

# CONNECTICUT RPCV

Newsletter – November 2016



Peace  
Corps

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CT RPCV Al May (Costa Rica XI 1970-72) attended his 44th year reunion in Costa Rica this past summer. The men in his group were part of agriculture extension programs, working with small farmers to help them increase their yields of corn and beans through the proper use of fertilizers, hybrid seed, insect and weed control. The women worked on public and maternal health projects. Al also worked with kids, creating what they called 4-S clubs (Clubes de Salud, Saber, Servicio y Sentimientos).

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## November Hike and Board Meeting

Join CT RPCVs for a hike November 6 in Middlefield at CT Forest and Park. There will be a board meeting from 2—4 p.m., and a hike at 4 p.m.

Come for the board meeting, hike, or both. All are welcome!



## Peace Corps Art Shows

Terese Maineri de Velasquez, president of CT RPCVs, will be selling her artwork and artisan work from her host country of Guatemala at multiple locations in November.

She will be at the International Bazaar at St. Patrick Church in Farmington on November 19 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and November 20 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

You can also find her at Open Studio Hartford November 12 and 13. She will be showing at the Colt Building 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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## Community Service Day - Packing Boxes for Poor in Nicaragua

When: **TRUCK PACKING**

**\*\*\* Sat., Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> ... 9 AM– 4 PM**

**Sorting & Packing boxes...**

**Every Saturday until Nov. 12**

**10 AM – 1 PM**

**Where: 394 Main St., Bridgeport**

**Sponsor: Maureen Shanley**

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.

CTRPCV will meet at Bill's warehouse and work from 9 AM until 4 PM 11/12/16. If you are available to help pack boxes any Saturday before 11/12/16, we are at the warehouse from 10 AM- 1 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.

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. **We also send books in English to Nicaraguan PCVs who are teaching English as a second language. We send DVDs, CDs and VCR tapes as long as we have a VCR player to send with the tapes.**

Directions to Bill's Warehouse:

William Evans Painting Co.

394 Main St.

Bridgeport, CT 06604

Bill's Cell: 203-216-2115

Maureen's \*\*Home 203-775-9222

Cell: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." and "CT Quest for Peace".

**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." and "CT Quest for Peace".

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National Peace Corps Association (NPCA), through the [Girls Education and Empowerment Fund](#), provide Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) and Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) the opportunity to complete projects in their host communities through small grants. As a private sector partner to the White House on Let Girls Learn, NPCA is proud to help support PCVs through the Peace Corps Partnership Program and Let Girls Learn grants.

Members of the Peace Corps community believe in supporting past and present host communities — not only in immediate necessities such as food, water and shelter, but also through initiatives like the arts. We know that Volunteers' dedication to long-term community building results in lasting relationships and impact.

Aaron Ratz, currently serving in Moldova, is a Volunteer who exemplifies this dedication; he is working to renovate a Soviet-era arts center in Ceadir-Lunga, a city of roughly 20,000.

The community has six coed schools, a vocational college, but only one arts center that serves over 400 children in a given week. As the only forum for children to participate in after-school activities, it offers classes in drawing, musical instruments, dance, singing, costume design, and many more. It is not only beloved, but is also an essential part of the community.

Because the building hasn't been remodeled for more than 30 years, the arts center is in significant disrepair. One of its most popular features, the dance studio, is used by over 75 people per week, but is dilapidated to the point that it's dangerous for children to use. To remodel the space, it will require replacing the floor, refinishing the walls and ceiling, and much more work.

Aaron and his host community have received a Let Girls Learn grant and need your help with the last bit of funding! Please give to the [Girls Education and Empowerment fund](#) today to empower girls and support an entire community in Moldova.

-Source: the Web site of the National Peace Corps Association -

[peacecorpsconnect.org](http://peacecorpsconnect.org).

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# MISCELLANEOUS



Have an event or community service idea?

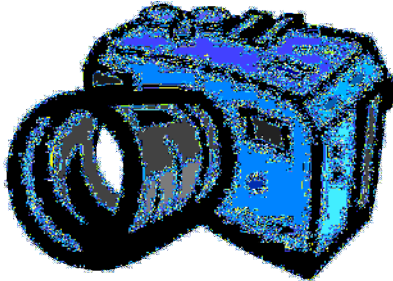
Let's make it happen!!

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:president@ctrpcv.org).

## CTRPCV Profiles

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

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

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What did you do as a Peace Corps Volunteer?

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Can you share your favorite memory from service?

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

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What advice do you have for prospective Peace Corps Volunteers?

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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](http://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](mailto: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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