

CONNECTICUT RPCV

Newsletter – September 2016



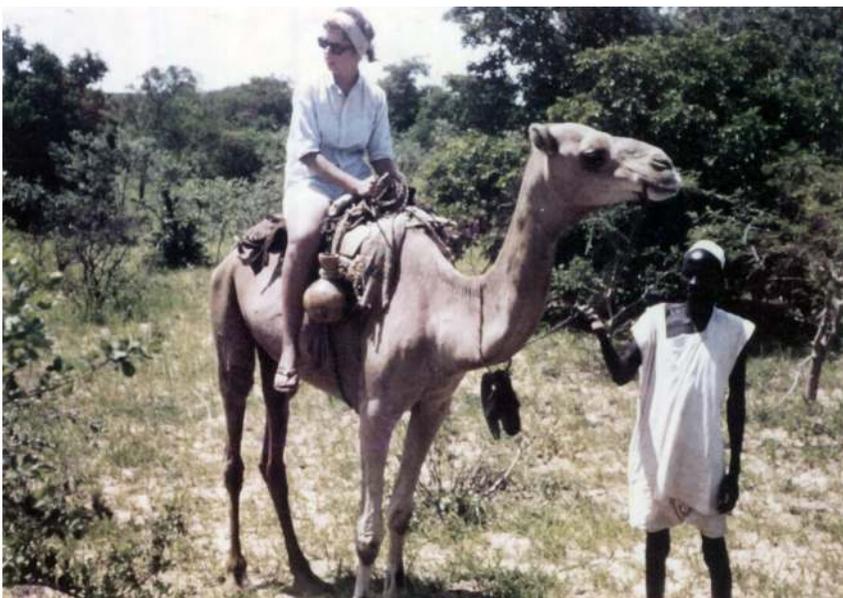
Peace Corps

CONTENTS

- Upcoming events
 RPCV Library Presentation and Fiesta Nicaragua.....Page 2
- NPCA News.....Page 4
- Miscellaneous.....Pages 5–6
- Membership.....Page 7

CT RPCV Catherine Onyemelukwe on a camel on a trip to Niger in 1963, during her Peace Corps service.

Catherine's memoir, "Nigeria Revisited: My Life and Loves Abroad," revisits her two years overseas that become twenty-four, during which her experiences brim with friendships, students, travels around the country, and love. It recalls how her future Nigerian husband contrives to meet her, their falling in love, and their controversial wedding that becomes world news with their photo in *Life Magazine*.



UPCOMING EVENT

Thursday, September 22, 2016
**RPCV WATERBURY LIBRARY
PRESENTATION**

CTRPCV OFFICERS

President: **TERESE MAINERI**
TMaineri@yahoo.com

Vice-President: **BRYAN GARCIA**
Bryan.Garcia@ctgreenbank.com

Treasurer: **MIKE HILTON**
Mjhilt@comcast.net

Secretary: **JILLIAN CORLEY**
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RPCVs Present on Latin America in Waterbury

Terese Maineri de Velasquez, president of the Connecticut Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Association, will present a power point program on her experiences as a Peace Corps volunteer and as a returning visitor with her Guatemalan husband and their children Thursday, September 22 in the auditorium of the Silas Bronson Library, 267 Grand St. in Waterbury, at 6 p.m. The event will celebrate national Hispanic Heritage Month. The event will also include a presentation by Elise Kigner, who served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Costa Rica from 2013 – 2015.

All CT RPCVs and their friends are invited! We plan to meet for dinner following the presentation.

Fiesta Nicaragua

SUN. 9/ 25/16... LUNCH - NOON

At: The Benedictine Grange
49 Dorethy Rd
West Redding, CT 06896

**Nicaraguan Music, Nicaraguan Folk Dancers,
Auction & Raffle**

Typical Nicaraguan lunch:

- Pollo [chicken] tacos with
 - Guacamole & Salsa
 - Toppings: onion, cheese, tomato, lettuce, cilantro
- Gallo Pinto "Speckled Rooster" - Rice & Beans Nica Style
- Garden Fresh Salad with Tomatoes
- Baked Sweet Plantain & Fried Plantain
- Delicious desserts
- Drinks at our bar
 - Coffee/ tea
 - Wine, beer, soda, coffee

Suggested donation \$25

For more information contact :
Maureen Shanley
[203-775 9222](tel:203-775-9222) maureenshanley@hotmail.com
<http://www.nicaragua-quest-for-peace.org>

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



As part of Peace Corps Connect, NPCA advocates will be on Capitol Hill in a big way, all day, on September 22, 2016.

You can join in, but you need to register for our Capitol Hill Advocacy Day by Monday, September 5!

By joining us, you will make sure there is a Peace Corps buzz in Capitol Hill offices and hallways that will rekindle the moment when the Peace Corps movement began. For it was on September 22, 1961 that President Kennedy signed into law the original Peace Corps Act, which created the agency and governs its policies to this day.

Now, 55 years later, nearly 200 advocates are already registered for NPCA's Capitol Hill Advocacy Day. They are coming from 33 states to make the case for strong funding to ensure the Peace Corps' future, and reform legislation to improve health services for RPCVs with service-related illness or injuries.

Nearly one hundred congressional meetings are already scheduled, and many more are on the way! The full extent of our impact is directly related to your participation! We want more RPCVs and former staff from all across the country to personally attest to the power of a strong, vibrant and well-resourced Peace Corps.

This event is part of the NPCA's annual conference, September 21-25, in Washington D.C.

Visit peacecorpsconnect.org.

More than 50 RPCVs, prospective volunteers, and their friends and family enjoyed a BBQ at Rockwell Park in Bristol in late August. The raffle raised a grand total of \$250! The money will go to the CTRPCV Community Service Fund. Thank you to everyone for coming out to share food and stories!



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MISCELLANEOUS



Have an event or community service idea?

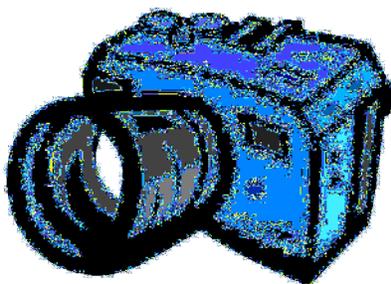
Let's make it happen!!

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.

CALL FOR PHOTOS!!!

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. 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. Opportunities are available in all six program areas. 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 to schedule an informational interview with your local Peace Corps recruiter.

HELP WANTED at CTRPCV!

We have openings for the following positions:

FUNDRAISER: Devises ways to replenish the Community Service Fund. All ideas welcome.

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

SOCIAL MEDIA DIRECTOR: Maintains up-to-date information across out social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn).

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**We
Need
Your
Help
Please**

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.

CTRPCV Profiles

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

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

What did you do as a Peace Corps Volunteer?

Can you share your favorite memory from service?

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

What advice do you have for prospective Peace Corps Volunteers?

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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Connecticut Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

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. 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/>.

Questions???. Simply email our Membership Coordinator, Allegra Itsoga, at aitsoga@afk.org.

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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