

# CONNECTICUT RPCV

Newsletter – February 2016



Peace Corps

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Students reading aloud in Nicaragua.

Photo courtesy of Geri Mezzoni (Nicaragua 2013–2015).



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, February 7, 2016

[IRIS RUN FOR REFUGEES 5K](#)

Saturday, February 27, 2016

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Tuesday, March 1, 2016

[PC 55th ANNIVERSARY  
EVENT AT UCONN](#)

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[RESTAURANT MEETING  
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[COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY](#)

Saturday, July 2, 2016

[HOLE IN THE WALL  
GANG CAMP](#)

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# CONNECTICUT QUEST for PEACE



WHAT: Packing boxes for the poor in Nicaragua

WHEN: **Saturday, February 27th and Saturday, March 26th**

TIME: 10 am - 1 pm

WHERE: William Evans Painting Co., 394 Main St., Bridgeport, CT 06604

ORGANIZOR: Maureen Shanley

ATTIRE: Please dress in layers since there is very little heat in the warehouse.

CT Quest for Peace is a faith-based non-profit organization that provides humanitarian aid to the poor of Nicaragua through a variety of educational, healthcare, arts and microfinance initiatives. CTRPCV will help with the Humanitarian Cargo Aid program. Cargo shipments provide quality goods to the poor, creates funding for community programs, and builds relationships between you and the people of Nicaragua.

We will meet at Bill's warehouse from 10 am—1 pm. The address is William Evans Painting Co., 394 Main St., Bridgeport, CT 06604. Just follow the signs to the Port Jefferson Ferry. At the entrance (black iron gates), take a right and we are the second building on the left. Bill will have all the packing supplies, but you might want to bring your favorite tape dispenser (gun). Everyone is welcome to come and lend a helping hand.

Please contact Maureen Shanley at 203-775-9222 or [maureenshanley@hotmail.com](mailto:maureenshanley@hotmail.com) to let her know if you are able to help with this project. When she is at the warehouse you can call her cell: 203-788-0163.

For information about CT Quest for Peace go to [www.nicaragua-quest-for-peace.org/](http://www.nicaragua-quest-for-peace.org/). If you want to bring donations, CT Quest is always looking for SUMMER clothing, school supplies for children, books in Spanish, wheel chairs, kitchen utensils, and bed linens. A list can be found on our website.



Join us at UCONN to learn about the last 55 years of Peace Corps, and the programs available in 2016 and beyond.

Peace Corps Recruiter Kathy Fidler will hold a 55th Anniversary presentation that will take place at UConn on March 1st at 6 pm. She would love for CTRPCVs to attend and bring photos from service to show to prospective applicants.

For more information, please contact Kathy at (401) 252-1161. If you are interested in attending, please email Kathy at [kfidler@peacecorps.gov](mailto:kfidler@peacecorps.gov) for details.

\*\*\*If you attend any of our events, please make sure to take photos to share on our website! You can send photos with a short description to [president@ctrpcv.org](mailto:president@ctrpcv.org)\*\*\*

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**soul de cuba cafe®**  
cuban cuisine and more

**WHO:** Members of the CT Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

**WHAT:** (1) Nomination and Election of Secretary, Member-at-Large, Social Media Director, Newsletter Editor, and Membership Coordinator. (2) Fun Social with great food!!

**WHERE:** Soul de Cuba at 283 Crown Street, New Haven, CT 06511

**WHEN:** Monday, March 21, 2016 at 7 pm

**WHY:** Per the Bylaws of the CTRPCV, members nominate and elect the Board of Directors at an Annual or Special Meeting. Once all of the official business is quickly done, we will be spending time together!!

Members should know that there have been several nominations made, including Jillian Corley for Secretary and Al May for Member-at-Large. We would welcome any additional nominations that the members recommend. Once we officially nominate and elect the new members, we will enjoy a delicious evening Cuban dinner.

Everyone can order whatever they want because we will have individual checks. I know personally that the food is delish and the Mojitos are fabulous!

We will have our instant raffle for our CTRPCV Community Service Fund. Please bring something, perhaps from your world travels, a jar of homemade jam, a great book that you read, a plant, etc. Someone once brought a beautiful cake that she made and decorated. Use your imagination... it makes the instant raffle more fun!

We can seat about 20 people, so **YOU MUST RSVP** to [MaureenShanley@hotmail.com](mailto:MaureenShanley@hotmail.com). If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact either Maureen Shanley or President Terese Maineri at [President@ctrpcv.org](mailto:President@ctrpcv.org).



On Saturday, July 2, 2016 we will be volunteering our time at the [Hole In The Wall Gang Camp](#) in Ashford, CT. Since 1988 the camp has served as a non-profit residential summer camp and year-round center for children coping with life-threatening diseases. All of the camp's services are free of charge. This unique camp, created by Paul Newman, provides a sense of normalcy for children who may have missed out on aspects of their childhood.

We will help to change bed linens (about 150 beds) for the campers who will arrive the following day. It will truly be a rewarding project and well worth our time and efforts.

If you would like to attend, or for more information, please contact Lois Fucci at [lafj@att.net](mailto:lafj@att.net).

\*\*\*If you attend any of our events, please make sure to take photos to share on our website! You can send photos with a short description to [president@ctrpcv.org](mailto:president@ctrpcv.org)\*\*\*

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The Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS) will hold their 9th Annual Run for Refugees 5K on the morning of Super Bowl Sunday, February 7, 2016. Last year, over 900 runners and walkers kicked off their Super Bowl festivities early with a

brisk run/walk through scenic East Rock Park in New Haven. Come for exercise, fun, and to support a great cause. The event includes a post-race party at the Wilbur Cross High School gym with live music, international food, and an awards ceremony.

The mission of IRIS is to help refugees and other displaced people establish new lives, regain hope, and contribute to the vitality of Connecticut's communities. Through the generous support of our donors, IRIS meets refugees' housing, food and other basic needs, provides cultural orientation, education, health & wellness, and immigration legal services, and offers onsite English language training and job preparation and placement. To learn more about IRIS or to register, sponsor or volunteer for the Run for Refugees, please visit [www.irisct.org](http://www.irisct.org).



**BikeTrex**



Below is an email we received recently from CTRPCV supporter Dan Rossano:

I wanted to share some exciting news! I've officially started up a bike touring company called BikeTrex! We're based out of northern Connecticut and plan to lead bike trips all around the New England area to start, then eventually expand to other states and ride international trips!

Why choose us?!

Because we're awesome! I've been riding with groups for over 3 years and have lots of experience. We know where to find the best views, the best restaurants and pubs, and the many hidden treasures of each area we tour. And our leaders are qualified, medically trained, and professional. Get out of the city get out of the house and come enjoy being outside!

Please help me by sharing this information with your friends and family. Sign up for our mailing list for all the latest news and updates. Our first tour starts in May 2016 from Monroe, CT!

Please visit our website: <http://www.ridebiketrex.com/>

Thanks!  
Dan

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# CTRPCV Members in the News!



CTRPCV's very own Al May (Costa Rica, 1970–1972) was recently written about in the New Haven Register. He recently retired from his position as Development Director of Christian Community Action (CCA) after 14 years of service. CCA is an ecumenical social service organization that expresses faithful witness by providing help, housing and hope to those who are poor in New Haven.

Thomas Beirne III, Vice President of Halsey Associates, a CCA corporate sponsor, says Al is “invaluable, and I think it’s really sad that he’s retiring, but it’s well deserved... His professionalism and demeanor are really just quite irreplaceable.” Thomas DeVitto, Chief Marketing Officer of Blum Shapiro, another of CCA’s corporate sponsors, added “[Al] has a good heart.” We couldn’t agree more. Congratulations Al, on your well-deserved retirement.

The full New Haven Register article can be found [here](#).



## Volunteer opportunity in Bridgeport

The International Institute of Connecticut (IICONN) is a non-profit, non-sectarian agency dedicated to helping foreign-born persons achieve self-sufficiency. Their 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.

IICONN 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.

For more information, please visit the IICONN website at [www.iiconn.org/](http://www.iiconn.org/).

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**National  
Peace Corps  
Association**

## Nominate Outstanding Global Leaders for the Harris Wofford Global Citizen Award

The Harris Wofford Global Citizen Award is presented annually by the National Peace Corps Association to an outstanding global leader who grew up in and continues to live in a country served by Peace Corps. The award will be presented at Peace Corps Connect in Washington, DC on September 24, 2016.

We invite you to read about past winners, learn more about the award in the FAQs and download the nomination materials from our website: <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/about/awards/#wofford>

The nomination deadline was just extended to February 22, 2016. We'd love to get at least one nomination per Peace Corps country (current and past). Thank you for your nominations!  
Questions? Email [woffordaward@peacecorpsconnect.org](mailto:woffordaward@peacecorpsconnect.org).



## National Day of Action in Support of Peace Corps

The National Peace Corps Association urges all members of the Peace Corps community to plan to participate in the 12th annual National Day of Action (<http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/advocacy/dayofaction/>) on Thursday, March 3rd.

Following our huge Peace Corps funding victory at the end of 2015 (<http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/2015/12/victory-highest-peace-corps-funding-level-ever/>), we need everyone to take part as we re-double our efforts to keep the momentum going for a bigger and better Peace Corps.

Register today (<http://goo.gl/forms/B5t13q22aY>) if you can join us on Capitol Hill on March 3rd. Or, contact us at [advocacy@peacecorpsconnect.org](mailto:advocacy@peacecorpsconnect.org) to help organize district office meetings with Members of Congress or other local Day of Action solidarity events on/about March 3rd.

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# Peace Corps

## [RPCV Earns Oscar Nomination](#)



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Register your event by March 13



## [RPCV Group Challenge](#)



## [Legacy Project](#)



## [Opportunities for You](#)



## [Part 3](#)

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# MISCELLANEOUS

Have an event or community service idea?  
Let's make it happen!!

Share your ideas with us and let's make your ideas come to life. We can help spread the word through our social media platforms and the monthly newsletter. Events can be as simple as "Let's meet up at [restaurant name] on [date]". Email us at [president@ctrpcv.org](mailto:president@ctrpcv.org).



## CALL FOR PHOTOS!!!

We are redesigning and updating our website and we need your help! If you have any photos from your service or from any of our past CTRPCV events, and wouldn't mind sharing them with us, please send them to our email address, [president@ctrpcv.org](mailto:president@ctrpcv.org). For each photo, please attach a description of the photo's contents and yourself. Please include your name, country and years of service along with who/what is shown in the photo and a caption for the photo.



Peace Corps Response (PCR) provides qualified professionals the opportunity to serve in rewarding, short-term assignments, in various programs around the world. When you serve as a PCR Volunteer, you bring your skills and experience to projects in places where you are needed most. PCR 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 <http://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/response/> or send an email to [pcresponse@peacecorps.gov](mailto:pcresponse@peacecorps.gov) to schedule an informational interview with your local Peace Corps recruiter.

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# MISCELLANEOUS

We are updating our website and need your help! We will be debuting a new section of our website called 'CTRPCV Profiles' in which we will briefly share our members' stories. If you would like to take part, please fill out the questionnaire below and email your responses, along with photos from your service that you would like to have published on our website, to [president@ctrpcv.org](mailto:president@ctrpcv.org).

## CTRPCV Profiles

Who are you (please include name, country of service, years of service and anything else you want to add)?

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Why did you choose to serve as a Peace Corps Volunteer?

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What did you do as a Peace Corps Volunteer?

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Can you share your favorite memory from service?

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How has serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer affected your life?

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What advice do you have for prospective Peace Corps Volunteers?

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Do you have anything else you would like to share with our readers related to you or your PC service (stories, poems, quotes, etc.)?

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# MISCELLANEOUS



## **HELP WANTED at CTRPCV!**

We currently have openings for the following positions:

**SECRETARY:** Takes notes at board meetings three to four times a year.

**FUNDRAISER:** Devises ways to replenish our CTRPCV Community Service Fund. All ideas are welcome.

**SOCIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR:** Hosts/plans restaurant outings, pot-luck dinners, etc.

We are also searching for the following positions ASAP as Jonathan Rosario has accepted an employment position in Washington DC and will be moving soon:

### Newsletter Editor:

- Design the newsletter as you wish! You can keep the current design or create your own. The current design was created using Microsoft Publisher, but you are free to use any program you would like.
- Incorporate new information into the newsletter including new events, advocacy updates, CTRPCV announcements, etc. (Most info. remains relevant for several months, so you would not have to create a completely new newsletter each month. You can simply update the previous month's newsletter)
- Eliminate outdated information.
- Correspond with CTRPCV officers to ensure all information is relevant and up-to-date.
- Email the newsletter at the end of each month to [president@ctrpcv.org](mailto:president@ctrpcv.org). Our email coordinator/website updater, Jonathan Rosario, will then make sure to send it to all newsletter recipients on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month and upload to our website.

### Membership Coordinator:

- Maintain an accurate record of contact information for both current and former members through the use of a Microsoft Excel file.
- Update membership records as new information arises.
- Coordinate membership information with CTRPCV officers when needed.

### Social Media Director:

- Maintain up-to-date information across our social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn).
- Create Facebook events as they are planned by the CTRPCV officers.
- Maintain email communication with CTRPCV officers.
- Engage with social media community members by responding to their questions.
- Increase membership.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, February 7, 2016

[IRIS RUN FOR REFUGEES 5K](#)

Saturday, February 27, 2016

[COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY](#)

Tuesday, March 1, 2016

[PC 55th ANNIVERSARY  
EVENT AT UCONN](#)

Monday, March 21, 2016

[RESTAURANT MEETING  
AT SOUL DE CUBA](#)

Saturday, March 26, 2016

[COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY](#)

Saturday, July 2, 2016

[HOLE IN THE WALL  
GANG CAMP](#)

## CTRPCV Officers

President: Terese Maineri

[TMaineri@yahoo.com](mailto:TMaineri@yahoo.com)

Vice-President: Bryan Garcia

[Bryan.Garcia@ctgreenbank.com](mailto:Bryan.Garcia@ctgreenbank.com)

Treasurer: Mike Hilton

[Mjhilt@comcast.net](mailto:Mjhilt@comcast.net)

Social Media: Jonathan Rosario

[Rosario014@yahoo.com](mailto:Rosario014@yahoo.com)

Newsletter: Jonathan Rosario (interim)

[Rosario014@yahoo.com](mailto:Rosario014@yahoo.com)

Member-at-Large: Maureen Shanley

[Maureenshanley@hotmail.com](mailto:Maureenshanley@hotmail.com)

## CONTACT US

E-MAIL: [President@ctrpcv.org](mailto:President@ctrpcv.org)

POST MAIL: CTRPCV, P.O. Box  
1803, Hartford, CT 06144

[Official website](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[LinkedIn](#)



## CTRPCV needs more PAID MEMBERS \$\$\$

If you are interested in participating in the above-mentioned CTRPCV events, please also consider joining our group. If you would like to join and/or pay your annual CTRPCV membership fees, please go to the NPCA's website at [www.peacecorpsconnect.org](http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org). Login/Register at the top right of the page. Once logged in, you can choose to pay your CTRPCV membership dues only or make a donation to NPCA as well; the choice is yours.

Please also consider joining the Connecticut Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/37593849149/>.

### WHY someone should join 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 of 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 new 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, e.g. room rental for meetings, supplies for potluck meetings, group NPCA membership dues, state filing fees, communication costs (postage, paper, internet costs), etc.

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