



Connecticut RPCV E-News

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May 2014 David Stoloff, eNewsletter editor, stoloffd@easternct.edu

For the latest CTRPCV e-news - <http://www.ctrpcv.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/CTRPCV0514.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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Have you paid your annual dues? Your support helps us stay connected!



There will be a CTRPCV Board Meeting at 2 PM at the CT Forest & Parks building in Rockfall, CT on Saturday, May 17.

Those interested on working on membership will be there at 1 PM so that we can make a report to the board at 2 PM.

CT Forest & Parks Association
16 Meridan Rd, Rockfall 06481
(860) 346-2372
ctwoodlands.org

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US. We love new ideas... so please consider coming and joining us. Bring a snack to share and Maureen will have coffee and tea ready for you.

We will be discussing:
plans for events for the coming year
reorganizing our membership directory
adding 3 new board members (YEAH!!!)

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

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

CT RPCV Website

National Peace Corps Association

Stay connected to our national community and representation in Washington!

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, May 17 th 1 or 2 – 4 pm	CTRPCV Board Meeting, CT Forest & Parks building in Rockfall, CT
Saturday, June 28 th 9:30 am - noon	The Hole In The Wall Gang Camp in Ashford, CT

Do you have an Event Or a Community Service Project that may be of interest to CTRPCVs?

Please email David Stoloff [eNewsletter editor, stoloffd@easternct.edu] to let him know about your project.

- Create a NIGHT OUT with CTRPCVs that can be as simple as “Lets meet at [your favorite bar or restaurant].
- Host a POTLUCK DINNER and get to know more CTRPCVs.
- Are you involved in a Community Service Project that could use some helping hands?

Let David know and we can let other CTRPCV members know the details.

A brief PC Advocacy report from your CT Peace Corps Advocate, Atty. Joan Leonard:

The Peace Corps Day of Action in DC Feb. 27 went off well. As of March 26 a record 145 representatives signed on to Rep. and RPCV Sam Farr's Dear Colleague letter in support of Peace Corps funding. I was hoping for 100% CT delegation support but **neither Jim Himes nor John Larson signed on.** If you are in either man's district tell him of your disappointment

and encourage him to join the others in the CT delegation who have pledged their support. **If you are in the other 3 districts, thank your congressperson.**

Also currently only Rosa De Lauro and Elizabeth Esty are members of the Peace Corps Caucus. Thank them if you are a constituent, if not encourage the others to join. The Caucus is not a funding group - just an educational and support fellowship.

Both of our senators are cosponsors of the Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act and support the **Peace Corps Equity Act**. Thank them and encourage them to **press leader Reid to expedite the confirmation vote of Carolyn Hessler-Radelet to be the next Peace Corps Director**. She has passed through committee with flying colors and is acting Director but has limited power until she is confirmed and the vote has been hanging fire for months.

I was able to visit every CT senate and house office except Rosa DeLauro's, but she is already a strong supporter. I was well received everywhere, but sometimes the Peace Corps gets loved to death. Our senators and representatives need to not just say nice things about the Peace Corps but to stand up and be counted.

The amount of money we currently spend as a nation in one day is roughly equal to the amount of money our nation has spent on the Peace Corps over its entire 53 year history or put another way the annual **Peace Corps budget is equal to what the military spends on military bands**. Peace Corps funding was increased a little since the sequester but is still not up to the \$400 million we suggest and that is still not up to funding in years past. Currently only one in five Peace Corps applicants is accepted not because of lack of qualifications but because of lack of funding. There are now countries asking for volunteers and programs which have to be turned down because of the funding gap. Sad - when Peace Corps provides so much for so little.

Joan
Atty. Joan Leonard
jaleonard@snet.net
203-988-8260
P.O. Box 476, Clinton, CT 06413

PCV Nicole Kennedy from CT received a CTRPCV Community Service Grant

[An email from <nicole.kennedy.ccsu@gmail.com>, Peace Corps Volunteer in [Chala, Republic of Georgia](#)]

Hello all!

Just a quick update on photos! We have been working hard with our world map as well as organizing our classroom. Our 9th grader boys have taken over the painting portion of the project, which has been fun to see their motivation and interest grow.

My main counterpart and I have been working hard to organize our past project work, education trainings, and etc. We have a new grading system (e.g. folders for tests to be graded, tested graded and need to be entered into the class journals, and tests to be filed). It's been great thus far and she just said today that she felt much better having things organized as it was a headache before. Georgian teachers sometimes wait until the end of the semester to grade all tests from the semester. Therefore it is a lot of unnecessary stress on the teachers as well as no feedback throughout the semester to the students.

We just ordered our classroom organizer and it should be arriving in a couple of weeks.

Unfortunately, due to the weather (it snowed and has been extremely cold again) and my Peace Corps admin/medical work (I am fine, just a lot of work concerning closing out my service) in Tbilisi, we have been unable to make the progress we were aiming for. Therefore we think we will need another 15 days, basically to finish the project in mid May. However the 9th grader boys as well as others are very interested in doing the next map as we will finish our 1st map in a few more days.

Hope you are all well!



A project supervised by Nicole Kennedy <nicole.kennedy.ccsu@gmail.com>, Peace Corps Volunteer in [Chala, Republic of Georgia](#)

Summer Picnic

Joan and Jeff Leonard have graciously offered to host this year's CTRPCV Summer Picnic at their home in Guilford. More details will be in the next CTRPCV E-Newsletter.

CTRPCV needs more PAID MEMBERS

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 85 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 a **SECRETARY** to take notes at our board meetings that occur 3 to 4 times a year.
- 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.
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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**

As you travel, think about making a recommendation for your fellow

CTRPCVs.

[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 -

[Maureen completed this survey and it was painless ;)]



Meghan Kallman

3:19pm Apr 3

Greetings! My name is Meghan Kallman, and I am a PhD candidate in the department of sociology at Brown University. I am writing a dissertation about the relationship between organizations and social change work, using the Peace Corps as a case study. I am looking for RPCVs to complete a survey about their experiences abroad. Any RPCV from any period of time, serving in any country, is eligible to take the survey. The link is here:

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

Please circulate widely, and thank you!

Returned Peace Corps Volunteer career & engagement survey

brown.co1.qualtrics.com

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Survey



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=561443&q=728755441&qz=429acd>

Dear Peace Corps Family,

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Peace Corps Office of Inspector General (OIG), an independent office within the Peace Corps that works to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the agency. To commemorate its 25 years of service, I'd like to share with you the story of a returned Volunteer who experienced how the OIG works—in the field as a Volunteer and then as an OIG employee at Peace Corps headquarters.

In 2010, while David Kierski and his wife Julie were education Volunteers in Cambodia, OIG conducted a program evaluation of the country. OIG staff requested an interview with the couple, who sat down with two evaluators to discuss key aspects of their service, such as the adequacy of project support and oversight and the quality of their training. David and Julie remember appreciating that the agency was taking an active role in listening to Volunteers.

After returning to the United States, OIG hired David for a temporary six-month position. While here, he saw the inner workings of the office and was impressed by the processes that guided the staff's work. David saw firsthand how the auditors and evaluators approached their work diligently and how their recommendations added value to the agency's operations and to the safety and security of Volunteers. He came to understand the OIG as a group of people committed to making the Peace Corps the best agency it

can be, one that effectively and efficiently achieves its mission. After his assignment with the OIG ended, David had dinner with the PC/Cambodia director of programming and training, who shared with him the steps the post was taking to implement the OIG recommendations, which focused on programming and safety issues. David saw the impact of the OIG come full circle back to his country of service, and on the Peace Corps mission.

David's story reminds us of the important work our OIG does, including enhancements to Volunteers' programming and safety. I am thankful for the work the OIG has done and continues to do. I encourage you to learn more about this important part of our agency. Happy 25th anniversary, OIG!

With warmest regards,
Carrie Hessler-Radelet
Acting Director
RPCV, Western Samoa, 1981–83



Join us at Peace Corps Connect – Nashville and hear from this year's exciting plenary speakers and award winners! **Mike Tidwell**, RPCV Zaire (1985-87) and founder of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network will share his insights on the role of the Peace Corps community in promoting environmental sustainability for future generations. **Surin Pitsuwan**, winner of this year's Harris Wofford Global Citizen Award, discusses his connection to Peace Corps and its

influence on his life and career. Find out what's new with Peace Corps from **Carrie Hessler-Radelet**, Acting Director of the Peace Corps.

And, no trip to Nashville would be complete without live music! Come see a performance by the award-winning **Emmylou Harris!**

Register today! Plus, all registrants will be entered into a drawing to **win** an Android Nexus 7 tablet!!!

**NATIONAL PEACE CORPS ASSOCIATION
CONTACT INFORMATION|**

***/1900 L Street, NW, Suite 610, Washington, DC 20036/
/202.293.7728/***

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

Other 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 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!**