



# Connecticut RPCV E-News

**President:** Terese Maineri-[tmaineri@yahoo.com](mailto:tmaineri@yahoo.com)

**March 2014**

**David Stoloff, eNewsletter editor,** [stoloffd@easternct.edu](mailto:stoloffd@easternct.edu)

**For the latest CTRPCV e-news** - <http://www.ctrpcv.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/CTRPCV0314.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:

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Thanks for a chapter grant for community development awardee

### Western Mass. RPCV events

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### International Game

### Peace Corps Advocacy

Have you paid your annual dues? You

An email from Nicole Kennedy

<[nicole.kennedy.ccsu@gmail.com](mailto:nicole.kennedy.ccsu@gmail.com)>, Peace Corps Volunteer in **Chala, Republic of Georgia**, who received a chapter grant for community development, wrote:

გამარჯობათ ყველას! Hello everyone!

On behalf of my school and fellow teachers of the Foreign Language Department at Chala's Public School, I would like to thank you all for your support, both emotional and financial. We really appreciate the chance to complete this work as we were unable to do without the finances.

I will use email to keep you all included in the implementation process. The Peace Corps headquarters sent the funds and I should receive them by the end of this week. We will start painting this weekend, if all goes to plan! We are so excited, as are our students!

A special thanks to the CT RPCV group!!!

დიდი გმადლობა!! Thank you very much!

Nicole, Maia, and the rest of the FL department

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](mailto:ctrpcv@gmail.com)

[Other links of interest :](#)

[Peace Corps Online](#)

[The Independent News Forum serving Returned Peace Corps Volunteers](#)

## Some Upcoming Events:

### CTRPCV Calendar – more details below.

Saturday, April 19, 9 am - noon	Connecticut Food Bank in East Haven
Saturday, June 28 <sup>th</sup> 9:30 am - noon	The Hole In The Wall Gang Camp in Ashford, CT

### News from Joan Perreault, Western Mass. Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

Hello everyone,

Happy Peace Corps Week! I've got a few updates for you today:

• **Potluck next Wednesday!**: Join us in Springfield next Wednesday March 5<sup>th</sup> for a gathering of RPCVs in the area. David has also invited a group of young high school students from in and around Springfield that are connected by the fact that all of their parents are from places outside the US. You may just meet someone whose family is from the country where you served!

**When:** Wednesday March 5<sup>th</sup>, 6-9pm

**Where:** The home of David and Margaret Modzelewski, 33 Florentine Gardens, Springfield, MA

**What to bring:** Please bring a photo or artifact from your host country and something for the table.

**RSVP:** Please let me know if you can make it by replying to this email.

• **Training Opportunity:** Any RPCV who might be interested in representing Peace Corps at future fairs or events may want to attend this workshop on recruitment training:

<http://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/learn/meet/events/10109/>

• **Kristi of Western Mass and Peace Corps Ukraine:** Kristi Mientka of Southampton had wisely emailed me two weeks ago asking if I'd

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

help spread the word about raising funds for Camp GLOW, which she was helping to organize with fellow volunteers in Ukraine. As we all likely know by now, Peace Corps Ukraine was evacuated due to the recent violence in the country. Let's all send our thoughts and positive energy Kristi's way, and to the people of Ukraine! If Kristi moves on to another site and project, I will be sure to spread the word so we can help support her projects.

Thanks everyone, and I hope to see many of you next week!

Joan Perreault  
RPCV Dominican Republic (2006-2009)  
617-642-4330617-642-4330

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## 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](mailto:tmaineri@yahoo.com) or 860-845-2549.

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**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/> .**

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## 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://www.chenahotsprings.com)

[back to beginning](#)

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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](http://www.brookfieldzoo.org/pagegen/wok/index_f4.html).

suggested by David Stoloff – [stolofffamily@yahoo.com](mailto:stolofffamily@yahoo.com)

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## 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 RPCVs 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](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



Wednesday, February 26, 2014

Dear David,

Happy Peace Corps Week!

I have just a short email today with three important reminders (in addition to the standard list included at the bottom of each of these

group leader emails).

1. Tomorrow (Feb 27) is the 10th Annual Day of Action! Spread the word to your members to visit our Day of Action webpage tomorrow with instructions on how to take quick, effective action in support of the Peace Corps! Here's the link: <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/advocacy/dayofaction/>
2. Keep those group renewals coming! We're off to a great start. Submit your renewal and payment by this Friday to get the best rate. The renewal packet is attached to this email. Final deadline: April 30.
3. We are looking for some good candidates for the NPCA Board of Directors regional elections this spring in the following regions: West, Southern Tier, and Asia and the Pacific. Let us know of any intent to nominate by COB this coming Monday! (Details here: <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/about/board-of-directors/#elec>)

Thank you for all you do for and with the Peace Corps community!

Best regards,

Anne Baker

Vice President, National Peace Corps Association

**Reminders** (documents in the Group Leaders Forum):

- Application deadline to host Peace Corps Connect 2015: March 28, 2014
- First deadline for discounted 2014 Group Renewal: February 28, 2014 (final deadline: April 30, 2014)
  - 30 groups renewed to date - thank you!
  - 23 other groups in process
- Nomination deadline for 2014 NPCA Board elections (West, Southern Tier and Asia & the Pacific regions): March 3, 2014
- Nomination deadline for 2014 Group Leaders Forum Coordinator elections: March 25, 2014

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An example of advocacy,

CTRPCVer Atty. Joan Leonard, [jleonard@snet.net](mailto: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:**

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See the latest e-newsletter at  
<http://www.mailoutinteractive.com/Industry/View.aspx?id=544116&q=702325385&qz=6d2776>

Dear Peace Corps Family,

March provides us with a special opportunity to renew and reflect on

the Peace Corps' longstanding commitment to women's and girls' empowerment. In the United States, March is Women's History Month and March 8 also marks International Women's Day. The 2014 themes for these observances, respectively, are "Celebrating Women of Character, Courage, and Commitment," and "Inspiring Change." The Peace Corps recognizes the value of programs to promote women's participation in all aspects of development. Enshrined in the Peace Corps Act is the directive that "Peace Corps programs shall give particular attention to programs, projects, and activities which tend to integrate women into the national economies of developing countries, thus improving their status and assisting the total development effort."

And the Peace Corps continues that commitment in all that we do. In the past year, just as in every year, the Peace Corps has undertaken projects that promote the participation of women and girls in all of the countries we serve. Peace Corps/Armenia conducted educational presentations and distributed literature on human trafficking in six of Armenia's 11 regions. Peace Corps/Lesotho hosted a Camp GLOW for 196 girls in November. In Ecuador, a PCV worked with a local organization, the Waaponi Foundation, to promote rural women as citizens who can be involved in the public life of their parishes and cantons. In Morocco, that country's gender and development committee introduced a new sexual harassment toolkit including three videos featuring Moroccans discussing sexual harassment.

Wherever the country, whatever the activity, I am honored to oversee an organization that sees the empowerment of women and girls as so central to its humanitarian mission. I encourage you to pause for a moment during this month to consider how the world is a better place when women and girls are living out their true potential.

With warmest regards,

Carrie Hessler-Radelet  
Acting Peace Corps Director  
RPCV/Western Samoa, 1981-83

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**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:

**Become a Team Member**, create your own goal and ask friends to donate as little as \$10.

1. **Donate** \$25, \$50, \$150 or more to NPCA (the Team Leader) or your favorite Team Member.
2. **Send this link** to all your friends and family.
3. 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/wvs/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.*

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From Peace Corps Connect - [www.PeaceCorpsConnect.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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*

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## **Upcoming events of potential interest:**

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

**(Please send David – [stoloffd@easternct.edu](mailto: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](mailto:MaureenShanley@hotmail.com).

**Have you paid your dues??? Do you have a new email**

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