



# Connecticut RPCV E-News

May 2012 Maureen Shanley, Chapter President, [MaureenShanley@hotmail.com](mailto:MaureenShanley@hotmail.com)

David Stoloff, eNewsletter editor, [stoloffd@easternct.edu](mailto:stoloffd@easternct.edu)

This issue is found at <http://www.ctrpcv.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/CTRPCV0512.pdf>

## In This Issue:

**CTRPCV call for officers**

**PEACE CORPS PLAYGROUP for KIDS**

**Opportunities to Serve: Hole in Wall Camp Volunteer Opportunity, June 30**

Media review – Wormser, Baron (2006). *The Road Washes Out in Spring: A Poet's Memoir of Living Off the Grid.*  
**Book recommendation by David Stoloff**

**International Game**

**Have you paid your annual dues? You support helps us stay connected!**

**Click [here](#) to join or pay your membership fees!**

## Upcoming Events:

### CTRPCV Calendar

June 16	Sat.	9 am – 5 pm	Packing Boxes for Poor in Nicaragua
June 23	Sat.	12 noon -3 PM	Food Share Project-Hartford
June 30	Sat.	9:30 - Noon	Hole in the Wall Camp Project- Ashford
July 7	Sat.	2 PM – 5 PM	Board Meeting @ CT Forest & Parks Bldg.- Rockfall
July 7	Sat.	5 PM – 8 PM	CTRPVC Potluck Dinner @ Ct Forest & Parks Bldg
August 4	Sat.	9 AM- 11 AM	Gardening- Food Share Project -Hartford
August 25	Sat.	12 Noon – 3 PM	Annual Summer Picnic-Hammonasset Bch., Madison
September TBD	Sat.		Bd. Mtg. & General Annual Mtg.- CT Forest & Parks

## CTRPCV NEEDS YOU !!!

We have a number of opportunities for you to become more active in the CTRPCV group. We have a couple of people who have been serving on the CTRPCV Board for many, many years who are moving on because of major changes in their lives. So there are opportunities waiting with YOUR NAME! [more about the Board](#)

### PEACE CORPS PLAYGROUP for KIDS

I am interested in getting together with other RPCVs who have little kids and want to meet up for monthly playdates. [Read more](#)

Stay connected through our Peace Corps links - just click below!

**CT RPCV Website**

Get updated news about events and our members!

**National Peace Corps Association**

Stay connected to our national community and representation in Washington!

**Peace Corps Website**

The Mother Ship – full of information for RPCVs from how to spread the word to finding great job opportunities!

**Peace Corps Encore!**

Want to do it again? Encore! sends former Peace Corps Volunteers and staff members back into the field on short-term assignments (typically three weeks to three months) that match their professional expertise with specific social needs.

**Contact Us**

<http://www.ctrpcv.org>

[ctrpcv@gmail.com](mailto:ctrpcv@gmail.com)

Other links of interest :

**Peace Corps Online**

*The Independent News*

## **Community Service Day – Packing Boxes for Poor in Nicaragua**

When: 9 AM– 5 PM, Sat., June 16

Come for any length of time that works for you. If you are going to be there for a long time, bring something to eat.

Where: Bridgeport

Sponsor: Maureen Shanley [contact me at 203-775-9222 or [maureenshanley@hotmail.com](mailto:maureenshanley@hotmail.com)] [Read more](#)

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## **Foodshare- Sort Fresh Vegetables June 23- Hartford**

Join other CT-RPCVs and volunteer to help sort produce at Foodshare's Regional Market in Hartford on Saturday June 23rd from 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm. [Read more](#)

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## **Hole in The Wall Gang Camp**

**Volunteer Project... Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup> in Ashford, CT**

On June 30th, CTRPCV's will participate in a volunteer day at The Hole In The Wall Gang Camp in Ashford, CT. [Read more](#)

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## **Foodshare- Gardening Project August 4 - Bloomfield**

Do you have younger children (age 5 and older) and prefer to spend time outdoors while performing valuable community service? Then join us on Saturday August 4th from 9:00 am - 11:00 am at Auer Farm (Bloomfield). [Read more](#)

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**CTRPCV Picnic at the Beach!!**

Our big annual potluck picnic –all are welcome including perspective RPCVs

**What: Potluck style picnic at the beach**

Forum serving Returned  
Peace Corps  
Volunteers

PC Online Crossroads

*Links to every Peace  
Corp website you can  
think of!*

Peace Corps Writers  
*A site for returned Peace  
Corps volunteers to post  
their stories. Offers  
writing workshops,  
awards, publishing, and  
other resources;  
newsletter archives, etc.*

Global TeachNet  
*The objective of Global  
TeachNet is to promote  
students' knowledge of,  
understanding of and  
respect for the people,  
cultures and nations of  
the world. Global  
TeachNet is this  
country's premier  
resource for global  
education.*

**When: Noon – 3pm, Saturday, August 25th**  
sun and rain.

**Where: Picnic Shelter #1 Hammonasset State Park, Madison,  
CT (just off I-95) [Read more](#)**

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Media recommendation

Wormser, Baron (2006). *The Road Washes Out in Spring: A  
Poet's Memoir of Living Off the Grid.* Hanover and London:  
University Press of New England. [Read more](#)

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Recommended place for unwinding  
Toby's Resort, Montego Bay, Jamaica [Read more](#)

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## CTRPCV NEEDS YOU !!!



We have a number of opportunities for you to become more active in the CTRPCV group. We have a couple of people who have been serving on the CTRPCV Board for many, many years who are moving on because of major changes in their lives. So there are opportunities waiting with YOUR NAME!

As a Board we meet only 2 or 3 times a year. Everything else is done by email.

We are looking for some newly returned RPCVs because we want some new people with new ideas. Or some RPCVs who now have a bit more time to help us make our CTRPCV group more inclusive and exciting.

If being a Board member isn't for you, but you think that you'd like to assist or work on a committee that would be great too!

Just contact Maureen and tell her that you are interested in becoming a more active member.

### **Connecticut Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Vice President Job Description**

The Vice President of the CTRPCV Board and represents the President when s/he is not able to attend a CTRPCV activity.

- at times assists PC/NYC with recruiting or speaks to groups

interested in learning more about the Peace Corps

- chairs at least one committee
- assists the president with planning events for CTRPCV

### **Connecticut RPCV Treasurer Job Description**

The Treasurer is the officer assigned primary responsibility of overseeing the management and reporting of Connecticut Return Peace Corps Volunteer's (CT RPCV) finances. Treasurer duties include:

- Membership dues interfaces
  - o Connecticut paid dues are received by CT RPCV Membership and then sent to the Treasurer. The Treasurer deposits checks and processes payment of any portion of the dues slated for NPCA membership. This includes writing a check to NPCA, filling in member information on the NPCA form and mailing both to NPCA.
  - o NPCA paid CT RPCV dues are electronically deposited in the CT RPCV checking account
- Bank account maintenance – Sign checks, balancing statements and manage funds wisely
- Reports – Keeping the board informed of key financial events, trends, concerns, and assessment of fiscal health in addition to providing financial reports at Board Meetings and the annual report to NPCA

### **CTRPCV Database Manager [Membership Chair]**

The average time commitment is approximately 3 to 4 hours per month, and the current database manager, Dulari Collier, will be happy to answer any questions (contact her at 860-767-2871 or wacollier@comcast.net) and to provide detailed, hands-on instruction about the database to the new database manager.

CTRPCV maintains a database with various categories of information about the organization's members—e.g.,

- contact information, country of service information, and dues payment information.
- Some CTRPCV members also belong to the National Peace Corps Association, which also provides CTRPCV with information about NPCA membership that is also entered into the CTRPCV database.
- For many years, we have been using File Maker Pro as the database software. The software is old, but it remains useful for CTRPCV's purposes.
- In addition, the database manager will be provided with a computer and monitor donated several years ago to CTRPCV by a local company. The hardware is also somewhat dated, but the computer's storage system contains only the CTRPCV and NPCA data.
- In addition to tracking the types of information listed above, the database manager is called on from time to time to compile

directories of all CTRPCV members or to assist other CTRPCV members who are planning events (e.g., restaurant gatherings) and need contact information for members in a particular geographical area.

### **Fund Raising Chair**

The primary duty of the Fund Raiser Chair is to raise monies for the CTRPCV Community Service Grant Fund that donates up to \$1,000 to a CTRPCV or PCV from CT who has a deserving community service project.

- Assist in the organization of Raffles at our meeting and restaurant meetings
- Helping to organize a Fiesta or Gala with a silent auction is one way to raise money
- Contacting CTRPCVs who work for companies who grant matching funds or actually give grants to employees who are active in registered non-profit 501.c.3 organizations
- Search for grants that can help us help others.
- Or give us another way to raise money... we're open to suggestions!

### **Restaurant Meeting Coordinator**

The primary duty is to help other CTRPCVs identify locations and help organize a CTRPCV meeting at a restaurant.

- We prefer to have these meetings at ethnic restaurants, but we are not limited to that concept.
- Generally the CTRPCV needs to organize a pre-set menu with a fixed price. RPCVs are asked to mail their dinner choices and payment to the RPCV organizer.
- The coordinator will provide a CTRPCV Directory so the CTRPCV organizer can contact people who live within approximately a 45 minute radius of the restaurant.
- Help organize a local potluck or barbeque in someone's home.
- Arrange a Friday Night Out at your favorite "watering hole".

### **Group/Regional Advocacy Coordinator**

To strengthen the connections and voice of the Peace Corps community on matters of public policy and grassroots citizen lobbying, the National Peace Corps Association seeks interested volunteers to serve as member group Advocacy Coordinators to serve as a liaison with NPCA's Advocacy Program.

The minimal requirements for this role are as follows:

- Sign up to NPCA's advocacy listserve, help disseminate key updates to other group members and recruit others to join this network. (You can sign up for the listserve by following this link: <http://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin/ea?v=001uV3jnc>)

cU8bYlmJuymyiUig.

- Be familiar with NPCA's advocacy webpages (<http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/advocacy/>) and blog posts (<http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/npc/news/advocacy/>)
- Assist NPCA Advocacy with outreach and mobilization each March during our National Day of Action <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/advocacy/dayofaction/>
- Assist NPCA Advocacy once a year with outreach and mobilization during our District Meeting Advocacy Days (Scheduled next for September 2012) <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/district-meeting-days/>
- Occasionally assist with outreach to targeted lawmakers in your state.

Beyond the minimal requirements, Member group Advocacy Coordinators would be invited to assist with advocacy training workshops, help with general promotion and/or fundraising to support and sustain NPCA's advocacy program, keep NPCA's Advocacy Program apprised of group advocacy initiatives, and gather and provide feedback and input related to advocacy surveys, programming and planning.

Those interested in serving as a group Advocacy Coordinator may contact Jonathan Pearson with any questions.

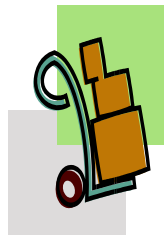
[jonathan@peacecorpsconnect.org](mailto:jonathan@peacecorpsconnect.org)

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## **Community Service Day – Packing Boxes for Poor in Nicaragua**



**When: 9 AM– 5 PM, Sat., June 16**

**Come for any length of time that works for you. If you are going to be there for a long time, bring something to eat.**

**Where: Bridgeport**

**Sponsor: Maureen Shanley** [contact me at 203-775-9222 or [maureenshanley@hotmail.com](mailto:maureenshanley@hotmail.com)]

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. They

work with Nicaraguan community-based partners so that they can assist Nicaragua's neediest through trusted community-based organizers in Nicaragua.

All CT Quest-funded humanitarian aid programs are provided freely to needy Nicaraguans regardless of religion, creed, race or tribal origin. While there are five programs that support Nicaraguan families' independence, CTRPCV has been asked to help with the Humanitarian Cargo Aid program. This vital program helps Nicaraguan families overcome generational poverty and it is the backbone of CT Quest's work in Nicaragua since the donated cargo shipments do triple service. Cargo shipments provide quality goods to the poor, create funding for community programs and build relationships between you and the people of Nicaragua.

Donations are stored at Bill Evan's warehouse in Bridgeport, but many items need to be boxed or re-boxed so that the boxes have no empty space. I am sure that you are well aware of what humidity does to cardboard. Now can you imagine partially filled boxes losing their shape as they travel by ship on the Atlantic and then enter the tropical humidity that is ever present in Nicaragua? The cargo in the truck container would look like a melted ice cream cake when it arrived in Managua.

CTRPCV will meet at Bill's warehouse and work from 9 AM until 5 PM. Bill will have all the packing supplies, but you might want to bring your favorite tape dispenser (gun) like I do.

I have been working with CT Quest for Peace for years and I have traveled down to Nicaragua to see the various projects and to work with Donna Tabor (RPCV/Nica.) in Granada, Nicaragua. I have seen firsthand that these projects are working and that every effort we make here is greatly appreciated by the recipients. On a personal level, I would be pleased if you could come and assist us in our efforts to send humanitarian aid to the needy in Nicaragua. Please contact me at 203-775-9222 or [maureenshanley@hotmail.com](mailto:maureenshanley@hotmail.com) to let me know if you are able to help with this project. On the day of the project, call me on my cell 92030788-0163.

For information about CT Quest for Peace go to

<http://www.ctquestforpeace.org>.

If you want to bring donations, contact Maureen Shanley at ([maureenshanley@hotmail.com](mailto:maureenshanley@hotmail.com)) to see what they need. CT Quest is always looking for SUMMER clothing, school supplies for children, books in Spanish, wheel chairs, kitchen utensils, and bed linens.

Directions to Bill's Warehouse:



William Evans Painting Co.  
394 Main St.  
Bridgeport, CT 06604  
Bill's Cell: 203-216-2115  
Maureen's cell for June 16<sup>th</sup>... 203-788-0163

Directions: Basically... follow signs to the Port Jefferson Ferry. At ferry entrance, turn right, 2<sup>nd</sup> building on the left is 394 Main St. Northbound on RT 95 (Connecticut Tnpk.) Take Exit 27. Go straight off exit ramp for 3 blocks. Turn right onto Broad St. Go 200 yds. and go under the railroad bridge. Take immediate left onto Ferry Access Rd. Go 1 block to intersection. Turn right onto Main St. Travel 100 yds. The building is on left. Bill will have a sign in front and one of his trucks. Both have the name "William Evans Painting Co."

Directions Southbound on RT 95: (Connecticut Tnpk.) Take Exit 27. At bottom of ramp take immediate left onto Broad St. Go 200 yds. and go under the railroad bridge. Take immediate left onto Ferry Access Rd. Go 1 block to intersection. Turn right onto Main St-. Travel 100 yds. The building is on left. The name is "William Evans Painting Co."

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## PEACE CORPS PLAYGROUP for KIDS

I am interested in getting together with other RPCVs who have little kids and want to meet up for monthly playdates. Now that Spring is here, and Summer is around the corner, I would like to set up monthly gatherings in different places (i.e., children's museums, the zoo, the aquarium, local farms, bicycle trails and parks, bouncy "fun" zones, etc.). The possibilities are endless. If you are interested in being a part of this playgroup, please send me an email with your name, your child's name (or children's names) and age(s), and the town where you live. Expressing your interest doesn't commit you to participate, but it will help me gauge the level of interest and plan the location of the playgroups. Also, if you have any thoughts or ideas regarding the playgroup, please include this with your email. All input is most appreciated.

Keri Singh (Thailand, '94-'96) Email: [epigirl105@yahoo.com](mailto:epigirl105@yahoo.com)

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## **Foodshare- Sort Fresh Vegetables June 23- Hartford**

Join other CT-RPCVs and volunteer to help sort produce at Foodshare's Regional Market in Hartford on Saturday June 23rd from 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm.

We will help inspect and repackage fresh vegetables. This is also a wonderful opportunity for those RPCVs with children 12 years and older to bring along your children and share the joy of community service.

Space is limited. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Keri Singh (RPCV, Thailand 94-96) at [epigirl105@yahoo.com](mailto:epigirl105@yahoo.com) or (860) 324-6519 no later than June 9th.

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## **Hole in The Wall Gang Camp**

### **Volunteer Project... Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup> in Ashford, CT**

On June 30th, 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 15,16 or older). If you are able to volunteer call or email Lois Fucci, 203-239-0169, [lafucci@comcast.net](mailto:lafucci@comcast.net).

WHEN: June 30th, Saturday

WHERE: Ashford, CT

TIME: 9:30 AM -12:00 (noon)

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## **Foodshare- Gardening Project August 4 - Bloomfield**

Do you have younger children (age 5 and older) and prefer to spend time outdoors while performing valuable community service? Then join us on Saturday August 4th from 9:00 am - 11:00 am at Auer Farm (Bloomfield).

We will work in the vegetable garden and harvest crops, as needed, for Foodshare. There will be gardening captains at the farm to organize and coordinate the effort, so don't despair if you think your thumbs are not green enough! Space is limited. For more information and to RSVP, please contact

Keri Singh (RPCV, Thailand 94-96) at [epigirl105@yahoo.com](mailto:epigirl105@yahoo.com) or (860) 324-6519 no later than July 21st.

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## CTRPCV Picnic at the Beach!!



Our big annual potluck picnic –  
all are welcome  
including perspective  
RPCVs

**What: Potluck style picnic at the beach**

**When: Noon – 3pm, Saturday, August 25th**

**Only lightning & thunderstorms will make us cancel  
because we have a large pavilion to protect us from the  
sun and rain.**

**Where: Picnic Shelter #1 Hammonasset State Park,  
Madison, CT (just off I-95)**

**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, charcoal.)

**Raffle: There will be an INSTANT RAFFLE and the  
proceeds will go to the CTRPCV Community Service Grant  
Fund.** 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!

**Come out and join your fellow Connecticut RPCV's for an  
afternoon of fun in the sun!**

Our annual picnic will be held this year on Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup>  
from 12-3p.m. at Hammonasset State Park in Madison, CT, just off I-  
95. We will be at picnic shelter #1. Please note, that there is a  
parking charge for entering the state park. However, if you are 65 or  
older, you can apply for a senior park pass, which lets you enter free  
of charge. You can also purchase family park passes that allow you  
access to all state parks. Check out [www.ct.gov/dep](http://www.ct.gov/dep) for more

information on these passes.

If you have any questions about the picnic, or about rain cancellations on the day of the picnic, please call Maureen Shanley's cell (203)788-0163. We hope to see you there!

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Media recommendation by David Stoloff

**Wormser, Baron (2006). The Road Washes Out in Spring: A Poet's Memoir of Living Off the Grid. Hanover and London: University Press of New England.**

A poet and his family live off the grid - without electricity and plumbing - due to the cost of extending the lines to their central Maine home. This text is a collage of poems, descriptions of the seasons and their challenges, literary analyses such as a comparative study of the philosophies within the poetry of Emily Dickinson and Walt Whitman and recent Polish poets, accounts of rural towns people and their community life, and the struggles of raising children in the 1980s. Chosen for Eastern Connecticut State University's sustainable energy campus book club reading for Spring 2012, this reflection would generate discussion on how one may live a more meaningful, simpler life by appreciating nature and the human condition more. For some returned Peace Corps volunteers, the stories will remind them of the connections with nature they experienced during their postings.

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### **Recommended places for unwinding**

Introducing a new section for the CTRPCV e-newsletter where members share a special place for unwinding in the world. The location may be in Connecticut or anywhere away from home. Please send a short description (100 words) to the [e-newsletter](#)

[editor](#) with the name of place, location, cost for the rental, amenities, local places of interest and restaurants, transportation, contact information, and other details.

**Toby's Resort, Montego Bay, Jamaica**  
**Recommended by David Stoloff – [stolofffamily@yahoo.com](mailto:stolofffamily@yahoo.com)**

“Toby's Resort is located approximately a mile from the Donald Sangster International Airport in Montego Bay. The hotel is at the beginning of the “Hip Strip”, at the corner of Kent Avenue and Sunset Boulevard. The Doctor's Cave and Cornwall Beach are just a few minutes stroll away, with the ever-popular Margueritaville and Coral Cliff just about ten minutes walk away. Duty free and local shopping just half a block away. Activities, such as, tennis courts, golf, horseback riding and water sports nearby.”

**Mailing Address**

1 Kent Avenue, Po Box 467, Montego Bay, Jamaica

USA Toll Free: 1-888-790-5264

Phone: 876-952-4370 & 952-6636

Fax: 876-952-6591

Email: [reservations@tobyresorts.com](mailto:reservations@tobyresorts.com) WWW: <http://tobyresorts.com/>

I have spent two one-week visits to Toby's Resort, leading global field experiences for Eastern Connecticut State University students in Jamaican schools. During Spring break 2012, our group of 20 spent the week of March 17-24, 2012 at Toby's – breakfasts each morning, before we went to visit schools, and dinners on the first and last evening and spent about \$360 per person for the 7 nights.



Toby's Resort is a good base for visiting the north coast of Jamaica – beaches in Negril and Dunn River Falls and a great restaurant at an restored plantation in Ocho Rios, the Ruins at the Falls. If you go, please send Professor David's regards to Shane, the third-generation Chinese-Jamaican owner and captain of the Jamaican National Polo Team, Ms. Allicin, the front desk manager, and Andrew Burke, the

manager of Good Eats, the resort's restaurant. There are two pools, easy access to the Hip Strip and public and private beaches, and a good security staff. [back to beginning](#)

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### **An International Game**

Visit the Peace Corps Challenge Online Game –  
<http://www.peacecorps.gov/kids/>

suggested by David Stoloff – [stolofffamily@yahoo.com](mailto:stolofffamily@yahoo.com)

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### **Share a story and photos from your Peace Corps experience!**

Peace Corps invites current and returned Volunteers and Staff to share a story and photos from your Peace Corps service or employment. Help us reach our goal of collecting stories and photos from each country where Peace Corps has served, and from each decade of Peace Corps history.

#### **Volunteers**

[Contribute a Volunteer Story](#)

[Contribute a Volunteer Photo](#)

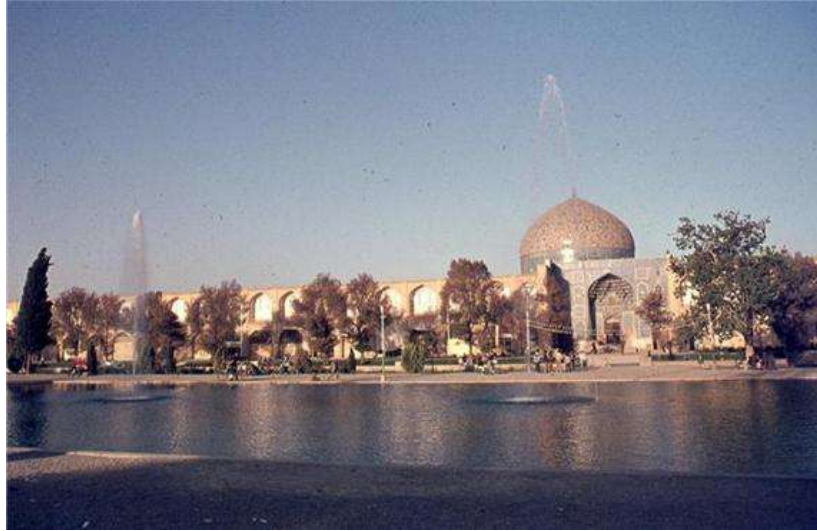
#### **Staff**

[Contribute a Staff Story](#)

[Contribute a Staff Photo](#)

If you are not a Volunteer or Staff but would like to submit material to the Digital Library, please contact us at [digital@peacecorps.gov](mailto:digital@peacecorps.gov).

For more information on what the digital library is and is not, download [Using the Peace Corps Digital Library](#): a guide for the Peace Corps community (PDF).



**Send me your news and announcements for the next E-news! [MaureenShanley@hotmail.com](mailto:MaureenShanley@hotmail.com).**

**Have you paid your dues??? Do you have a new email address??? [Click here to join or pay your membership fees!](#)**