



## Connecticut RPCV E-News

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

**April 2015** David Stoloff, eNewsletter editor, [stoloffd@easternct.edu](mailto:stoloffd@easternct.edu)

**For the latest CTRPCV e-news with all the formatting, click -** <http://www.ctrpcv.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/CTRPCV0415.pdf>

Connecticut Returned Peace Corps Volunteers on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/37593849149/> - we have over 100 members on our Facebook website.

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

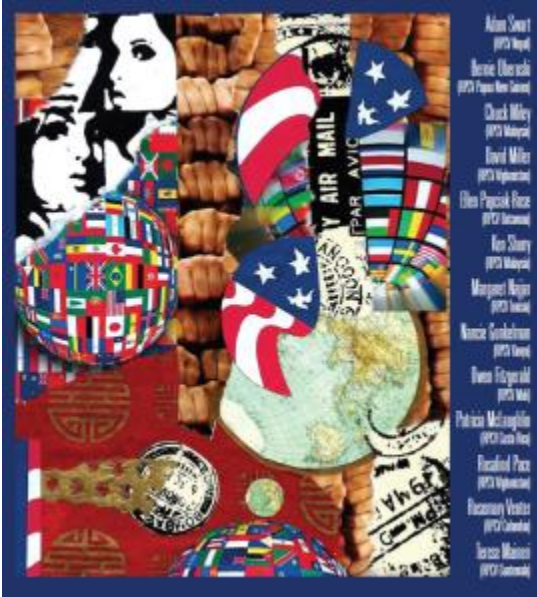
### Some Upcoming CTRPCV Events:

<b>Saturday, April 11, 2015, 1 – 4 pm</b>	Lasting Impressions – Art Exhibit Reception – Mabel Douglass Library 8 Chapel Drive; New Brunswick, NJ 08901
<b>Saturday... April 18, 2015,</b> 9 AM to noon.	<b>CT Food Bank ... CTRPCV will sort food</b> - CT Food Bank in East Haven. If you are interested: call or email Lois Fucci, 203-239-0169 or <a href="mailto:lafj@att.net">lafj@att.net</a> .

## Lasting Impressions – Art Exhibit Reception – April 11

“Lasting Impressions”: How artist’s perspectives were influenced by working in Peace Corps’ health, education, and development programs.

**Reception:** April 11, 2015 from 1pm – 4pm



Mabel Douglass Library  
8 Chapel Drive; New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Phone: 848-932-5008  848-932-5008

Event parking will be available during this reception

Confirmed artists:

Adam Swart (RPCV Nepal)

Bernie Oberoski (RPCV Papua New Guinea)

Brian Knudsen (RPCV China)

Chuck Miley (RPCV Malaysia)

David Miller (RPCV Afghanistan)

Ellen Papciak-Rose (RPCV Botswana)

Ken Shuey (RPCV Malaysia)

Margaret Najjar (RPCV Tunisia)

Nancie Gunkelman (RPCV Kenya)

Owen Fitzgerald (RPCV Mali)

Patricia McLaughlin (RPCV Costa Rica)

Rosemary Venter (RPCV Colombia)

Rosalind Pace (RPCV Afghanistan)

**Terese Maineri (RPCV Guatemala)**

Special speaker: NJ Assemblyman Dan Benson

Refreshments will be provided.

Family and friends are welcome.

Art Exhibit runs from April 11-May 26, 2015

Questions, contact Nancie Gunkelman [ngunkelman@gmail.com](mailto:ngunkelman@gmail.com)



**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>.

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From your Advocate

Due to a snow storm that shut down the Federal Government, the Peace Corps Day of Action was truncated. I was not in DC because of the snow, the government shut down and bronchitis. However CTRPCV Ed Pikaart braved the weather and arranged meetings. I called both senators offices and all 5 congress people. For the 1st time in a long time the CT congressional delegation was UNANIMOUS in signing the dear colleague supporting Peace Corps funding.

Be sure to thank your congress person. Give your name and country and years of service and perhaps what Peace Corps has meant to you and how the experience has influenced what you do and who you are today.

Special kudos to Ed Pikaart for a job well done.

Joan

Atty. Joan Leonard

[jleonard@snet.net](mailto:jleonard@snet.net)

203-988-8260  203-988-8260

P.O. Box 476

Clinton, CT 06413

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**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](mailto:stoloffd@easternct.edu)] to let him know about your project.

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**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](mailto:stoloffd@easternct.edu)) know and we can let other CTRPCV members know the details.

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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/>

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

This spring, NPCA kicked off “The Purpose-Driven Group,” a capacity-building series for member groups facilitated by the NPCA. Held every other month, this series is designed around the first of NPCA’s new strategic goals: to “enable members and member groups to thrive.” The first session, held February 3, engaged 43 attendees representing 29 member groups. We invite all groups to participate in Session Two. We offer live streaming for those who are not in the Washington, DC metropolitan area.

**The Purpose-Driven Group  
Capacity-building series for NPCA Member Groups – Spring 2015**

**Session Two: Tactics and Strategy**

**Tuesday, April 7, 2015 from 6:00 – 7:30 pm EST**

**Ashoka, 1700 North Moore St, Suite 2000 Arlington, VA 22209  
(Directly above the Rosslyn metro station; take elevator to 20<sup>th</sup> floor)**

The session will also be live streamed via Webex.

**REGISTER HERE** - [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1mrx0Hf787iCBRdQb52PtoqBGmosAeF5nmwJjWY1pQ/viewform?c=0&w=1&usp=send\\_form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1mrx0Hf787iCBRdQb52PtoqBGmosAeF5nmwJjWY1pQ/viewform?c=0&w=1&usp=send_form)

**Homework**

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Attendees are asked to provide the following with registration in advance of the session:

- One or two of your challenges
- One success story

### **Agenda**

- Introduction game (10 minutes)
- Tapping Into Our Collective Braintrust: Facilitated Group Problem-Solving (40 minutes)
- Prioritizing New Ideas (10 minutes)
- Ideas into Action: Developing a Strategy (30 minutes)

### **Presenters:**

Maricarmen Smith-Martinez, NPCA Group Leaders Forum Coordinator, NPCA Board of Directors

Anne Baker, NPCA Vice President

Megan Coolidge, Ashoka

Rachel Centariczki, Ashoka

Download session information and Webex instructions [here as a PDF](#) - <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/NPCA-Groups-Session-Two-Info.pdf> or from our [website here](#) -

<http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/resources/member-groups/information-for-member-groups/#purpose>.

(If you missed Session One, you'll find a link to the Webex recording and a summary recap of Session One on the website.)

**We would love to have all NPCA Member Groups participate in this session, either in person or via Webex. Please help us in our planning and register by April 3 [here](#).**

See you there in April!

Best regards,  
Anne Baker  
Vice President



See the latest news at <http://www.mailoutinteractive.com/Industry/View.aspx?id=672528&q=856239268&qz=b53dcf>

<http://www.mailoutinteractive.com/Industry/View.aspx?id=671055&q=853767466&qz=ce5fdf>

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

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In celebration of National Poetry Month in April, Peace Corps announces its first annual [poetry contest](#), to run from April 1-30.

All current and returned Volunteers are invited to submit poems for consideration by April 30.

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**Submission requirements:**

- Up to three original works of written poetry that highlight one's volunteer experience and promotes the Third Goal of Peace Corps.
- Poems must be less than 300 words and free of inappropriate content or copyrighted material.
- Poems must be written primarily in English, with footnotes explaining non-English words.

Poems will be reviewed by a panel of judges and the winners will be announced in May. Visit our [website](#) for more information and submission guidance.

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**Prizes:**

1st place: Winning poems will be printed on a custom poster that will be distributed to the winners and will be proudly displayed at Peace Corps Headquarters in Washington, D.C and regional offices across the United States.

Winners and runners-up will receive special edition Peace Corps Moleskine leather journals.

Thank you for sharing your service through poetry,

Octavius Jones

Third Goal Program Support Assistant, RPCV Botswana

[thirdgoal@peacecorps.gov](mailto:thirdgoal@peacecorps.gov)

[Subscribe](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Send this to a friend](#)

[www.peacecorps.gov/thirdgoal](http://www.peacecorps.gov/thirdgoal)

Peace Corps Office of Third Goal and Returned Volunteer Services

1111 20th St NW

Washington, DC 20526

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Are you interested in learning more about what the Peace Corps' and First Lady's "Let Girls Learn"- <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/2015/03/letgirlslearn-launches-and-the-national-peace-corps-association-is-there/> initiative means to you? Curious about what new countries Peace Corps is planning to open (or reopen) soon? Want to learn more about how you are an integral part of the collaborative

relationship between the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) and the Peace Corps?

**[Peace Corps Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet](#)** -

[http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/annual-gathering/berkeley-](http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/annual-gathering/berkeley-2015/program/speakers/)

[2015/program/speakers/](http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/annual-gathering/berkeley-2015/program/speakers/) **is coming to Peace Corps Connect - Berkeley.** It's your opportunity to meet and greet the visionary leader who is taking the Peace Corps to new heights. As a featured plenary speaker at your annual conference, Carrie will share an inside perspective on the historic strategy she has spearheaded to modernize and strengthen the Peace Corps agency.



*NPCA President Glenn Blumhorst and Peace Corps Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet signing an historic Memorandum of Understanding*

Join us **June 5-6, 2015** for this annual event showcasing our community's lifelong commitment to Peace Corps ideals. [Peace Corps Connect - Berkeley](#) - <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/annual-gathering/berkeley-2015/registration/> is an opportunity to engage with your fellow RPCVs and former Peace Corps staff who share the formative foundation of the Peace Corps experience.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear from Carrie and other prominent leaders among the Peace Corps community. You will be inspired and motivated. [Learn more about the program and register today!](#) -

<http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/annual-gathering/berkeley-2015/registration/>

In service,

*Glenn Blumhorst*

*President & CEO*

*RPCV Guatemala 1989-1991*

**P.S. Early bird registration ends on March 31<sup>st</sup> so [sign up now!](#) -**

<http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/annual-gathering/berkeley-2015/registration/>

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**Peace Corps Connect - Berkeley is sponsored by:**

[Stanford SEED](#)

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Dear NPCA Member,

[Renew your NPCA membership today](https://secure.peacecorpsconnect.org/npcassa/ssaauthmain.login_page) - [https://secure.peacecorpsconnect.org/npcassa/ssaauthmain.login\\_page](https://secure.peacecorpsconnect.org/npcassa/ssaauthmain.login_page) - and remain connected to a talented network. Our community is full of inspiring individuals, like the RPCV who [donated a kidney](#) to a stranger she had never met and knew nothing about, other than that he also happened to be an RPCV. Or the RPCV who was asked to introduce First Lady Michelle Obama at the launch of the [Let Girls Learn](#) initiative for her work with the women's collective Bosh Bosh. Or the RPCVs who opened a [barbecue restaurant in Moldova](#) and documented their experience online to inspire others in their local community to take the leap toward starting their own businesses.

These are just a few of the many members who make up our vibrant community, members who—like you—are an integral part of the Peace Corps community. [Renew your NPCA membership today](#). Be inspired by the stories of your fellow

RPCVs and use our platforms to share your own.

The NPCA is here to champion you in a life of service. As a member, you are eligible for **grants** to support your Third Goad activities, have exclusive access to **scholarships** to elite graduate programs, are presented with opportunities to **travel** alongside fellow RPCVs, and so much more. There is no better way to stay engaged with our community.

**Please renew your membership today** - [https://secure.peacecorpsconnect.org/npcassa/ssauthmain.login\\_page](https://secure.peacecorpsconnect.org/npcassa/ssauthmain.login_page) - and let us champion you in your lifelong commitment to service.

Best wishes,  
*Glenn Blumhorst*  
*Guatemala 1988-1991*  
*NPCA President & CEO*  
[www.peacecorpsconnect.org](http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org)

P.S. After you renew your membership, register for [Peace Corps Connect - Berkeley](#) and join us for the annual gathering of the Peace Corps community! NPCA members receive a special discount.

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## 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](mailto: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](mailto:pcresponse@peacecorps.gov) to schedule an informational interview with a recruiter.

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## **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/>.

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## 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.

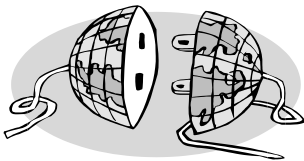
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## **WHY** someone should **join** CTRPCV.

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!!!!**



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## 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.**

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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/>

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## 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](mailto:stoloffd@easternct.edu) info about an event  
that you want to publicize!!!)

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**Send us your news and announcements** for the next E-news! [MaureenShanley@hotmail.com](mailto:MaureenShanley@hotmail.com) or [stoloffd@easernct.edu](mailto:stoloffd@easernct.edu)

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

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

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