always eager to have new ideas. Bring your enthusiasm and a snack to share. CTRPCV Board Meeting will meet at the Connecticut Forest and Park Association building at 16 Meriden Road, Rockfall, CT 06481...between Meriden & Middletown on Rt. 6.

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.

**COMMUNITY SINGALONG AND POT-LUCK
TO HONOR AND CELEBRATE
THE LIFE AND MUSIC OF PETE SEEGER**

**SUNDAY, FEB. 16TH, 4 - 7 PM
UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF NEW HAVEN SOCIAL HALL,
700 HARTFORD TPK, HAMDEN**

Bring a guitar, a banjo, a drum, a shaker, some lyric sheets, copies of - "Rise Up Singing", a request for your favorite song, and friends. We'll lift up our voices in a valentine for Pete, celebrating his life and legacy of peace through music. Let us know if you can play or lead a song. There will be an opportunity to share brief personal remembrances about Pete, but mainly we want to sing his songs!

All ages, all souls, all fans of Pete welcome.

We'll need help setting up for the singalong pot-luck supper, and of course, getting the place spiffy before we leave.

Contact Ellen Greist (vger43@aol.com). Tel: 203-248-4722 for more information, suggestions, and to volunteer.

Summer Picnic

The cost of renting the shelter at Hammonasset State Park, Madison, CT has continually risen over the years, so we are looking for another location. If you have any ideas for a site for our Annual Summer Picnic, please contact Terese Maineri at tmaineri@yahoo.com or 860-673-7478.

You are one of over 400 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 above 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/>.

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.
- 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.
- 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:

- **Jonathan Rosario will be connecting CTRPCV members through the social media** on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc.
-
-



CT Food Bank ...

CTRPCV will sort food ... on Saturday... April 19

The Connecticut Food Bank annually distributes more than 15 million pounds of food to six of the state's eight counties. Donations come from the food industry, through community member and corporate contributions, and via government subsidies.

At the CT Food Bank donations are organized and sorted by products before they are distributed at the warehouses. Member programs send representatives to the warehouses to shop for food that is then distributed to those who need it most at local food pantries, soup kitchens and emergency shelters.

CTRPCV volunteers will inspect, sort and pack non-perishable food at CT Food Bank in East Haven on Saturday, April 19st from 9 AM to noon. Families welcome... it's a great service project for kids. If you are interested: call or email Lois Fucci, 203-239-0169 or lafj@att.net.



Hole in The Wall Gang Camp

Volunteer Project... Saturday, June 28th in Ashford, CT

On June 28th, CTRPCV's will participate in a volunteer day at The Hole In The Wall Gang Camp in Ashford, CT. Since 1988 the camp has served as a non-profit residential summer camp and year round center for children coping with cancer and other life-threatening diseases. All of the camp's services are free of charge. This unique camp, created by Paul Newman and his friends, provides a sense of normalcy for children who may have missed out on aspects of their childhood. We will be changing bed linens (about 150 beds) for the campers who will arrive the next day. This is truly a rewarding project and well worth our time and efforts.

Please plan to participate and bring your family (children should be 15,16 or older). If you are able to volunteer call or email Lois Fucci, 203-239-0169, lafj@att.net.

WHEN: June 28th, Saturday

WHERE: Ashford, CT

TIME: 9:30 AM -12:00 (noon)



Recommended places for unwinding

A recommendation from Becky Errera becky@smallbits.com

Claude took me to Chana Hot Springs an hour outside of Fairbanks last fall.

They have a natural hot springs that leaves the ground at 160 degrees. They have a hot pool, naturally, but also an indoor pool for families (no kids allowed outside), and use it to heat the lodging buildings, and the greenhouses where they hydroponically grow fresh produce for the restaurant. There's plenty of hiking, a few interesting tours, and if you're lucky, northern light viewing.

Not much else to do there but enjoy the great outdoors, but Fairbanks is only an hour away if shopping and fine dining is your thing.

We flew to Fairbanks and were shuttled to the resort. Costs vary by length of stay and packages. www.chenahotsprings.com

[back to beginning](#)

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

A request to complete a survey from -

Naomi Kovacs

7:14pm Jan 20

I'm the Communications Coordinator for my local Peace Corps group and just received the message below. For those of you interested in participating in a survey for a grad student's PhD dissertation on Peace Corps & the effects of volunteering on people's lives, read on:

"My name is Meghan Kallman, and I am a PhD candidate in the department of sociology at Brown University, in Providence, Rhode Island. I am writing a dissertation about the relationship between organizations and social change work. I am interested in civic participation, the third sector, and development; in other words, what happens when people try to make their worlds better, and what do formal organizations have to do with that process?

I have elected to write my dissertation on the Peace Corps because I am interested in the effects of volunteering on people's lives: how are volunteers' biographies, identities, and politics shaped by participation? How do individual volunteers carry their Peace Corps experience with them throughout their lives and careers? How does this sort of international service experience permanently affect people?

As a part of it, I have created a survey for RPCV's asking about their experiences abroad. I would be extremely grateful if you would distribute it to your listserv, via Facebook or your social media outlets, and to any other RPCVs in your personal or professional networks. The link is here:

https://brown.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_0v3sObMYOUf8N0N

You should find the survey intuitive and enjoyable, and it should take about twenty minutes to complete.

This research has been approved by the Brown University Institutional Review (ethics) Board and is supported by the National Science Foundation and the Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy. Please contact me should you have any questions or concerns. I very much appreciate your consideration."

Returned Peace Corps Volunteer career & engagement survey

brown.co1.qualtrics.com

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Survey

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



See the latest e-newsletter at

<http://www.mailoutinteractive.com/Industry/View.aspx?id=521797&q=678493799&qz=6bd7e3>

which includes this information –

Peace Corps Week 2014

How will you answer the challenge?

Online information at

<http://www.peacecorps.gov/resources/returned/thirdgoal/pcweek/>

Each year during Peace Corps Week, the Peace Corps commemorates President Kennedy's establishment of the Peace Corps on March 1, 1961. For more than 50 years, the Peace Corps has touched lives. Peace Corps Week is a great time for the whole Peace Corps family to renew their commitment to service and celebrate the amazing difference Volunteers are making at home and abroad.

This Peace Corps Week, the agency invites current and returned Peace Corps Volunteers to answer the Peace Corps Week 2014 video and classroom challenges. Both challenges, designed to support the Peace Corps Third Goal of sharing other cultures with Americans, launch on January 1, 2014, and continue through Peace Corps Week (February 23–March 1).

The video challenge is themed "Cultural Windows: What I wish Americans knew about my Peace Corps country." The classroom challenge asks current and returned Peace Corps Volunteers how many classrooms can be reached by March 1. Visit the Peace Corps Week site to learn more and participate in these exciting initiatives. How will you answer the challenge?

RPCVs, Keep in Touch

Is your Peace Corps contact information up to date?

If you are an RPCV, take a moment to make sure we have your latest information.

<https://www.peacecorps.gov/resources/returned/staycon/updaterec/>

Office of Third Goal and Returned Volunteer Services

RPCV Career Link -

<http://www.peacecorps.gov/resources/returned/careerlink/jobs/>

Looking for a new job in the New Year? Then look no further than the Peace Corps RPCV Career Link! Since launching in January 2013, RPCV-friendly employers have posted more than 2,700 jobs. So, if you are an RPCV jobseeker or an employer looking to hire RPCVs, take advantage of RPCV Career Link today.

A Message from NPCA's Advocacy Committee Chair

Dear Friends,

As a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer, I have participated in the National Day of Action since 2009. It is one of my favorite programs.

This year as a member of the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) Board of Directors, and as Chair of the Public Policy and Advocacy Committee, my goal is to strengthen the program, so we continue to have more success.

For the past ten years, NPCA has had to cover the cost for the Day of Action from our general operating funds and limited donations. It costs about \$18,000 to prepare for and carry out this event.

Our committee decided one of the best ways to improve the program was to make it self-sustaining. **For that reason, we have put our idea into action and [created a fundraiser on Crowdrise](#).**

Please help us reach our goal:

1. [Become a Team Member](#), create your own goal and ask friends to donate as little as \$10.
2. [Donate](#) \$25, \$50, \$150 or more to NPCA (the Team Leader) or your favorite Team Member.
3. [Send this link](#) to all your friends and family.
4. Still not sure about donating this way? Send a check or donate to the advocacy program via the [NPCA website](#).

Finally, participate on the [Day of Action](#)! Calling, writing and talking to your representatives is the most effective way for continued success.

Hope to see you February 27th!

Sincerely,

Kristina Owens (Bolivia 2000-02)
Chair - Public Policy and Advocacy Committee

World Wise Schools

Happy New Year from World Wise Schools! How did your host country celebrate the New Year? This year, resolve to share some of

your host country culture with friends and family here in the United States. Apply for the Speakers Match program –

<https://www.peacecorps.gov/www/volunteers/speaker/enroll/>

and inspire future generations of Peace Corps Volunteers.

National Peace Corps Association

(NPCA) Honor distinguished RPCVs

Whether as innovative social entrepreneurs or as people making sustained contributions to humanitarian causes at home or abroad, RPCVs lead lives of service. Honor outstanding RPCVs with a nomination for the 2014 Sargent Shriver Award for Distinguished Humanitarian Service, to be awarded at Peace Corps Connect—Nashville on June 21, 2014. The deadline for nominations is March 31. Learn more about NPCA's Sargent Shriver Award here at <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/about/awards/>.

Office of Inspector General

Report fraud, waste, abuse or mismanagement.

Hotline 202.692.2915

<mailto:OIG@peacecorps.gov>

Online web form

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

Follow @PCOIG on twitter for updates and reports from the Office of Inspector General.

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 – stoloffd@easternct.edu info about an event
that you want to publicize!!!)**



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!