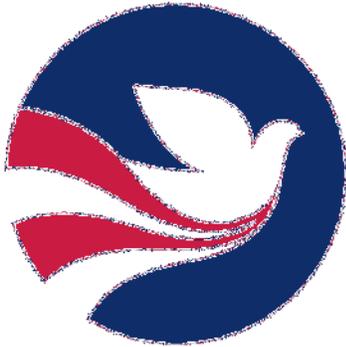


CONNECTICUT RPCV

Newsletter—June 2017



Peace Corps

CONTENTS

Upcoming Events.....	Page 2-4
NPCA News.....	Page 5
Miscellaneous.....	Page 6



Peace Corps Commemorates John F. Kennedy's Centennial

The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum partnered with National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) and Boston Area Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (BARPCV) hosted the Peace Corps community at a centennial commemoration of President Kennedy. See story on page 4.

Pictured, Terese Maineri, CTRPCV president, with Massachusetts Congressman Joseph Kennedy III, and her family.



Save the Date

CT RPCV will hold its annual summer picnic at Veteran's Memorial Park in Watertown CT on Saturday **September 9** from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

More details to follow. Hope to see you there!



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Darien Book Aid Plan & CTRPCV Volunteer

Opportunity

Please join us on June 10, as we pack boxes of books with Darien Book Aid Plan to be distributed to current PCVs around the world! Following the event, you are welcome to join us for lunch at a nearby café.

Location: Darien Book Aid Plan, 1926 Post Road, Darien, CT 06820

Time: June 10, 2017 (9:00 am – 12:00 pm)

Last time, CTRPCV helped pack 35 boxes, fulfilling 35 PCV requests for books! These packages are continuing to make their way around the world.



A few thank you notes from the PCVs who received our last shipment...

"I have received 38 books from Darien and I can't wait to put them to good use in class and the library. Your organization is first rate and an indispensable resource to PCVs and anyone else looking to startup a fledgling library." - Mitchell, Southern Africa

"The children will all be excited to have these new choices in our little library. Thanks Again! David, Dominica

"The sun is shining in Morocco, but things just got a little bit brighter. We received the package today!! This is a wonderful start to our humble library." William, Morocco

"Thank you so much for everything that you do for young people around the world. Know that your organization, with a simple gift of books, creates an immense amount of positive impact globally. You truly are the epitome of an organization that can create change." Mitesh, Albania (Picture below)



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Hole in The Wall Gang Camp

There is an opening for CTRPCV to volunteer on Saturday, June 24th.

Volunteer Project... Saturday, June 24th in Ashford, CT

On June 24th, CTRPCV's will participate in a volunteer day 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 cancer and other life-threatening diseases. All of the camp's services are free of charge. This unique camp, created by Paul Newman and his friends, provides a sense of normalcy for children who may have missed out on aspects of their childhood. We will be changing bed linens (about 150 beds) for the campers who will arrive the next day. This is truly a rewarding project and well worth our time and efforts.

Please plan to participate and bring your family (children should be 15 or older). If you are able to volunteer call or email Lois Fucci, [203-239-0169](tel:203-239-0169), lafi@att.net.



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Celebrate Independence Day Third Goal Style

By Terese Maineri

Connecticut Returned Peace Corps Volunteers is looking for interested Returned Peace Corps Volunteers to march in the Madison, Connecticut 38th Annual Independence Day Parade, sponsored by the Exchange Club. The Madison Parade takes place in downtown Madison, Connecticut. The parade takes place in downtown Madison on Tuesday, July 4th at 11 a.m., with parade group participants gathering in the Super Stop and Shop parking lot in the center of town from 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

This year's Madison Independence Day Parade will commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam war, and invites all Vietnam-era Veterans to serve as Grand Marshals. Connecticut Return Peace Corps Volunteers would like to honor these veterans, by marching with them. We would like a great Connecticut Returned Peace Corps turnout. I anticipate participating with my husband and children and wearing either a Peace Corps t-shirt or a host country outfit.

As always, the Madison Exchange Club expects the July 4th parade to have a large turnout of both residents as well as a throng from towns all along the shoreline. Because of the large numbers that are anticipated, it's recommended that everyone arrive as early as possible to select your preferred vantage point: The Parade route starts at 11 AM in the Super Stop and Shop parking lot, winds through the center of Madison, and concludes at the Surf Club.

Please let me know if you are interested in attending this exciting event. RSVP by e-mailing Terese Maineri at tmaineri@yahoo.com or Ken Shuey at gkshuey@gmail.com.

NEW CT RPCV Membership Model

THE CT RPCV HAS A NEW MEMBERSHIP MODEL JUST FOR YOU!

Basic Membership in the National Peace Corps Association is now FREE! The CT RPCV Association has also decided to provide FREE basic membership. We want to be sure that everyone who shares our Peace Corps values is included in the CT RPCV. This is a good time to join or update your CT RPCV registration. *Just email Allegra Itsoga at aitsoga@afk.org.*

Please provide the following information:

E-mail:

Name:

Address:

Telephone Number:

Country of Service:

Without dues, CT RPCV will depend on members like you to continue to support the programs and initiatives that mean the most to you! Consider making a tax-deductible donation to support our community service grants and other expenses. Checks can be made out to "Treasurer - CTRPCV" and sent to Treasurer, CTRPCV, P.O. Box 1803, Hartford, CT 06144-1803. Past community service grant descriptions can be found at the following website: <http://www.ctrpcv.org/project-grants/project-grants/>.

Peace Corps Honors JFK

By Terese Maineri

Since President Kennedy founded the Peace Corps in 1961, over 225,000 Americans have served as Peace Corps Volunteers in 141 countries around the world. Recently in Boston, a special event was held celebrating the lasting legacy of President Kennedy and the enduring impact that Peace Corps Volunteers and Returned Peace Corps Volunteers continue to have at home and abroad.

Speakers included Congressman Joseph Kennedy III, who shared his experience as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Dominican Republic and encouraged the RPCVs in the audience to advocate for Peace Corps by sharing their stories of service. Connecticut's former Congressman Christopher Shays spoke about the many ways RPVCs can enlighten current senators and congressmen to continue funding Peace Corps.

RPCVs shared personal perspectives on Peace Corps since 1961 to today. Another panelist was Former Peace Corps Director, Mark Gearan, who spoke about the future of Peace Corps. The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum was free to RPVCs. It was a unforgettable day remembering John F. Kennedy's creation of the Peace Corps and its global impact.



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Email your Elected Representatives and Protect Peace Corps

It takes just 5 minutes!

<http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/cpages/take-action-now#/29>

The president's budget requests \$398 million for the Peace Corps—the deepest proposed cut from a president in 46 years—and a 32% cut to America's development and diplomacy programs. Urge Congress to support \$410 million for the Peace Corps and \$60 billion for International Affairs for fiscal year 2018. #ProtectPeaceCorps #AmericaLeads. See story below from the NCPA:

Today the Trump Administration announced its proposal to cut almost \$12 million from Peace Corps' present budget, lowering it to \$398 million for fiscal year 2018. This amounts to the largest proposed cut to the Peace Corps by a president in over 40 years.

With these cuts, the agency will likely be unable to increase the number of volunteers for greater impact in over 60 countries, make programmatic improvements volunteers need to be effective, or invest in our domestic dividend through support for returned volunteers' work in their local communities.

The budget proposal also requests disproportionate 32% cuts to the topline International Affairs Budget, bringing America's development and diplomacy programs back to 9/11 levels and hampering the ability of Peace Corps' partners to strengthen interagency project implementation.

Glenn Blumhorst, president and CEO of National Peace Corps Association, responded to the president's proposed cuts:

Considering the challenges we currently face at home and abroad, it is deeply concerning that a cut of almost \$12 million is being proposed for the Peace Corps and a 32% cut is being proposed for our development and diplomacy programs. This represents a serious step in the wrong direction. Volunteers continue to be in great demand to implement critical development projects and promote mutual understanding in the countries they serve as well as to bring their grit and innovation back home. In light of this news, we will only up our efforts, along with our champions on Capitol Hill and the international affairs and Peace Corps communities, to protect level funding of \$410 million for the Peace Corps and \$60 billion for the International Affairs Budget for fiscal year 2018.

The president's proposed cuts come at a time when the Peace Corps is poised to heighten its impact. Applications to the agency remain well above 20,000 and global demand for more volunteers continues to increase, especially in emerging economies. The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), global food security programs, and other whole-of-government programs all rely on Peace Corps Volunteers to implement their projects.

On Capitol Hill, the firewall of opposition to cuts continues to grow. In March, a record 175 House Members signed a bipartisan letter to appropriators requesting level funding for the Peace Corps, and 43 Republican and Democratic Senators recently wrote to key committees in support of robust funding of the International Affairs Budget.

Congress now has until September 30 to send a spending package to the White House.

May 23, 2017



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MISCELLANEOUS



Have an event or community service idea?

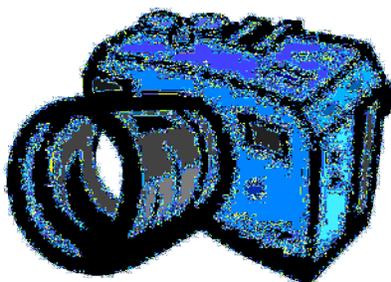
Let's make it happen!!

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 volunteer 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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