

# CONNECTICUT RPCV

Newsletter — April 2017



## Peace Corps

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**Thank you to all the RPCVs who helped out at the Connecticut Food Bank in March!**

Some of the CT RPCVs who volunteered include:

Carolyn Cary (Iran 71-73), Cynthia Clair (Benin 91-92), Lois Fucci (Philippines 65-67), Bryan Garcia (Kazakhstan 95-97), Mike Hilton (Cote d'Ivoire 96-98), Doug Latham (Ukraine 95-97), Ed Pikaart (Kenya 13-14), Michael Scanlon (Korea 70-72, Morocco 77-79), Darlene Yule (Panama 06-08), and Brie Messier (Saint Lucia 15-16)



## CTRPCV OFFICERS

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## CTRPCV El Paso Restaurant Cinco de Mayo

### Celebration

Enjoy Cinco de Mayo a little early! Come eat wonderful Mexican food at El Paso restaurant, 6 E Main Street, Plainville, CT 6-8 p.m. **Saturday April 29**. All are welcome!

Prior to the meet up is a CTRPCV board meeting scheduled for 4:30-6 p.m.

Address: The El Paso restaurant, 6 E Main Street, Plainville, CT .  
<http://www.elpasoplainvillect.com>



## 34th Annual Foodshare Walk Against Hunger

**Sunday, May 7, 2017**

Liam E. McGee Memorial Park

140 Garden Street, Hartford

Check-in at 12:30 p.m.

Walk steps off at 2:00 p.m.

FREE Parking at 690 Asylum Avenue



Did you know the Foodshare Walk Against Hunger is a family-friendly event? There are so many exciting activities planned for May 7—face painting, photo booths, music, and giveaways—and we hope that you are able to join us. For more information visit <http://site.foodshare.org/>.



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## Festive Evening with the Hartford Yard Goats

Join Connecticut Returned Peace Corps Volunteers for an evening of fun on **Saturday, May 20th** at 6 p.m. at Dunkin Donuts Park in Hartford where the Yard Goats will take-on the Rubberducks from Akron.

The evening in the Picnic Pavilion or the Party Deck will include a buffet and post-game firework show. Tickets are between \$30 to \$40 each.

Please reserve your seats by contacting Bryan Garcia at [bryan.garcia@ctgreenbank.com](mailto:bryan.garcia@ctgreenbank.com)



### Attention CTRPCVs and their families/friends!

Can we take you out to the ball game to sell peanuts and Cracker Jacks to help current and former volunteers like yourselves?

We are looking to partner with the Hartford Yard Goats on a fundraiser this summer. The fundraiser would involve having four CTRPCVs (and/or their family members / friends) staff a concession stand at a Yard Goats game on a total of 10 dates in June, July and August.

In exchange for doing this, we will share in the profits for that game. This fundraiser has the potential to earn us between \$1,000 - \$2,000 for our Community Service Fund, which provides sustainability support for projects involving both current CT volunteers in the field and returned volunteers here in CT.

The dates for the games at which we would be volunteering will be available by mid-April and will be publicized on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/37593849149/>

In the meantime, if interested in being part of this fundraiser, contact Al May (Costa Rica 1970-72) at 203-606-0994 / [amay47@sbcglobal.net](mailto:amay47@sbcglobal.net).

Again, this event is open to returned volunteers, family members 16-years-of age-or-older and friends of volunteers.



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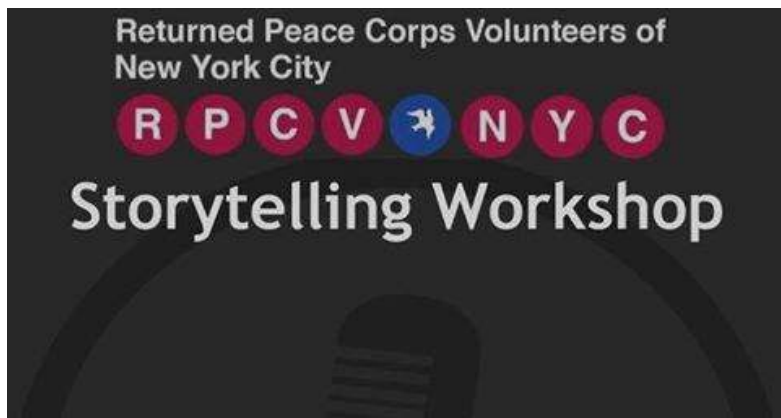
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Looking for an excuse to come down to NYC? Look no further! Come join us and Peace Corps' Third Goal Story Telling Specialist, Meleia C. Egger, for our 4th annual RPCV Story Telling workshop on **April 21st** at NYU!

[https://www.facebook.com/events/349672385430185/?notif\\_t=plan\\_user\\_joined&notif\\_id=1490915108404301](https://www.facebook.com/events/349672385430185/?notif_t=plan_user_joined&notif_id=1490915108404301)



## Pack Books for PCVs

CTRPCV will be assisting Darien Book Aid on **June 10** between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. Participants are invited to pack boxes of books to be shipped to PCVs abroad. There will be an RPCV meet-up following the book packing at a nearby restaurant (TBD).

**Address:** 1926 Post Road, Darien, CT



Pictured: PCV David Kurtz received a shipment from the CT RPCVs who volunteered with Darien Book Aid in January. His sixth graders in Thibaud, Dominica are already enjoying the new books.



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## Report from your Peace Corps Advocate

This year saw a new Peace Corps record for congresspersons signing on to the Dear Colleague letter supporting funding for the Peace Corps - 175 signatures including 8 Republicans! CT and HI were the only states to have 100% sign on.

Please, please write, email or call your representative and thank him/her for their support. The reps really pay attention to constituent comments and are especially grateful for thanks since they get so much negative mail. If you are a constituent of Rosa DeLauro note that this is the 10th year she has signed on, an important anniversary of consistent support.

That's the good news, now the bad. The Peace Corps is in jeopardy! The administration's request for budget cuts includes a 30% slashing of the State Dept. and foreign aid and development programs. That includes Peace Corps and will result in fewer volunteers serving and fewer countries being served. Although my lobbying in Washington on March 2, the Peace Corps Day of Action went well and the Peace Corps is a bipartisan, feel good organization, not everyone is willing to put their money where their mouth is. Note that only 8 Republicans in Congress signed on to the funding letter.

We in CT are fortunate to have such strong support so we must congratulate our reps. We have a strong supporter in Sen. Chris Murphy who is on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He is advocating and alternative budget which will "plus up" Peace Corps funding. Make certain he knows that you as an RPCV have his back as he battles the anti foreign aid and development forces. Your own Peace Corps stories are especially effective as well as how your service has impacted what you do now as an RPCV.

Joan Leonard  
CTRPCV Advocate  
Kenya (1969-72)

**Writing to your congressmen only takes 5 minutes!**

Go to the Web site below to easily send a thank you email.

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



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# MISCELLANEOUS



Have an event or community service idea?

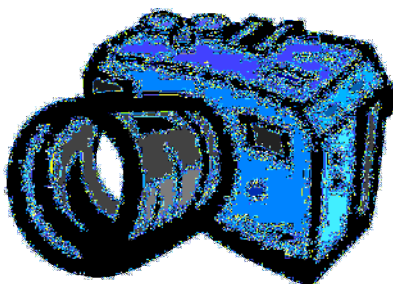
Let's make it happen!!

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 volunteer 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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