

Connecticut RPCV E-News

President: Terese Maineri-tmaineri@yahoo.com

July 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/2015/07/CTRPCV0715.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:

Saturday, July 4	CTRPCV participation in 4 th of July parade in Madison, CT has been postponed until July 4 th , 2016. We will try again next year, due to low commitment from people busy celebrating in other ways.
Sunday, July 12, 2015	CTRPCV Board meeting - scheduled for Sunday, July 12, 2015 starting at 1PM at the CT Forest and Park meeting space in Rockfall, CT, see http://ctwoodlands.org/about-us/contact-visit-cfpa . Members who would like to serve on the CTRPCV Board are invited to attend.

Saturday – Sunday, July 11 – 12	Peace Corps at the Green River Festival - Greenfield (MA) Community College
Thursday – Friday, July 9 – 10. 2015	Northeast Regional RPCV Career Conference & United Nations Career Day and other events posted by Shannonigans McBride
Saturday, August 8, 2015 from 1 PM to 5 PM	Annual CT RPCV picnic,
	Rockwell Park Jacob Street and Dutton Avenue, Bristol, CT

July 4th parades

ATTENTION RE 4TH OF JULY PARADE. we have received only 8 responses that have said they would be able to participate in the Madison 4th of July parade Saturday. We think this is too few people. It doesn't serve the cause to have people thinking the Peace Corps is fizzling out. We need to have 20 or 30 people. Therefore we are calling it off. We will drop the parade this year. So let's talk it up for next year,

We have a problem in contacting people other than this Facebook page. We started this idea a little too late, and we don't have very many email addresses, which makes contacting people really tough. So for those of you who wanted to participate, we'll do it next year. Help talk it up.

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.

A message from CTRPCV President Terese - mailto:tmaineri@yahoo.com

"CTRPCV board members and others interested in being more active in our organization:

We have only one date that might work available at the CT Forest and Park. The date is **Sunday**, **July 12**, **2015 from 1 PM to 5 PM**. I am hoping we can all meet and work on finalizing plans for the annual picnic, hold elections and discuss membership. I will bring something to snack on and hope to keep the meeting to a 2.5 hour limit. Please let me know if this time and date works for you by Friday, July 4, 2015.

Thanks,
Terese Maineri
CT RPCV Guatemala"

For directions to the CT Forest and Park meeting space in Rockfall, CT, see

http://ctwoodlands.org/about-us/contact-visit-cfpa

Connecticut Forest & Park Association (CFPA) 16 Meriden Road Rockfall, CT 06481-2372 (860) 346-TREE info@ctwoodlands.org

Annual CT RPCV picnic will be August 8, 2015 from 1 PM to 5 PM

The annual CT RPCV picnic will be August 8, 2015 from 1 PM to 5 PM at Rockwell Park Jacob Street and Dutton Avenue Bristol, CT. CT RPCV will be in the Rockwell Park Shelter. Bring food grill, a dish and beverages to share. Remember to also bring a

lottery item for the CT RPCV raffle. The CT RPCV raises money for CT RPCV community service project that support CT Peace Corps Volunteers' projects in the field. Rockwell Park has volleyball courts, a splash pad for children, and baseball fields; come ready to play and enjoy the company of other CT RPCVs.

Park Details

Rockwell Park was given by Albert and Nettie Rockwell in 1911. Entrances to the park can be found off Jacob Street, Dutton Avenue, and Terryville Road. Amenities include:

- Basketball court
- Hiking trails
- Learn-to-swim pool
- Lighted volleyball courts
- Picnic areas

- Regular playground
- Skate Park
- Splash pad
- Toddler playground

Skate Park Use

- Bikes are allowed on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from dawn to dusk on the skate plaza only.
- Bikes should not have steel pegs. Alternatives allowed will be aluminum, plastic, or peg-less.
- No bikes are allowed in the bowl portion of the park at any time.
- Skateboarders are only allowed on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday from dawn to dusk.
- The bowl is open seven days a week from dawn to dusk for skateboarders only.

Please message Terese Maineri, CT RPCV President at tmaineri@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

Invitations from Western Mass RPCVs - Matt Vaughan, RPCV (Paraguay, 2011-2013),

Email - Matt Vaughan mattjohnvaughan@gmail.com

Peace Corps at the Green River Festival

Kate Schedel, our regional PC recruiter, has signed up to table at the Green River Festival at Greenfield Community College on July 11 and 12. She is looking for one volunteer each day to help out. Please email Kate at kschedel@peacecorps.gov if this is something you are interested in doing.

You can check out more details here: http://www.greenriverfestival.com/.

-
Matt Vaughan

RPCV (Paraguay, 2011-2013)

http://www.linkedin.com/in/mattjohnvaughan"

Shannonigans McBride invites you to

 $\underline{\text{Northeast Regional RPCV Career Conference \& United Nations Career Day}}\text{, July 9-10, 2015, New York City}$

(https://www.facebook.com/events/963660730335076/)

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/

Affiliate Group Network (AGN) Advisory Committee

We're looking for a few good volunteers. Per the bylaws and as Maricarmen reviewed at the Annual Meeting in Berkeley, your Affiliate Group Network is recruiting for the AGN Advisory Committee. Besides fulfilling the responsibilities in the bylaws, this committee will help advise NPCA staff and Board of Directors on needs, directions, and ideas for affiliate groups. The committee will meet regularly by teleconference. Interested? Contact Maricarmen Smith-Martinez at NPCAGLF@peacecorpsconnect.org (the old NPCAGLF@peacecorpsconnect.org will still get to her, too). (Many thanks to those who already expressed interest in Berkeley!)

NPCA Film Series with Gathr

We would like to spotlight a new NPCA initiative, an NPCA Film Series, and strongly encourage you and your local RPCV community to get involved. This Fall we will be launching a monthly, international film series in theaters across the country, promoting the Third Goal and providing exciting events at which RPCVs can share your Peace Corps experience with friends and neighbors. The series can **come to your local theater at no cost to your group**. We simply need you to help spread the word! Our partner on this initiative, Gathr Films, will handle all of the hassle involved in organizing these screenings: from booking the theater, ticketing, customer support, emailing attendees, and making sure the film is prepped and ready at the theater for each screening. If you are interested, your group can take more of an active role in the series. For example, your group can fundraise at the screening, coordinate speakers, host post-screening discussions, or promote other Affiliate Group events (to name a few).

All we ask is for you to tell your members about this opportunity and direct them to http://gathr.us/films/npca in order to sign up for the series. We need your assistance because in order to bring the series to your city – at least 70 people must sign up. With the support of your groups and their networks of friends and families, we can bring the NPCA Film Series to cities across the country.

The NPCA film series will serve as a vehicle for promoting the *Third Goal*, bringing broader cultural awareness to local communities through international film and also as a vessel through which RPCVs can share their Peace Corps experiences. This series serves a larger NPCA goal: help RPCVs create connections in local communities so that they may impact others with their stories. The NPCA film series will also send monthly emails to attendees about that month's film, its country of origin, and current or past Peace Corps involvement in that country, truly building a local community that is engaged with world issues and initiatives.

The first step is to spread the word and encourage people to sign up:

- 1. Share this link: http://gathr.us/films/npca and encourage people to sign up by clicking "Notify Me"
- 2. Discuss the series with your Affiliate Group
- 3. Email the link to friends and family, share in Facebook and LinkedIn groups, and post on Facebook and Twitter!

We have attached a sheet of sample social media posts to help get you started.

We are happy to answer any questions and are excited to have an opportunity to bring exciting, international programming to your town. Read more at http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/2015/06/npca-and-gathr-films/.

Tip of the Week

Is this email getting to the right people? We send these updates to all current board members for affiliate groups as noted in our database. As your officers or contact people change, please let us know, too! Have your group administrator (that's your board member designated with access to our database) log in here and go to "affiliate group administration," where you'll find "affiliate group leadership" as one of the options. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact us at any time at groups@peacecorpsconnect.org.

Vacation time!

I'm heading out on vacation after today, returning on July 9. As always, if you need anything, please email groups@peacecorpsconnect.org. That email actually goes to me, Kate Schwanhausser, Michael Blumhorst and Cameron Pulley (the latter our steller interns!). One of us will get back to you as soon as we can. Thanks for your patience as we prepped for Peace Corps Connect - Berkeley. If we missed responding to you, our apologies! We are still working to catch up, so be patient, or feel free to forward your message again, so that it is at the top of our inboxes!

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 affiliate group board members. If you are no longer on an affiliate group board, simply reply and let me know.

Reminders:

 August 1 Deadline: Submit your application for an <u>Education Small Grant</u> http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/resources/education/

- Join our <u>Affiliate Group Network Facebook group</u> https://www.facebook.com/groups/NPCAGroupLeaders/
- Join our Affliate Group Network on the <u>NPCA Community Builder</u> http://community.peacecorpsconnect.org%2Fgroup%2Fgroupleadersforum
- <u>Submit your contact information</u> for our affiliate group <u>Google map</u> -<u>https://docs.google.com/a/cecact.org/forms/d/1Qp3-ZJ9oA3a7CzY1ENzUuMQzagETQ2Hg-anXBdVfzIM/viewform</u>
- <u>Designate your preferences</u> -https://docs.google.com/a/cecact.org/forms/d/1h84pOFJM8h1ABil7neXesOTdtdwU4Tk_ce-gURcrcDs/viewform for membership options and dues

Group Admins: The list of members joining your group in May is available in the database. Log in here.



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

PCV Category

• Winner:

- o Rebecca Hamilton, Nepal, 2015-2017
- Poem: "Days Like These"

• Runner-Up:

- o Nate Zeff, Peru, 2013-2015
- o 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 pencilthin 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 whisps 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

Dear NPCA Member,

Renew your NPCA membership today - 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.

<u>Please renew your membership today</u> - <u>https://secure.peacecorpsconnect.org/npcassa/ssaauthmain.login_page</u> - 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 <u>Peace Corps Connect - Berkeley</u> 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 <u>Where There Is No Doctor</u> 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.

<u>Send us</u> 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.

<u>Hesperian Health Guides</u> is a small nonprofit organization and depends on your support to keep our books updated and translated. Please consider <u>purchasing</u> a book or making a <u>donation</u> 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 enewsletter. 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. <u>Please click here to join and/or pay your annual membership fees!</u>

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 Corpss.
- 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:

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

Other Upcoming eventsof 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@easernct.edu

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