

Connecticut RPCV E-News

President: Terese Maineri-tmaineri@yahoo.com

March 2015 David Stoloff, eNewsletter editor, stoloffd@easternct.edu

For the latest CTRPCV e-news with all the formatting, click - <http://www.ctrpcv.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/CTRPCV0315.pdf>

Connecticut Returned Peace Corps Volunteers on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/37593849149/>

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

Some Upcoming CTRPCV Events:

March 1 – 7, 2015	Peace Corps Week 2015, for more information, see http://www.peacecorps.gov/resources/returned/thirdgoal/pcweek/
Monday, March 2nd 5:30-6:30 pm. Smith College Campus Center	Peace Corps Week Photo Gallery
Saturday March 7th 12:00pm-3:00pm, The Food Back of Western MA, 97 N Hatfield Rd, Hatfield, MA	Peace Corps Week Volunteer Day at the Food Bank

Sunday, March 8, 1 – 4 pm, UCONN	WorldFest at UCONN – looking for RPCVs to participate
Saturday... April 18, 2015 , 9 AM to noon.	CT Food Bank ... CTRPCV will sort food - CT Food Bank in East Haven. If you are interested: call or email Lois Fucci, 203-239-0169 or lafj@att.net.

Peace Corps Week Photo Gallery

When: Monday March 2nd 5:30-6:30pm

Where: Smith College Campus Center, Second Floor, Rm 204

100 Elm Street, Northampton, MA.

Please send your photos to Kate Schedel at kschedel@peacecorps.gov along with a brief description with the date, country, and a sentence or two about the person in the photo.

Peace Corps Week Volunteer Day at the Food Bank

When: Saturday March 7th 12:00pm-3:00pm

Where: The Food Back of Western MA, 97 N Hatfield Rd, Hatfield, MA

RSVP - <https://www.facebook.com/events/997953780215540>

WorldFest will be held on Sunday, March 8th from 1pm-4pm at UCONN

International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) at UConn is currently looking for participants for a cultural event that they will be hosting in March and ISSS was hoping that Peace Corps would be interested/willing to be a part of it.

In case you haven't heard of WorldFest before... it is an annual event celebrating the multiculturalism of the UConn community. The event incorporates cultural displays, performances, demonstrations and various other activities and information. Here's a video of last year's event:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sg31RXnmoYA>

The event is looking for RPCV(s) who are also former UConn students and might be interested in having a booth at WorldFest. The festival would like to have a Peace Corp booth would not only enrich our event, but also be a way for CT RPCV to promote the organization. ISSS would like RPCVs to have attended UConn. It would be ideal to have a couple of RPCVs physically at the event, but if someone wants to record a video-interview, ISSS would welcome that too.

This year's WorldFest will be held on **Sunday, March 8th from 1pm-4pm**

Please, let me know if you have further questions.

Thank you in advance and have a wonderful week!

Pato

Patricia Lin-Steadman

MA Candidate | International Studies

Graduate Assistant and ISSS Coordinator | International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS)

Phone: (860) 486-3855

Fax: (860) 486- 5800

www.issu.uconn.edu

From: Elaine Nelson <elainelson@att.net>
Date: November 19, 2014, 9:24:01 AM EST
To: "president@ctrpcv.org" <president@ctrpcv.org>
Subject: Speaker Bureau Request
Reply-To: Elaine Nelson <elainelson@att.net>

I coordinate the cultural arts week program at our elementary school (grade PK - 8) in Pomfret, CT. This year we are studying Ghana and are looking for a "keynote" speaker to kick off our week of studying the country. The kickoff day is March 2 and we would like to do an early morning 45 minute whole school assembly for grades 1 - 8 to give everyone some basic background information about the country. Would there be anyone in your speaker's bureau that might be interested in doing that for us? I look forward to hearing back from you. Thanks so much. Elaine Nelson - elainelson@att.net

Volunteering in CT's prisons

Doug Kulmacz encourages CTRPCVs to consider volunteering in CT's prisons. To find out about volunteer roles, Doug invites us to visit the Department of Corrections' website at www.ct.gov/doc. From the Home Page, just below the Banner/Picture there are two columns of text. Third up from the second column click on "Volunteer & Recreation Services". If you have any questions, please contact Doug at the following addresses:

Doug Kulmacz, Director (CTRPCV-Micronesia, Palau Is., Youthworker, 1977-79)
CT/DOC VIP & Recreation Unit (CT-VISTA-CT Legal Services, Paralegal, 1976-77)
24 Wolcott Hill Road, Wethersfield, CT 06109, Office: 860.692.7580, FAX: 860.692.6263, doug.kulmacz@ct.gov, www.ct.gov/doc



CT Food Bank ...

CTRPCV will sort food ... on Saturday... April 18, 2015

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 18st 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 <mailto:lafj@att.net>.

**Do you have another 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.

MEET AND GREET FELLOW RPCVS

- 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 Stoloff (stoloffd@easternct.edu) know and we can let other CTRPCV members know the details.

Host Country Heroes: Who do you wish Americans knew from your Peace Corps country
Submit a 2 min video and share the people and culture of your Peace Corps country with Americans
through your own hero's story.

Check out the link! <http://www.peacecorps.gov/resources/returned/thirdgoal/pcweek/videochallenge/>



<http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/>

Sign Up for March 5th National Day of Action!

NPCA is gearing up for another national day of action. I know some of you have participated in previous years; thank you for your service. This year please help us launch the National Peace Corps Association's (NPCA's) 2015 advocacy activities by planning to take part in our Thursday, March 5th National Day of Action in Support of the Peace Corps. Find out more here: <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/advocacy/>

Keep a look out for our virtual efforts too!

The advocacy program is an important part of NPCA's mission, and since the Peace Corps is a federal agency, they cannot advocate for themselves. So we must! **Please consider making a donation as little as \$10** towards one of the teams already set up or create your own team. Find out more about our efforts on the Event Page: <https://www.crowdrise.com/AnnualNationalDayofAction>

Join Peace Corps and NPCA on LinkedIn!

Starting this week, the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) and the Peace Corps join forces with a **co-branded, co-administered *Peace Corps Network*** LinkedIn Group - <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/Peace-Corps-Network-39717/about> . This site offers up-to-date news and opportunities for all of us! If you are not already a member, sign up today!

Join RPCVs at the Next Peace Corps Connect

Mark your calendars for the next Peace Corps Connect, hosted by NorCal RPCVs at UC Berkeley, CA in June 5-6! We saw many of you in Nashville and we are excited to connect RPCVs again on the West Coast. We look forward to a weekend of engaging speakers, dynamic workshops and opportunities for participants to network and share their Peace Corps stories! Find out more and register here: <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/annual-gathering/berkeley-2015/>

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions!
Thank you so much for all that you are doing

Best

Teresa Devore (Returned Peace Corps Volunteer, Ukraine, 1998-2001) , Board of Directors, National Peace Corps Association

Web: <http://www.PeaceCorpsConnect.org>



See the latest news at <http://www.mailoutinteractive.com/Industry/View.aspx?id=646104&q=821882516&qz=d6b8e2>

<http://www.peacecorps.gov/resources/returned/home/>

Peace Corps has a birthday coming up and we want you to help us celebrate. Join us from March 1-7 and commemorate 54 years of Peace Corps.

Below are a number of ways you can join the Peace Corps Week party.

--**Donate your voice**. On March 2, we will be flooding Facebook and Twitter with a 'Happy Peace Corps Week' Thunderclap. Join our digital Peace Corps flashmob--along with thousands of others--to celebrate 54 years of promoting world peace and friendship. It's free and only takes 10 seconds.

What is Thunderclap? It's a platform that allows people to pledge one Tweet or Facebook

post (or both!) that is concentrated and unleashed at the same time. After you sign up, it will automatically post the same coordinated message from all supporters on March 2 during Peace Corps Week.

--**Attend a Peace Corps Festival in your neighborhood.** Peace Corps Festivals are the perfect event for RPCVs to celebrate and share their Peace Corps country's culture with curious Americans. Represent your country and help recruit the next generation of Peace Corps Volunteers.

--**Tune in to a video chat with PCVs and their Host Country Heroes.** PCVs and their most admired friend, counterpart, neighbor, or student will be coming to you live from around the world! Learn what it's like to serve in 2015 and ask questions in real time. (Feel free to share this opportunity with any educators you know so students can ask their questions too!)

Video chat schedule:

Tuesday, March 3: 10:00 a.m. -10:45 a.m. EST

Countries participating: Ecuador and Morocco--register [here](#).

Wednesday, March 4: 10:00 a.m.-10:45 a.m. EST

Countries participating: Mali and Morocco--register [here](#).

Thursday, March 5: 10:00 a.m.-10:45 a.m. EST

Countries participating: Benin, Georgia, and Indonesia (women and girls empowerment themed)--register [here](#).

Friday, March 6: 10:00 a.m.-10:45 a.m. EST

Countries participating: Uganda and Moldova--register [here](#).

Also during Peace Corps Week, we will be revealing the top Volunteer-produced videos from the Host Country Heroes Video Challenge on Peace Corps' Facebook page. Make sure to follow Peace Corps on [Facebook](#) and watch the action unfold.

However you decide to celebrate, [please let us know](#) and reach out to us anytime at thirdgoal@peacecorps.gov.

Happy (almost) Peace Corps Week!

-Peace Corps Week Team
Thirdgoal@peacecorps.gov

202.692.1961

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www.peacecorps.gov/thirdgoal

Peace Corps Office of Third Goal and Returned Volunteer Services
1111 20th St NW
Washington, DC 20526

Be Part of Peace Corps Week 2015



Peace Corps Week 2015, taking place March 1-7, is just around the corner! Building on the success of [last year's video challenge](#), the Peace Corps is again calling for your videos. This year, submit your videos and [tell us all about your Host Country Heroes](#). Who do you wish Americans knew from your Peace Corps country? Tell their story and shine a spotlight on your host country hero. The winner will receive an iPad to help him/her continue to share the Peace Corps story.

You're also invited to bring this year's celebration around the country through Peace Corps Week Festivals. [Learn how you can be a part of this nationwide celebration](#) to share the value of Peace Corps service and the beauty of Peace Corps countries with the American public.

<http://www.mailoutinteractive.com/Industry/View.aspx?id=664666&q=845609797&qz=cb317b>



PEACE CORPS *from the Director*

Tuesday, March 03, 2015

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Dear Returned Peace Corps Volunteers,

Today, I am delighted to share that as part of the U.S. government's commitment to girls' education, First Lady Michelle Obama and the Peace Corps have formed a powerful collaboration called Let Girls Learn to expand access to education for girls around the world. I invite you to [watch a special message](#) from the First Lady to all Peace Corps Volunteers—and the staff who support them—worldwide.

While we know that educating girls is essential to healthy and thriving communities, globally, 62 million girls are not in school, and barriers to adolescent girls completing school are particularly significant. In some countries, fewer than 10 percent of teenage girls complete secondary school.

The Peace Corps' collaboration with the First Lady will start this year in 11 targeted countries: Albania, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Georgia, Ghana, Moldova, Mongolia, Mozambique, Togo, and Uganda.

Under Let Girls Learn, we will be training Volunteers and counterparts to become local champions of girls' education, working hand in hand with communities on projects through a new Let Girls Learn Fund, and increasing the number of Volunteers working to break down barriers to girls' education in the communities they serve.

I hope you will take a moment to visit our new website, letgirlslern.peacecorps.gov, to learn more, and to view the First Lady's video message. Finally, as we celebrate Peace Corps Week, as well as International Women's Day and Women's History Month, I would like to thank all Returned Volunteers who continue to carry out the Peace Corps mission. Day in and day out, you demonstrate your passion for sharing world peace and friendship, making a difference in the lives of women and men around the world. I am grateful and inspired to be working with and for you.

Sincerely,



Carrie Hessler-Radelet
Director

An opportunity from [Hesperian Health Guides](#)

Peace Corps Volunteers and RPCVs tell wonderful stories about how [Where There Is No Doctor](#) and other Hesperian books have helped them handle emergencies, promote health, help their host families, or care for their own health during their time in the Peace Corps. Whether *Where There Is No Doctor* was your go-to health reference or just your bedtime reading, every story you share helps us develop books and resources that better meet the needs of Peace Corps host communities and Volunteers.

[Send us](#) your story about using Hesperian books during your time in the Peace Corps, and be entered to win a Hesperian library for your host community. Humor, heroism, hysteria, hypochondria - we want to hear it!

Include in your submission the name of the country, region and village where you worked and how you used *Where There Is No Doctor* or other Hesperian book. You'll get bonus points if you include a photo or video.

The three Peace Corps Volunteers or RPCVs who submit the best stories will win a complete library of Hesperian publications, to be designated to their host community.

So write a few paragraphs and send them to us. Your participation will help extend the impact of these books and Peace Corps Volunteers for a new generation. Send your story to Lizzie LaCroix at rpcv@hesperian.org.

Please help us spread the word to other RPCVs! Share this email and join "[Friends of Where There Is No Doctor](#)" on Facebook to stay connected with other RPCVs dedicated to global community health issues.

[Hesperian Health Guides](#) is a small nonprofit organization and depends on your support to keep our books updated and translated. Please consider [purchasing](#) a book or making a [donation](#) today.



Peace Corps Response is recruiting talented Volunteers to serve in a wide range of positions and countries including Georgia, the Philippines and Vanuatu. Opportunities are available in all six program areas and selected applicants can be in the field as early as January.

If you are interested in learning more about Peace Corps Response, please visit our website (<http://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/response/>) or send an email to pcresponse@peacecorps.gov to schedule an informational interview with a recruiter.

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:

- **FILLED>>>** We need a **SECRETARY** to take notes at our board meetings that occur 3 to 4 times a year.
- **FILLED>>>** 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.

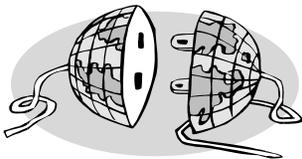
JOBS ARE BEING FILLED 😊

- **Jonathan Rosario** is connecting CTRPCV members through the social media on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc.
- **Carmen Britton** is our new secretary.
- **Doug Latham** is our member-at-large and he will also assist with the membership.

WHY someone should **join** CTRPCV.

We need to create a list of **benefits** when one is a member of CTRPCV or a few reasons why we should be members of CTRPCV.

- a chance to break bread with people who are not only like you, but also LIKE you.
- connect with an RPCV who might just be your neighbor!
- ability to receive CTRPCV Directory so you can request help with your favorite community service project.
- if you are newly returned RPCV... we will LISTEN to your story because we too have been there! RPCVs are FAMILY. We never tire or hearing your stories, frustrations, what you miss and what you are finding strange about your return
- help an RPCV find a new job through the Mentor program. Mentor a newbie RPCVs and help them navigate their transition
- help support PCVs and/or CTRPCVs through the CTRPCV Community Service Grant Program.
- keep in the PCV loop, know about short-term stints if you are interested.
- find opportunities to continue to serve locally or overseas.
- find someone who: has kids the same age as yours; others who have married host country nationals.
- let others know about YOUR art, social, sport or local community service project.
- spread the GOOD WORD about the Peace Corpss.
- **We want to add a page to our website that would offer FREE ADVERTISING for CTRPCV members who own a business.**



STAY CONNECTED!!!!

Volunteer opportunities

The International Institute of Connecticut is looking for volunteers to become mentors to our refugee client one day a week for one hour. When a refugee arrives in Bridgeport, they often come with nothing and know no one. A mentor would be a liaison between the client and the Bridgeport community. Mentors can do a variety of activities with their mentee. They may bring refugees grocery shopping, they may cook a meal together or they may just do something fun to build a friendship.

If this is something you believe your members may enjoy, please feel free to pass on our the attached flyers and e-mail me for more information. I would also be pleased to come speak with your group. We would love to have your help. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mattea Heller
Volunteer
International Institute of Connecticut
Bridgeport, Connecticut

<http://iiconn.org/>

The International Institute of Connecticut (IICONN) is a non-profit, non-sectarian agency dedicated to helping foreign-born persons achieve self-sufficiency. Our services include refugee resettlement, English and citizenship classes, counseling, translation/interpretation services and legal assistance.

IICONN advocates for fair and equitable treatment of immigrants, refugees and others, and works to increase public awareness of the contributions of foreign-born persons to American culture and values.

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 resources at <http://www.peacecorps.gov/resources/returned/home/>

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 us your news and announcements for the next E-news! MaureenShanley@hotmail.com or stoloffd@easternct.edu

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