

CONNECTICUT RPCV

Newsletter—July 2016



**Peace
Corps**

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A hill in both the rainy and dry season in the Usulután department of El Salvador. Photo courtesy of William Mabee (El Salvador 2000–2002).



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, July 17, 2016

[WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS
RPCV PICNIC](#)

Saturday, August 20, 2016

[DARIEN BOOK AID PLAN, INC.](#)

Sunday, August 28, 2016

[ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC](#)

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WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS RPCV PICNIC

What: RPCV Picnic- bring a dish to share

When: Sunday, July 17th 4:00pm

Where: Forest Park, 200 Trafton Rd, Springfield, MA 01108

[Here are directions](#)

RSVP: Email Matt Vaughan at mattjohnvaughan@gmail.com

If you can help with the packing of books, please contact Maureen so that she will know who is planning on attending this event. (MaureenShanley@hotmail.com or 203-775-9222)

ADDRESS: 1926 Post Road, Darien, CT 06820

DATE: Saturday, August 20, 2016

TIME: 9 am-1 pm

One year when we were packing books at Danbury Book Aid, a PCV on his way to the airport to return to his PC post in Africa stopped by DBA to thank them for the books they had sent to him and to tell them the difference that these books were making in his village. His visit made us (CTRPCVs) realize that our few hours of packing boxes of books for PCVs IS REALLY IMPORTANT. Perhaps some of you read books that were in the PC library in your country that DBA had sent. Please give a few hours to return the favor and support a PCV who is now serving.

DBA is a non-profit, all volunteer organization dedicated to fostering peace and friendship through the distribution of free books. Approximately 60% of DBA's shipments fulfill requests from current PC Volunteers. DBA needs volunteers to pack boxes, select books to ship, sort books and much more. As Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, you know how much of an impact educational materials can have on a community.

You can also bring books! Frequently requested books include:

- * Children's books - for all ages - preschool to teen levels, fiction and non-fiction
- * Classics - and simplified classics
- * Dictionaries in English, Spanish, French and picture dictionaries
- * Encyclopedias on CD-ROM. Other information on CD-ROM (PC format)
- * English readers and grammar books
- * Crafts & how-to books
- * Health, "Where There is No Doctor" type books
- * Science
- * Agriculture, vegetable gardening, beekeeping, animal husbandry
- * Ecology and environment
- * Books in Spanish or French for native speakers in all subjects
- * Paperback editions of recent novels (mysteries, fiction, etc.)
- * National Geographic - no more than 5 years old
- * Textbooks
- * Textbooks (not older than 10 years) with up-to-date content are accepted.

For more information about Darien Book Aid, you can visit their website at <http://dba.darien.org/>. If you are interested in volunteering individually, you can call 203-655-2777 or email darienbookaid@yahoo.com.

If you attend any of our events, please make sure to take photos to share on our website! You can send photos with a short description to president@ctrpcv.org



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Rockwell Park & Splash Pad Bristol, CT



Annual CTRPCV Picnic

August 28, 2016 from 12 PM to 4 PM

The annual CT RPCV picnic will be August 28, 2016 from 12 PM to 4 PM at Rockwell Park on Jacob Street and Dutton Avenue in Bristol, CT. CTRPCV will be in the Rockwell Park Shelter. Bring food to grill, a dish and beverages to share. Remember to also bring a lottery item for the CTRPCV raffle to benefit our Community Service Fund. The Community Service Fund helps support CT Peace Corps Volunteers' projects in the field.

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

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

If you attend any of our events, please make sure to take photos to share on our website! You can send photos with a short description to president@ctrpcv.org

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Peace Corps Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet to Headline at Peace Corps Connect Conference

Widely acclaimed as one of the Peace Corps' best in its 55-year history, Peace Corps Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet will be joining us as a headline speaker at NPCA's annual conference - Peace Corps Connect - to reflect on her tenure as Director and envision the Peace Corps of the future.

[Register now to receive an early bird discount.](#)

Under her leadership, the Peace Corps has undertaken unprecedented reforms and improvements that have professionalized and modernized the agency. In what may be her last Peace Corps Connect in an official capacity, Director Hessler-Radelet will join NPCA President Glenn Blumhorst for a fireside chat addressing the future of Peace Corps which, in collaboration with NPCA and the community, will continue to play a leading role in the global arena for years to come. [Register today.](#)

Polls Opening Soon for Your NPCA Board Elections

We have an outstanding slate of candidates, so now it's your turn to vote for divisional directors to represent the West; Upper Midwest; The Americas; and West, Central and Southern Africa. NPCA members in these divisions will receive an email with voting instructions when the polls open. Voting continues for 30 days.

The NPCA Board of Directors sets goals and policies and oversees NPCA operations to ensure that they are consistent with the stated vision, mission, goals and 2014-2018 Strategic Plan. The Board seeks candidates who are well-connected within and beyond the Peace Corps community and who can help us bring in new resources, partnerships and expertise, especially in finance, fundraising, partnership development, media/communications, and/or nonprofit law. We value diversity and an affinity for Peace Corps ideals.

[Meet your candidates in the 2016 elections.](#)

[Peace Corps Community News](#)

Next Step Travel to Cuba

Learn about our rapidly-changing neighbor in the Caribbean - Cuba - while connecting with Peace Corps friends old and new on this exclusive NPCA Next Step Travel - Cuba program. **Although the final date to sign up is August 31, 2016, this trip is almost full.** Reserve your spot now.

[Learn more and sign up!](#)

[The Peace Corps Community Directory](#)

NPCA publishes a Peace Corps Community Directory to keep our network connected. It is the most comprehensive resource to date for all those who share the Peace Corps experience. There are only a few days left to place your order!

To reserve your copy, call Publishing Concepts at 1-800-982-1590.

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MISCELLANEOUS



Have an event or community service idea?

Let's make it happen!!

Share your ideas with us and let's make your ideas come to life. We can help spread the word through our social media platforms and the monthly newsletter. Events can be as simple as "Let's meet up at [restaurant name] on [date]".

Email us at president@ctrpcv.org.

CALL FOR PHOTOS!!!

If you have any photos from your service or from any of our past CTRPCV events, and wouldn't mind sharing them with us, please send them to our email address, president@ctrpcv.org. For each photo, please attach a description of the photo's contents and yourself. Please include your name, country and years of service along with who/what is shown in the photo and a caption for the photo.



Peace Corps Response (PCR) provides qualified professionals the opportunity to serve in rewarding, short-term assignments, in various programs around the world. Opportunities are available in all six program areas. If you are interested in learning more about Peace Corps Response, please visit <http://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/response/> or send an email to pcresponse@peacecorps.gov to schedule an informational interview with your local Peace Corps recruiter.

HELP WANTED at CTRPCV!

We have openings for the following positions:

FUNDRAISER: Devises ways to replenish the Community Service Fund. All ideas welcome.

SOCIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR: Hosts/plans restaurant outings, pot-luck dinners, etc.

SOCIAL MEDIA DIRECTOR: Maintains up-to-date information across out social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn).

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**We
Need
Your
Help
Please**

MISCELLANEOUS

We are updating our website and need your help! We will be debuting a new section of our website called 'CTRPCV Profiles' in which we will briefly share our members' stories. If you would like to take part, please fill out the questionnaire below and email your responses, along with photos from your service that you would like to have published on our website, to president@ctrpcv.org.

CTRPCV Profiles

Who are you (please include name, country of service, years of service and anything else you want to add)?

Why did you choose to serve as a Peace Corps Volunteer?

What did you do as a Peace Corps Volunteer?

Can you share your favorite memory from service?

How has serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer affected your life?

What advice do you have for prospective Peace Corps Volunteers?

Do you have anything else you would like to share with our readers related to you or your PC service (stories, poems, quotes, etc.)?

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CTRPCV needs more PAID MEMBERS \$\$\$

If you are interested in participating in the above-mentioned CTRPCV events, please also consider joining our group. If you would like to join and/or pay your annual CTRPCV membership fees, please go to the NPCA's website at www.peacecorpsconnect.org. Login/Register at the top right of the page. Once logged in, you can choose to pay your CTRPCV membership dues only or make a donation to NPCA as well; the choice is yours.

Please also consider joining the Connecticut Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/37593849149/>.

Questions???. Simply email our Membership Coordinator, Allegra Itsoga, at aitsoga@afk.org.

WHY someone should join 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 of 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 new 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. Please let us know if you have a business that you would like to have posed on our website.

FYI: Your dues pay our expenses, e.g. room rental for meetings, supplies for potluck meetings, group NPCA membership dues, state filing fees, communication costs (postage, paper, internet costs), etc.

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