



Connecticut RPCV E-News

August 2012 Maureen Shanley, Chapter President, MaureenShanley@hotmail.com

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This issue is found at <http://www.ctrpcv.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/CTRPCV0812.pdf>

In This Issue:

CTRPCV call for officers

**Annual Summer Picnic
Hammonasset Beach, Madison, Saturday, August 25**

PEACE CORPS PLAYGROUP for KIDS

Media recommendation – A Good Man

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

August 25	Sat.	12 Noon – 3 PM	Annual Summer Picnic-Hammonasset Beach, Madison
September 10	Mon	Details to follow.	PC Recruiting Event in Hartford
September 22	Sat	Arranged through The National Peace Corps Association Social Network	Global House Party – Would you like to host a party?
September 29	Sat.	2 – 5 pm 5 - 8:30 pm	Board Meeting. & 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](#)

CTRPCV Picnic at the Beach!!

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

Other links of interest :

[Peace Corps Online](#)

[The Independent News](#)

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

What: Potluck style picnic at the beach

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

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

September 10 - PC recruiting event in Hartford. Details later.

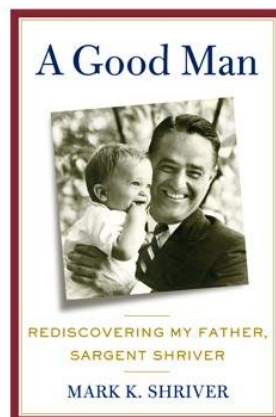
Global House Party on September 22, 2012 [read more](#)

There will be a CTRPCV Board meeting at the CT Forest and Parks Bldg. on September 29 from 2 PM - 5 PM.

The Annual Potluck General Meeting will be at the CT Forest and Parks Bldg. on September 29 from 5 PM - 8:30 PM.

More news in the September newsletter.

Media recommendation by Maureen Shanley



[Read more](#)

*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.*

A thank you note from Margo, Peace Corps Volunteer, Angaur Island, Palau, email: margo@palaunet.com to BookAid@aol.com and President Shanley [read more](#)

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**

Rain or shine 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 25th 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 for more information on these passes.

If you have any questions about the picnic, please call Maureen Shanley before the event at (203)775-9222; this is her preferred phone number. On the day of picnic please call her cell phone (203)788-0163 for last minute questions. We hope to see you there!

[back to beginning](#)

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

[back to beginning](#)

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 NAME!

As a Board we only meet 2 or 3 times a year. So there are opportunities waiting with YOUR 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.

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=001uV3jncU8bYlmJuymyiUig>.)
- 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

[back to beginning](#)

Global House Party on September 22, 2012

How often do you get asked to put on your volunteer cap to simply have a good time? Would you like to host a party?

Now, the National Peace Corps Association is asking you to do just that!

We need 250 Volunteers to host a Global House Party on September 22, 2012.

Will you serve by hosting?

This won't be just any party. It will be a time to celebrate and commemorate the Peace Corps Act which was signed on September 22, 1961. Did Peace Corps impact your life? For better or worse, service has probably changed you. Now is your chance to share the Peace Corps experience with your current (and future!) friends and neighbors.

It's easy - just sign up to host your party now.

We've created a handy toolkit to give you some ideas for hosting your party. But, in true Peace Corps style, the food, music, location, and other logistics are really up to you!

After the parties, we'll collect the names of all attendees to show what happens when the Peace Corps Community acts together. PLUS, this will be a great time to move forward with the National Peace Corps Association's Find the 250k campaign.

If you haven't heard yet, we are looking for EVERY volunteer and staff member of the Peace Corps. Why? Because we believe that together, the Peace Corps Voice is stronger for advocacy, cultural understanding, and service. Each volunteer is important. So far, we have found 87,178 of the people who will serve by 2016. That's why we need your help.

We are asking every Global House Party attendee to give \$10 to the Find the 250k fund. This way, we can ensure a lasting legacy for Peace Corps.

You can even donate now! As a nonprofit organization, we really need your monetary help at this critical time to ensure that we keep the Peace Corps flame alive and help you to stay connected to other Peace Corps Volunteers.

THANK YOU!

Visit The National Peace Corps Association Social Network at:

http://community.peacecorpsconnect.org/?xg_source=msg_mes_network

[back to beginning](#)

A thank you note from Margo, Peace Corps Volunteer, Angaur Island, Palau, email: margo@palaunet.com to BookAid@aol.com and President Shanley:

Dear Peggy,

Thank you for the four boxes of books you sent back in January! The books arrived in Palau, and were sent to the Peace Corps office, some time in March, according to one of the other Volunteers who was in the office. Unfortunately, at that time we were between local staff support members, so I'm not sure when exactly the boxes reached Palau. The books were stored at the Peace Corps office until Ministry of

Education got involved, and the books arrived here on Angaur Island at the end of April. Thank You!



I've attached three photos. The first is of the Third to Fifth Graders with their favorite selections. The second is of the recently combined Seventh and Eighth Grade English class with "The Pearl" (yes, nine boys and one girl, all cousins!).



The Third to Fifth Graders' hands-down favorite was "Puss in Boots", perhaps because of its "adorable" small size, or perhaps because they were already familiar with the story from cartoons.

Ironically, you sent 6 copies of "The Pearl" in a previous shipment and I passed them along to a Peace Corps Volunteer here in Palau, teaching high school. She said that her students *loved* "The Pearl", which I thought would be too difficult, but had already sent her copies on to *another* PCV, who teaches at Palau High School. As you see, we now have copies ourselves again since you sent them in this shipment, and I'm encouraged to try it myself next year! Thank you!

Also in that previous shipment were three copies of "Call It Courage", a coming-of-age story about a Polynesian island boy. The then 3-member Seventh Grade class loved this book, and through Peace Corps Family and Friends we received enough copies for the larger Eighth Grade class to read it as well. Thank you for this wonderful book! The students were split between which they preferred, "Call of the Wild" or "Call it Courage". It was wonderful to be able to read both excellent books as a whole class. We celebrated with movie night, watching a DVD of

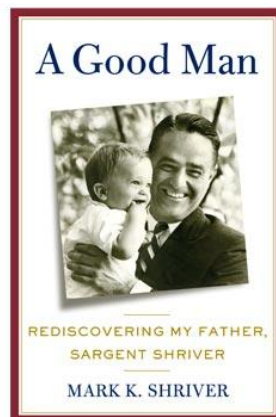
Charlton Heston in the Disney version. The book was better, of course!

The last photo is of me with the graduating Eighth Grade class. The graduates must leave Angaur Island next school year to live with relatives 4 hours away by boat and attend the only public high school in Palau. We'll miss them. Thank you for sharing your books with us this year! Margo, Peace Corps Volunteer, Angaur Island, Palau, email: margo@palaunet.com



[back to beginning](#)

Media recommendation by Maureen Shanley



"A Tribute to Sargent Shriver

After a lifetime of searching for the path to his father's success in the public arena, Mark instead turns to a search for the secret of his father's joy his devotion to others, and his sense of purpose. He discovers notes and letters from Sarge; hears personal stories from friends and family that zero in on the three guiding principles of Sarge's life-faith, hope, and love-and recounts moments with Sarge that now take on new value and poignancy. In the process, Mark discovers much about himself, as a father, as a husband, and as

a social justice advocate. *A Good Man* is an inspirational and deeply personal story about a son discovering the true meaning of his father's legacy.” from <http://www.sargentshriver.org/>

[back to beginning](#)



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.

[back to beginning](#)

An International Game

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

suggested by David Stoloff – stolofffamily@yahoo.com



From <http://www.peacecorps.gov/engage>

Peace Corps Partnership Program

Support a PCPP project for International Youth Day

Did you know August 12 was designated by the United Nations as International Youth Day? This year's theme is "Building a Better World: Partnering with Youth." Many Partnership Program projects support this theme through Volunteers' work with youth in their communities. Check out the **Village Basketball Court** project in Micronesia, working to create a safe space for local youth to play team activities. Another project, **Hello World! We Exist, Too!**, is a summer camp in Azerbaijan for children with disabilities and their parents. New projects are uploaded daily. Visit our site often to support the innovative work Volunteers are doing with youth in their communities.



[back to beginning](#)



Send me your news and announcements for the next E-news! MaureenShanley@hotmail.com.

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