

Connecticut RPCV E-News

President: Terese Maineri-tmaineri@yahoo.com

August 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/2015/07/CTRPCV0815.pdf>

Connecticut Returned Peace Corps Volunteers on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/37593849149/> - we have over 110 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:

July 23 (Thursday) at 4:00 p.m, July 25 (Saturday) at 8:00 p.m.	Air Dates for Nigeria Revisited, Charter Communications cable on CTV-21 which is CHANNEL 192 in the towns of Monroe, Trumbull, Brookfield, and a few others
Saturday, August 8, 2015 from 1 PM to 5 PM	Annual CT RPCV picnic, Rockwell Park Jacob Street and Dutton Avenue, Bristol, CT

Sunday, August 9, 12pm – 9pm

Hartford Latino Fest, Hartford Riverfront Plaza

Contact: Kate Schedel, kschedel@peacecorps.gov, 413-234-7790

Nigeria Revisited My Life and Loves Abroad

An interview with Catherine Onyemelukwe on memoir *Nigeria Revisited My Life and Loves Abroad* will be broadcasted on **Charter Communications cable** on CTV-21 which is **CHANNEL 192**.

Air Dates for Nigeria Revisited:

July 23 (Thursday) at 4:00 p. m, July 25 (Saturday) at 8:00 p.m.

People in the towns of Monroe, Trumbull, Brookfield, and a few others get this channel.

If you have any questions, please contact Catherine at [Catherine Onyemelukwe \[conyemelukwe@gmail.com\]](mailto:conyemelukwe@gmail.com)

Thanks. Catherine



Annual CT RPCV picnic will be August 8, 2015 from 1 PM to 5 PM



The annual CT RPCV picnic will be August 8, 2015 from 1 PM to 5 PM at Rockwell Park Jacob Street and Dutton Avenue Bristol, CT. CT RPCV will be in the Rockwell Park Shelter. Rockwell Park has volleyball courts, a splash pad for children, and baseball fields; come ready to play and enjoy the company of other CT RPCVs.

- What to bring: your own drinks, something to grill, and a dish or dessert to share.
- CTRPCV will provide the paper and plastic products and mustard, ketchup, mayonnaise.
- ❖ Remember to also bring a lottery item for the CT RPCV raffle. The CT RPCV raises money for CT RPCV community service project that support CT Peace Corps Volunteers' projects in the field. Please bring something from your travels, a plant, a bottle of something, use your imagination... the more items we have the more winners there will be.

Only lightning & thunderstorms will make us cancel because we have a large pavilion to protect us from the sun and rain. So even if there is a bit of rain, we will still be there! After all, we were PCVs! There is no rain date for this event.

Park Details

Rockwell Park was given by Albert and Nettie Rockwell in 1911. Entrances to the park can be found off Jacob Street, Dutton Avenue, and Terryville Road. Amenities include:

- Basketball court
- Hiking trails
- Learn-to-swim pool
- Lighted volleyball courts
- Picnic areas
- **No alcohol is permitted in the town park.**
- Regular playground
- Splash pad
- Toddler playground

Please message Terese Maineri, CT RPCV President at president@ctrpcv.org if you have any questions.

Seeking RPCVs to help at the Hartford Latino Fest

Sunday, August 9

Time: 12pm – 9pm

Place: Hartford Riverfront Plaza (outdoor festival)

Contact Info: Kate Schedel, kschedel@peacecorps.gov, 413-234-7790  413-234-7790

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/>

Affiliate Group Network (AGN) Advisory Committee

We're looking for a few good volunteers. Per the bylaws and as Maricarmen reviewed at the Annual Meeting in Berkeley, your Affiliate Group Network is recruiting for the AGN Advisory Committee. Besides fulfilling the responsibilities in the bylaws, this committee will help advise NPCA staff and Board of Directors on needs, directions, and ideas for affiliate groups. The committee will meet regularly by teleconference. Interested? Contact Maricarmen Smith-Martinez at NPAAAGN@peacecorpsconnect.org (the old NPAGLF@peacecorpsconnect.org will still get to her, too). (Many thanks to those who already expressed interest in Berkeley!)

NPCA Film Series with Gathr

We would like to spotlight a new NPCA initiative, an NPCA Film Series, and strongly encourage you and your local RPCV community to get involved. This Fall we will be launching a monthly, international film series in theaters across the country, promoting the Third Goal and providing exciting events at which RPCVs can share your Peace Corps experience with friends and neighbors. The series can **come to your local theater at no cost to your group**. We simply need you to help spread the word! Our partner on this initiative, Gathr Films, will handle all of the hassle involved in organizing these screenings: from booking the theater, ticketing, customer support, emailing attendees, and making sure the film is prepped and ready at the theater for each screening. If you are interested, your group can take more of an active role in the series. For example, your group can fundraise at the screening, coordinate speakers, host post-screening discussions, or promote other Affiliate Group events (to name a few).

All we ask is for you to tell your members about this opportunity and direct them to <http://gathr.us/films/npca> in order to sign up for the series. We need your assistance because **in order to bring the series to your city – at least 70 people must sign up**. With the support of your groups and their networks of friends and families, we can bring the NPCA Film Series to cities across the country.

The NPCA film series will serve as a vehicle for promoting the *Third Goal*, bringing broader cultural awareness to local communities through international film and also as a vessel through which RPCVs can share their Peace Corps experiences. This series serves a larger NPCA goal: help RPCVs create connections in local communities so that they may impact others with their stories. The NPCA film series will also send monthly emails to attendees about that month's film, its country of origin, and current or past Peace Corps involvement in that country, truly building a local community that is engaged with world issues and initiatives.

The first step is to spread the word and encourage people to sign up:

1. Share this link: <http://gathr.us/films/npca> and encourage people to sign up by clicking "Notify Me"
2. Discuss the series with your Affiliate Group
3. Email the link to friends and family, share in Facebook and LinkedIn groups, and post on Facebook and Twitter!

We have attached a sheet of sample social media posts to help get you started.

We are happy to answer any questions and are excited to have an opportunity to bring exciting, international programming to your town. [Read more at http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/2015/06/npca-and-gathr-films/](http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/2015/06/npca-and-gathr-films/).

Tip of the Week

Is this email getting to the right people? We send these updates to all current board members for affiliate groups as noted in our database. As your officers or contact people change, please let us know, too! Have your group administrator (that's your board member designated with access to our database) log in [here](#) and go to "affiliate group administration," where you'll find "affiliate group leadership" as one of the options. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact us at any time at groups@peacecorpsconnect.org.

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

Reminders:

- **August 1 Deadline:** Submit your application for an [Education Small Grant](http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/resources/education/) - <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/resources/education/>
- Join our [Affiliate Group Network Facebook group](https://www.facebook.com/groups/NPCAGroupLeaders/) - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/NPCAGroupLeaders/>
- Join our Affiliate Group Network 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/a/cefact.org/forms/d/1Qp3-ZJ9oA3a7CzY1ENzUuMQzagETQ2Hg-anXBdVfzIM/viewform) for our affiliate group [Google map](https://docs.google.com/a/cefact.org/forms/d/1Qp3-ZJ9oA3a7CzY1ENzUuMQzagETQ2Hg-anXBdVfzIM/viewform) - <https://docs.google.com/a/cefact.org/forms/d/1Qp3-ZJ9oA3a7CzY1ENzUuMQzagETQ2Hg-anXBdVfzIM/viewform>
- [Designate your preferences](https://docs.google.com/a/cefact.org/forms/d/1h84pOFJM8h1ABi7neXesOTdtdwU4Tk_ce-gURcrcDs/viewform) - https://docs.google.com/a/cefact.org/forms/d/1h84pOFJM8h1ABi7neXesOTdtdwU4Tk_ce-gURcrcDs/viewform for membership options and dues

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

Peace Corps Update



See the latest news

<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're writing to thank the more than 800 RPCVs and PCVs who showed their host country pride and participated in the first-ever Peace Corps Poetry Contest. We've wrapped up the judging and the results are in—Nepal, Peru, Nicaragua, and The Gambia took the top spots on the poetry charts!

Handwriting By Megan Gannon

For Awa and Ansel Saine

I'm watching the world
erase the shadows it's spent
the whole day drawing, you
stacking sticks in strict
patterns, blowing through a conch
of fingers, coaxing smoke.
I pour rice in this
sift-bottom basket, comb
for mites, for grain
dark in its husk. Lines
of laundry criss-cross
the compound, rows of onion
tufts mark the garden
you spent the dry season
watering. I'm learning
how hands train to a task:
precise beak of fingers
cocked to constant gauge, picking
a lice-sized pile; wide clasp
of hand for driving a pestle
down in the mouth of a pounder;
coil of fingers for pulling
up rope from deep wells.
How many chores line
your grasp like a glove
of muscle? How many days
did it take to forget the pencil-
thin grip only a school-girl
knows? Tomorrow,
when you're practicing
alphabets, when I'm watching
letters untether in a hoop

of loose fingers, pencil gyre
over lines of crabbed characters,
remind me how much of this world
is written in your sure hand.

Nicaraguita By Samantha Austin

Oh Nicaragua, Nicaraguita
That girl at the bar said you have no culture

But I know
Culture is not something can see in colorful cloth or folk dances

But something you taste, like the dust that lines your mouth in April before the
rains start
Like the ash baked into tortillas
And those small strawberries that come down from the mountain once a year

And culture is something you smell
Like the elote blackening in the street
The red and black paint drying on telephone poles
And the trash burning outside

It's something you hear
Like the cars with the speakers tied on top, announcing a funeral
The sound of a plump mango falling from the tree
And every adios as you walk by

It's something you feel
Like the warm hand of a stranger, inviting you in
The bumps on the road, as you pass by the mountains
And the ache of your heart, once you've left

Days Like These By Rebecca Hamilton

On days like these
when all I want
is to curl up

under the drooping mosquito net
to lose myself in fantasies
of ice cubes and sharp cheddar
I go for a walk.

I pass a woman bent
under the weight of a load
twice her size
her breath rises
in clean, white puffs
like the kitchen smoke that
lies low over the valley.

A man chants
I smell whisps of incense
morning gratitude.

The sun finally reaches
the eastern slope of the Himalayas
their vast snow fields glow
beckoning
stretching their golden arms.

At my house, father squats
before a sputtering fire
his thin, green sweatpants
cling to his knobby knees
chiya?
he hands me a steaming cup
milky, sweet, spicy.

On days like these
a cup of tea
can change my world.

_____ **By Nate Zeff**

At first, I thought it might be
like watching a clock face,
smooth and metered, the way

days passed and people lived,
as if set neatly behind glass.

But when I stepped off the bus
the blur of life overtook everything,
and I found myself crash-landing
in a series of day-long flashes,
hitting the lush, mountain grass
running, among people playing out
lives so strange to me... kids flying
into the house next door, where
shopkeepers kept the best selection
of caramelos*, past la policia* who
leaned against doorframes, all
half-smiles and smirks keeping a
watchful eye, the nurses bustling
in and out of the health post, their
clipboards and coolers of vaccines

for the niños*, the señoras* sitting
outside our municipal building,
avocados and choclos* and
tomatoes and onions spread out
on thick, blue blankets, 20 cents each.

How the tidy picture I'd drawn
in my mind fell to pieces, when the
clock back opened and the gears
tumbled out, when I let go and
leaned in – to the crowd of my
neighbors and the vibrant, wild
life around me – into all the new
electricity of tomorrow.

*caramelos: candies

*la policia: the policewoman

*niños: kids

*señoras: women

*choclos: Peruvian corn

Thanks again to all who participated in the competition. Based on the unprecedented number of submissions and resounding positive feedback, we will continue to spotlight poetry as a valuable Third Goal medium.

Best, The Third Goal Team ... thirdgoal@peacecorps.gov

NPCA MEMBERSHIP renewal:



[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/ssaauthmain.login_page) - https://secure.peacecorpsconnect.org/npcassa/ssaauthmain.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.

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 360 returned Peace Corps volunteers and/or friends of the Peace Corps who are receiving this e-newsletter. The Connecticut RPCV has about 40 dues paying members. CTRPCV and National Peace Corps Association need more 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](https://www.facebook.com/groups/37593849149/) 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.
- **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.
- **Member-at-large**
 - Someone who can bring ideas to the table.

Thank you to

- **Jonathan Rosario** is connecting CTRPCV members through the social media on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc.
 - **Doug Latham** is our membership chair.
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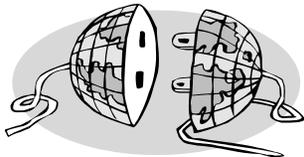
WHY someone should **join** CTRPCV



Here is a list of **CTRPCV Member benefits**:

- 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.**
 - Please let us know if you have a business that you would like to have posed on our website.

FYI: Your dues pay our expenses: “room” rental for meetings, supplies for potluck meetings, group NPCA membership dues, state filing fees, communication costs (postage, paper, internet costs), etc.



STAY CONNECTED!!!!

Volunteer Opportunity in Bridgeport

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.

Mattea Heller, 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.

Peace Corps Response....

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!](#)