



Connecticut RPCV E-News

President: Terese Maineri-tmaineri@yahoo.com

June 2015 David Stoloff, eNewsletter editor, stoloffd@easternct.edu

For the latest CTRPCV e-news with all the formatting, click - <http://www.ctrpcv.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/CTRPCV0615.pdf>

Connecticut Returned Peace Corps Volunteers on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/37593849149/> - we have over 100 members on our Facebook website.

All membership, donation, activity announcements, Peace Corps stories, and correspondence may also be sent to **CTRPCV, P.O. Box 1803, Hartford, CT 06144.**

Some Upcoming CTRPCV Events:

June 5-6, 2015	Peace Corps Connect – Berkeley, CA
SATURDAY June 27, 9:30 am – 12 noon	Hole in the Wall Gang Camp Volunteer Work Project Saturday, June 27th in Ashford, CT

Saturday, July 4	Join in a 4 th of July parade in Madison, CT or Willimantic, CT
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July 4th parades

Hello CT RPCV! CT RPCV would like members march in the Madison, CT 4th of July Parade (Saturday, July 4, 2015 at 11 AM). CT RPCV will need at least 10 to 15 participants to represent the association and the countries in which CT RPCVs served.

Members can carry the flag and/or dress in an outfit that represents their country of service. Please message Terese Maineri, CT RPCV President at tmaineri@yahoo.com if you are interested. At least 10 RPCVs are needed to register to march in the parade, please notify Terese Maineri if you are interested before, June 19, 2015.

OR

If you might be interested in marching in Willimantic's boom box July 4th parade, please contact David Stoloff at stoloffdavid@yahoo.com , who will organize a CTRPCV group marching in Eastern Connecticut.



Hole in the Wall Gang Camp

Volunteer Work Project

Saturday, June 27th in Ashford, CT

On June 27th, 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 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 day after our work project. This is truly a rewarding project and will be 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 please call or email Lois Fucci, 203-239-0169, lafj@att.net.

WHEN: June 27th, Saturday WHERE: Hole In the Wall Camp, Ashford. CT

TIME; 9:30 am - 12:00 noon.

**Do you have another Event
or a Community Service Project
that may be of interest to CTRPCVs?**

Please email David Stoloff [eNewsletter editor, stoloffd@easternct.edu] to let him know about your project.

Meet and Greet Fellow RPCVs

- Create a NIGHT OUT with CTRPCVs that can be as simple as “Lets meet at [your favorite bar or restaurant].
- Host a POTLUCK DINNER and get to know more CTRPCVs.

Are you involved in a Community Service Project that could use some helping hands?

Let David Stoloff (stoloffd@easternct.edu) know and we can let other CTRPCV members know the details.

Host Country Heroes: Who do you wish Americans knew from your Peace Corps country
Submit a 2 min video and share the people and culture of your Peace Corps country with Americans through your own hero’s story.
Check out the link! <http://www.peacecorps.gov/resources/returned/thirdgoal/pcweek/videochallenge/>



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

Save the date for the 2015 Group Leaders Forum - June 7

The Group Leaders Forum (GLF) facilitates communication between and among the NPCA's 148 member groups - all of you! - for the sharing of resources and best practices to enable you to thrive. Thank you to those many group leaders who provided their input as to the timing of this year's meeting around Peace Corps Connect - Berkeley, June 5-6. **Based on that input, the 2015 GLF is scheduled for Sunday morning, June 7 from 9 am to 12 noon.** Please put that on your calendar and plan to participate for the whole

weekend! More details to follow.

Note that the NPCA Board of Directors meeting will follow that afternoon from 1 pm to 5 pm. You are welcome to attend that as well.

"The Purpose-Driven Group" Capacity-Building Series

Thank you to the many who participated in the second of our "Purpose-Driven Group Capacity-Building Series" this past Tuesday. Lots of great work by participants to share with you all and to spur you on. We're working as fast as we can to finalize the notes to post to our website. (As much of the session involved brainstorming in small groups and via online chat, we kept the phone line silent for long periods and did not record the session.)

Learn more about the series on our [website here](http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/resources/member-groups/information-for-member-groups/#purpose) - <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/resources/member-groups/information-for-member-groups/#purpose>. Notes from Session Two will be posted as soon as they are finalized.

2015 Member Group Renewal

We are now heading into the final stretch for the 2015 annual Member Group Renewals. Thank you to all of those groups who have renewed!

We have been in touch with all groups by email either to confirm that your renewal is complete or with a gentle reminder that it is still pending. If you have not received any notification from us, please check in with us right away at email: <mailto:groups@peacecorpsconnect.org>

If your group renewal is still pending, please submit that by the end of this month. **The annual renewal process closes April 30.** [Learn more and renew here - http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/resources/member-groups/information-for-member-groups/#renewal](http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/resources/member-groups/information-for-member-groups/#renewal).

Reminders

In each of these messages, I include a list of reminders from past emails. Be sure to take a quick look at the reminders list at the bottom to see if your group needs to follow-up/respond to anything there as well. Thank you for all you do for and with the Peace Corps community!

Best regards,

Anne Baker
Vice President

This email goes to all current member group board members. If you are no longer on a member group board, simply reply and let me know.

Reminders:

- Join our [Group Leaders Forum Facebook group](https://www.facebook.com/groups/NPCAGroupLeaders/) - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/NPCAGroupLeaders/>
- Join our Group Leaders Forum on the [NPCA Community Builder](http://community.peacecorpsconnect.org/main/authorization/signIn?target=http%3A%2F%2Fcommunity.peacecorpsconnect.org%2Fgroup%2Fgroupleadersforum) - <http://community.peacecorpsconnect.org/main/authorization/signIn?target=http%3A%2F%2Fcommunity.peacecorpsconnect.org%2Fgroup%2Fgroupleadersforum>
- [Submit your contact information](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Qp3-ZJ9oA3a7CzY1ENzUuMQzagETQ2Hg-anXBdVfzIM/viewform) - <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Qp3-ZJ9oA3a7CzY1ENzUuMQzagETQ2Hg-anXBdVfzIM/viewform> for our member group [Google map](#)
- [Designate your preferences](#) for membership options and dues

Group Admins: The list of members joining your group in March is available in the database. [Log in here](#).

Best regards,
Anne Baker
Vice President

Peace Corps Update



See the latest news at <http://www.mailoutinteractive.com/Industry/View.aspx?id=672528&q=856239268&qz=b53dcf>

<http://www.mailoutinteractive.com/Industry/View.aspx?id=671055&q=853767466&qz=ce5fdf>

<http://www.peacecorps.gov/resources/returned/home/>

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www.peacecorps.gov/thirdgoal

Peace Corps Office of Third Goal and Returned Volunteer Services
1111 20th St NW
Washington, DC 20526



We're writing to thank the more than 800 RPCVs and PCVs who showed their host country pride and participated in the first-ever Peace Corps Poetry Contest. We've wrapped up the judging and the results are in—Nepal, Peru, Nicaragua, and The Gambia took the top spots on the poetry charts!

RPCV category

- **Winner:**
 - Megan Gannon, The Gambia, 1998-2000
 - Poem: "Handwriting"
- **Runner-Up:**
 - Samantha Austin, Nicaragua, 2010-2012
 - Poem: "Nicaraguita"

PCV Category

- **Winner:**
 - Rebecca Hamilton, Nepal, 2015-2017
 - Poem: "Days Like These"
- **Runner-Up:**
 - Nate Zeff, Peru, 2013-2015
 - Poem: "A Blur"

Read their submissions [here](#).

Handwriting

By Megan Gannon

For Awa and Ansel Saine

I'm watching the world
erase the shadows it's spent
the whole day drawing, you
stacking sticks in strict
patterns, blowing through a conch
of fingers, coaxing smoke.
I pour rice in this
sift-bottom basket, comb
for mites, for grain
dark in its husk. Lines
of laundry criss-cross
the compound, rows of onion
tufts mark the garden
you spent the dry season
watering. I'm learning
how hands train to a task:
precise beak of fingers
cocked to constant gauge, picking
a lice-sized pile; wide clasp
of hand for driving a pestle
down in the mouth of a pounder;
coil of fingers for pulling
up rope from deep wells.
How many chores line
your grasp like a glove

of muscle? How many days
did it take to forget the pencil-
thin grip only a school-girl
knows? Tomorrow,
when you're practicing
alphabets, when I'm watching
letters untether in a hoop
of loose fingers, pencil gyre
over lines of crabbed characters,
remind me how much of this world
is written in your sure hand.

Last updated May 29 2015

Nicaraguita

By Samantha Austin

Oh Nicaragua, Nicaraguita
That girl at the bar said you have no culture

But I know
Culture is not something can see in colorful cloth or folk dances

But something you taste, like the dust that lines your mouth in April before the
rains start
Like the ash baked into tortillas
And those small strawberries that come down from the mountain once a year

And culture is something you smell
Like the elote blackening in the street
The red and black paint drying on telephone poles

And the trash burning outside

It's something you hear
Like the cars with the speakers tied on top, announcing a funeral
The sound of a plump mango falling from the tree
And every adios as you walk by

It's something you feel
Like the warm hand of a stranger, inviting you in
The bumps on the road, as you pass by the mountains
And the ache of your heart, once you've left

Last updated May 29 2015

Days Like These

By Rebecca Hamilton

On days like these
when all I want
is to curl up
under the drooping mosquito net
to lose myself in fantasies
of ice cubes and sharp cheddar
I go for a walk.

I pass a woman bent
under the weight of a load
twice her size
her breath rises

in clean, white puffs
like the kitchen smoke that
lies low over the valley.

A man chants
I smell wisps of incense
morning gratitude.

The sun finally reaches
the eastern slope of the Himalayas
their vast snow fields glow
beckoning
stretching their golden arms.

At my house, father squats
before a sputtering fire
his thin, green sweatpants
cling to his knobby knees
chiya?
he hands me a steaming cup
milky, sweet, spicy.

On days like these
a cup of tea
can change my world.

Last updated May 29 2015

By Nate Zeff

At first, I thought it might be
like watching a clock face,
smooth and metered, the way

days passed and people lived,
as if set neatly behind glass.

But when I stepped off the bus
the blur of life overtook everything,
and I found myself crash-landing
in a series of day-long flashes,
hitting the lush, mountain grass
running, among people playing out
lives so strange to me... kids flying
into the house next door, where
shopkeepers kept the best selection
of caramelos*, past la policia* who
leaned against doorframes, all
half-smiles and smirks keeping a
watchful eye, the nurses bustling
in and out of the health post, their
clipboards and coolers of vaccines

for the niños*, the señoras* sitting
outside our municipal building,
avocados and choclos* and
tomatoes and onions spread out
on thick, blue blankets, 20 cents each.

How the tidy picture I'd drawn
in my mind fell to pieces, when the
clock back opened and the gears
tumbled out, when I let go and
leaned in – to the crowd of my
neighbors and the vibrant, wild
life around me – into all the new
electricity of tomorrow.

- *caramelos: candies
- *la policia: the policewoman
- *niños: kids
- *señoras: women
- *choclos: Peruvian corn

Thanks again to all who participated in the competition. Based on the unprecedented number of submissions and resounding positive feedback, we will continue to spotlight poetry as a valuable Third Goal medium.

Best,

The Third Goal Team

thirdgoal@peacecorps.gov



We are honored to welcome Congressman John Garamendi and

Congressman Sam Farr to Peace Corps Connect – Berkeley this June 5-6, 2015. [Register today to participate!](http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/annual-gathering/berkeley-2015/registration/) -
<http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/annual-gathering/berkeley-2015/registration/>

From rural Ethiopia to the United States Capitol, the Peace Corps has profoundly impacted Congressman Garamendi's life and work: he began his career as an Education and Community Development Volunteer in Ethiopia before beginning an extensive career in public service, including service as California's 46th Lieutenant Governor.

Congressman Farr, who has made multiple return trips to Colombia and is known as "Mr. Peace Corps" by his colleagues, can attest to what we all know to be true: that the Peace Corps experience is life-changing and long-lasting. "Peace Corps helps promote global acceptance of the principles of international peace and non-violent co-existence among people of diverse cultures and systems of government."

We look forward to hearing more from these accomplished RPCVs--who proudly represent the Peace Corps community on Capitol Hill--about how Peace Corps shaped their paths to public service.

[Register today for Peace Corps Connect – Berkeley -](http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/annual-gathering/berkeley-2015/registration/)
<http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/annual-gathering/berkeley-2015/registration/>

Peace Corps Connect - Berkeley is sponsored by:

[Stanford SEED](#)

Dear NPCA Member,

[Renew your NPCA membership today](https://secure.peacecorpsconnect.org/npcassa/ssaauthmain.login_page) - https://secure.peacecorpsconnect.org/npcassa/ssaauthmain.login_page - and remain connected to a talented network. Our community is full of inspiring individuals, like the RPCV who [donated a kidney](#) to a stranger she had never met and knew nothing about, other than that he also happened to be an RPCV. Or the RPCV who was asked to introduce First Lady Michelle Obama at the launch of the [Let Girls Learn](#) initiative for her work with the women's collective Bosh Bosh. Or the RPCVs who opened a [barbecue restaurant in Moldova](#) and documented their experience online to inspire others in their local community to take the leap toward starting their own businesses.

These are just a few of the many members who make up our vibrant community, members who—like you—are an integral part of the Peace Corps community. [Renew your NPCA membership today](#). Be inspired by the stories of your fellow RPCVs and use our platforms to share your own.

The NPCA is here to champion you in a life of service. As a member, you are eligible for **grants** to support your Third Goad activities, have exclusive access to **scholarships** to elite graduate programs, are presented with opportunities to **travel** alongside fellow RPCVs, and so much more. There is no better way to stay engaged with our community.

[Please renew your membership today](https://secure.peacecorpsconnect.org/npcassa/ssaauthmain.login_page) - https://secure.peacecorpsconnect.org/npcassa/ssaauthmain.login_page - and let us champion you in your lifelong commitment to service.

Best wishes,

Glenn Blumhorst
Guatemala 1988-1991
NPCA President & CEO
www.peacecorpsconnect.org

P.S. After you renew your membership, register for [Peace Corps Connect - Berkeley](#) and join us for the annual gathering of the Peace Corps community! NPCA members receive a special discount.

An opportunity from [Hesperian Health Guides](#)

Peace Corps Volunteers and RPCVs tell wonderful stories about how [Where There Is No Doctor](#) and other Hesperian books have helped them handle emergencies, promote health, help their host families, or care for their own health during their time in the Peace Corps. Whether *Where There Is No Doctor* was your go-to health reference or just your bedtime reading, every story you share helps us develop books and resources that better meet the needs of Peace Corps host communities and Volunteers.

[Send us](#) your story about using Hesperian books during your time in the Peace Corps, and be entered to win a Hesperian library for your host community. Humor, heroism, hysteria, hypochondria - we want to hear it!

Include in your submission the name of the country, region and village where you worked and how you used *Where There Is No Doctor* or other Hesperian book. You'll get bonus points if you include a photo or video.

The three Peace Corps Volunteers or RPCVs who submit the best stories will win a complete library of Hesperian publications, to be designated to their host community.

So write a few paragraphs and send them to us. Your participation will help extend the impact of these books and Peace Corps Volunteers for a new generation. Send your story to Lizzie LaCroix at rpcv@hesperian.org.

Please help us spread the word to other RPCVs! Share this email and join "[Friends of Where There Is No Doctor](#)" on Facebook to stay connected with other RPCVs dedicated to global community health issues.

[Hesperian Health Guides](#) is a small nonprofit organization and depends on your support to keep our books updated and translated. Please consider [purchasing](#) a book or making a [donation](#) today.



Peace Corps Response 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 our website (<http://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/response/>) or send an email to pcresponse@peacecorps.gov to schedule an informational interview with a recruiter.

CTRPCV needs more PAID MEMBERS

You are one of over 400 returned Peace Corps volunteers and/or friends of the Peace Corps who are receiving this e-newsletter. The Connecticut RPCV has about 85 dues paying members.

If you are interested in participating in the above CTRPCV events, please also consider joining our group. [Please click here to join and/or pay your annual membership fees!](#)

Please also consider joining the [Connecticut Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Facebook group](#) at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/37593849149/>.

Help Wanted at CTRPCV:

- **FILLED>>>** We need a **SECRETARY** to take notes at our board meetings that occur 3 to 4 times a year.
- **FILLED>>>** We need someone who will be our **CALENDER poster** who will update our CTRPCV calendar, post our events on the NPCA website, and just get our info about events “out there”.
- **Connect RPCVs with requests for speakers.** We get about 3- 6 requests a year.
- **Fundraiser-** we need to think of ways to replenish the funds for our CTRPCV Community Service Fund. We can think big& small... all ideas are welcome.
- **Restaurant/Potluck/Friday Night Out... Coordinator...**

Basically someone who is interested in hosting one of these events contacts you and you share “The Plan” that CTRPCV has developed to help them organize their event.

JOBS ARE BEING FILLED ☺

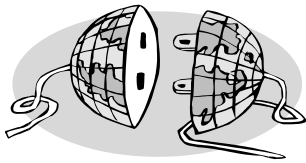
- **Jonathan Rosario** is connecting CTRPCV members through the social media on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc.
- **Carmen Britton** is our new secretary.
- **Doug Latham** is our member-at-large and he will also assist with the membership.

WHY someone should **join** CTRPCV.

We need to create a list of **benefits** when one is a member of CTRPCV or a few reasons why we should be members of 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 or 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 a newbie 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.**



STAY CONNECTED!!!!

Volunteer opportunities

The International Institute of Connecticut 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.

If this is something you believe your members may enjoy, please feel free to pass on our the attached flyers and e-mail me for more information. I would also be pleased to come speak with your group. We would love to have your help. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mattea Heller

Volunteer

International Institute of Connecticut

Bridgeport, Connecticut

<http://iiconn.org/>

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

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

Addressing Critical Needs Around the Globe

Peace Corps Response provides qualified professionals the opportunity to serve in rewarding, short-term assignments, in various programs around the world. When you serve as a Peace Corps Response Volunteer, you bring your skills and experience to projects in places where you are needed most.

Search for positions, apply, or modify an existing application here:

Search ♦ Apply ♦ Update

See the latest resources at <http://www.peacecorps.gov/resources/returned/home/>

Other Upcoming events

of potential interest:

These are events that involve fellow RPCVs...
we'd like to let you know about them...

**(Please send David – stoloffd@easternct.edu info about an event
that you want to publicize!!!)**

Send us your news and announcements for the next E-news! MaureenShanley@hotmail.com or stoloffd@easternct.edu

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