

Connecticut RPCV E-News

President: Terese Maineri-tmaineri@yahoo.com

May 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/2015/05/CTRPCV0515.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:

SATURDAY MAY 16, 6:30 pm	Fund-Raiser for Maureen Shanley's sister, Patty, to support medical costs Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, Brookfield, CT
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Message from **Maureen Shanley** [maureenshanley@hotmail.com]

I am writing to you to invite you to attend a fundraiser for my sister Patty that will be on

SATURDAY MAY 16

At Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, Brookfield, CT

The Brookfield Newcomers and Neighbors Club is hosting a

NIGHT AT THE RACES

STARTS 6:30pm - First Race 7pm

Please email the address below to order your tickets.

If you would like to be seated with my friends, please tell them that you would like to be seated at Maureen's table. Tickets are \$20 and includes stadium food.

pattyfightsmds@gmail.com

There are two sites where you can follow Patty's progress:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Pattys-Plan-for-MDS/890674354281049?fref=ts>

<http://www.gofundme.com/Pattys-Plan-for-MDS?>

This is an update written by my sister Liz on 4/27/15:

First, let me start out by stating two very clear observations I have made in this past 13 months in which Patty has been fighting MDS:

Patty is a fighter with an inspiring smile and attitude;

and you, as part of her support system, have been incredibly generous in faith, food, and finances.

So this next part is hard to say to all of you. On Thursday, Patty was diagnosed with AML- Acute Myeloid Leukemia. It was the hope that by having the stem cell transplant, MDS would not transform into leukemia which is the normal path of MDS if not caught in time. You and I have many questions, but right now I don't know the answers so I will try to briefly relay what has happened and what will happen. The future is foggy, depending on how Patty responds to treatment. She had two major setbacks since coming home in December. One time was when she

back to the hospital for fungal pneumonia and she spent about three weeks in the hospital for that. Then she was able to return home for several weeks (all that cold weather time in CT!) Now she has been down in NYC again. This time they said she had a blood infection. The series of small problems has led to this current diagnosis.

Patty has spent the last two days telling her immediate family and letting us all wrap our heads around this new development. AML (leukemia) is very serious. Her doctors told her she has two choices: palliative care or another stem cell transplant. In Patty's upbeat attitude, she said, "There's only one choice!" Before the stem cell transplant can take place, she must go through chemo to put AML in remission. Once in remission, another transplant will take place. There were many more leukemia patients at Hope Lodge with her than MDS patients. She has seen the upside of this journey. Right now she is physically tired and emotionally strong. She doesn't know the timeline, but expects to be in NYC for the next 4-6 weeks.

Since her voice is still weak, she said to hold the calls, but you can text and email and she will respond as she is able. So her path is clear, one she knows all too well from her last transplant. She is weaker now and needs all your support and prayers on this journey to fight this new disease. I'd like to remind you of two fundraisers. The t-shirt fundraiser has sold 100 shirts or 400% of goal. You can find more information on Patty's FB page Patty's Plan for MDS.

The Newcomers and Neighbors Club fundraiser, which will happen on May 16th in Brookfield, is now selling tables of 10 for a Night at the Races. Tickets at pattyfightsmds@gmail.com . Please post this new fundraiser on your own page and share it as well. This is the time to tag all your friends who know Patty or the Zelles and get them to Patty's Facebook page so they can follow and support her. She needs them now more than ever. In essence, the fight has just begun... again.

With gratitude, Liz (Patty's sister)

Some people have contacted me and said that they can't attend, but wanted to send a donation.

You have choices:

- some people wanted to send it to me which is fine. Just make the check out to me and I will give Patty one check with a list of the names of those who made donations. [M. Shanley, 14 Twilight Ln, Brookfield, CT 06804]
- there is also the Go Fund Me site: <http://www.gofundme.com/Pattys-Plan-for-MDS?>
- and on the flyer for this event it says that if you want to make a donation please email Patrice: pyoung0304@gmail.com. Patrice is in charge of this event.

Message from

Shannon McBride
Regional Recruiter
Peace Corps Northeast Office

(646) 662-2375  (646) 662-2375
smcbride@peacecorps.gov

May 1 at 12:19pm

Hi all,

WANT TO WORK FOR PEACE CORPS??? :-D

There are 16 positions listed online to work for Peace Corps both domestically and overseas, check them out!! The closing date for these positions range from next Thursday, May 7 (majority of the positions) until the following Friday, May 15.

If you are interested in working for recruitment specifically, there are currently 4 Regional Recruiter (2 field-base positons for our office specifically) and 1 Admin Assistant position open:
(Apply By Deadline: Location)

Northeast Regional Office (NERO- our office) Openings:

---05/07/15: Boston, MA (field based)

---05/07/15: Buffalo, NY (field-based)

Other Regional Office Openings:

---05/07/15: Atlanta, GA (office based)

---05/13/15: Los Angeles, CA (office based)

Administrative Assistant

---05/13/15: Dallas, TX

As many of you may know, I'm a Peace Corps recruiter based out of the NYC office. I LOVE being a recruiter for Peace Corps and I know it's probably going to be one of the best jobs I will ever have. On top of having a job I feel incredibly passionate towards I also get to work with an amazing, passionate, hardworking team everyday that I am now fortunate enough to call my friends. :-)

I highly recommend applying if you love meeting new people, talking about your service and host country, like to present, and are good at event planning and project management. Please note- life as a recruiter is very much on the go and can be incredibly time consuming during the heavy recruitment season, so if you are looking for a 9-5 job to clock-in and clock-out, well this is not the one for you.

If you or someone you know is motivated, a great presenter, passionate about the Peace Corps mission, and a hard worker please apply!

Please share with anyone you think may be interested and if you have any questions feel free to reach out to me or any PC recruiters in your area. Thank you and have a great weekend!

Best Wishes,
Shannon McBride
Regional Recruiter
Peace Corps Northeast Office

(646) 662-2375  (646) 662-2375
smcbride@peacecorps.gov

RPCV opportunities from North of the Border – Western MASS RPCVs:

Matt Vaughan

RPCV (Paraguay, 2011-2013)

<http://www.linkedin.com/in/mattjohnvaughan>

Happy Spring! We've finally made it through the winter and now we have several exciting events and activities coming up with the RPCV community in Western MA. See the details below.

The Hand That Feeds - Academy of Music - May 6

The Hand that Feeds, an exciting and inspiring "David & Goliath story" featuring sandwich makers, business owners, organizers, and Occupy Wall Street activists, will be **screening at the Academy of Music in Northampton on Wednesday May 6th at 7pm.**

The dramatic labor documentary follows the story of shy sandwich-maker Mahoma López as he unites his undocumented immigrant coworkers to fight abusive conditions at a popular New York restaurant chain. The epic power struggle that ensues turns a single city block into a battlefield in America's new wage wars.

The film was made by Robin Blotnick, son of local RPCVs Joe Blotnick and Jill Higgins, and his wife Rachel. Robin and Rachel will be at the Northampton screening for a Q&A afterward and we're trying to get a huge audience there. [See info about the film and watch the trailer at the link here.](#)

This is a film that deals with the struggles of immigrant workers that all of us Peace Corps volunteers can very much relate - as well as the current low-wage worker movement. If you have any ideas about who else should know about this film - especially in the hispanic community, contact Joe and Jill at joe.blotnick@gmail.com or call [413-586-5039](tel:413-586-5039).

**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/>

Save the date for the 2015 Group Leaders Forum - June 7

The Group Leaders Forum (GLF) facilitates communication between and among the NPCA's 148 member groups - all of you! - for the sharing of resources and best practices to enable you to thrive. Thank you to those many group leaders who provided their input as to the timing of this year's meeting around Peace Corps Connect - Berkeley, June 5-6. **Based on that input, the 2015 GLF is scheduled for Sunday morning, June 7 from 9 am to 12 noon.** Please put that on your calendar and plan to participate for the whole weekend! More details to follow.

Note that the NPCA Board of Directors meeting will follow that afternoon from 1 pm to 5 pm. You are welcome to attend that as well.

"The Purpose-Driven Group" Capacity-Building Series

Thank you to the many who participated in the second of our "Purpose-Driven Group Capacity-Building Series" this past Tuesday. Lots of great work by participants to share with you all and to spur you on. We're working as fast as we can to finalize the notes to post to our website. (As much of the session involved brainstorming in small groups and via online chat, we kept the phone line silent for long periods and did not record the session.)

Learn more about the series on our [website here - http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/resources/member-groups/information-for-member-groups/#purpose](http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/resources/member-groups/information-for-member-groups/#purpose). Notes from Session Two will be posted as soon as they are finalized.

2015 Member Group Renewal

We are now heading into the final stretch for the 2015 annual Member Group Renewals. Thank you to all of those groups who have renewed!

We have been in touch with all groups by email either to confirm that your renewal is complete or with a gentle reminder that it is still pending. If you have not received any notification from us, please check in with us right away at [email](#):

<mailto:groups@peacecorpsconnect.org>

If your group renewal is still pending, please submit that by the end of this month. **The annual renewal process closes April 30.** [Learn more and renew here - http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/resources/member-groups/information-for-member-groups/#renewal.](http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/resources/member-groups/information-for-member-groups/#renewal)

Reminders

In each of these messages, I include a list of reminders from past emails. Be sure to take a quick look at the reminders list at the bottom to see if your group needs to follow-up/respond to anything there as well. Thank you for all you do for and with the Peace Corps community!

Best regards,

Anne Baker
Vice President

This email goes to all current member group board members. If you are no longer on a member group board, simply reply and let me know.

Reminders:

- Join our [Group Leaders Forum Facebook group](https://www.facebook.com/groups/NPCAGroupLeaders/) - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/NPCAGroupLeaders/>
- Join our Group Leaders Forum on the [NPCA Community Builder](http://community.peacecorpsconnect.org/main/authorization/signIn?target=http%3A%2F%2Fcommunity.peacecorpsconnect.org%2Fgroup%2Fgroupleadersforum) - <http://community.peacecorpsconnect.org/main/authorization/signIn?target=http%3A%2F%2Fcommunity.peacecorpsconnect.org%2Fgroup%2Fgroupleadersforum>
- [Submit your contact information](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Qp3-ZJ9oA3a7CzY1ENzUuMQzagETQ2Hg-anXBdVfzIM/viewform) - <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Qp3-ZJ9oA3a7CzY1ENzUuMQzagETQ2Hg-anXBdVfzIM/viewform> for our member group [Google map](#)
- [Designate your preferences](#) for membership options and dues

Group Admins: The list of members joining your group in March is available in the database. [Log in here.](#)

Best regards,
Anne Baker
Vice President



Peace Corps Update



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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www.peacecorps.gov/thirdgoal

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



We are honored to welcome Congressman John Garamendi and Congressman Sam Farr to Peace Corps Connect – Berkeley this June 5-6, 2015. [Register today to participate! - http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/annual-gathering/berkeley-2015/registration/](http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/annual-gathering/berkeley-2015/registration/)

From rural Ethiopia to the United States Capitol, the Peace Corps has profoundly impacted Congressman Garamendi's life and work: he began his career as an Education and Community

Development Volunteer in Ethiopia before beginning an extensive career in public service, including service as California's 46th Lieutenant Governor.

Congressman Farr, who has made multiple return trips to Colombia and is known as "Mr. Peace Corps" by his colleagues, can attest to what we all know to be true: that the Peace Corps experience is life-changing and long-lasting. "Peace Corps helps promote global acceptance of the principles of international peace and non-violent co-existence among people of diverse cultures and systems of government."

We look forward to hearing more from these accomplished RPCVs--who proudly represent the Peace Corps community on Capitol Hill--about how Peace Corps shaped their paths to public service.

[Register today for Peace Corps Connect – Berkeley -](#)

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

Peace Corps Connect - Berkeley is sponsored by:

[Stanford SEED](#)

Dear NPCA Member,

[Renew your NPCA membership today](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

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.

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.

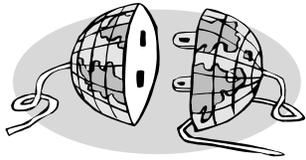
JOBS ARE BEING FILLED 😊

- **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 Corps.
- **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!](#)