

# CONNECTICUT RPCV

Newsletter—January 2017



Peace  
Corps

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Singing from Mozambique to Mongolia. See story at [PeaceCorps.gov](http://PeaceCorps.gov).



Dear Members of CTRPCV,

At our recent holiday party, many members expressed frustration with our current membership system. In the past, many of you renewed your membership dues of \$15 along with your membership dues for the National Return Peace Corps Association. National no longer charges membership fees. We have decided that to make things easier for both our board and our members that we will simply have all members renewal be in January. For those of you who have paid recently and would like that to count towards your 2017 membership, that is of course fine are more than willing to pro-rate your dues. For those of you who are not paid members, please join us! Your membership dues help make our community service grant possible.

Please send your renewal checks to

Connecticut Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, P.O. Box 1803, Hartford, CT 06144

Or pay online at [www.ctrpcv.org](http://www.ctrpcv.org)

If there are any questions, please contact our membership coordinator Allegra Itsoga at [aitsoga@afk.org](mailto:aitsoga@afk.org) or (860) 417-8310

## CTRPCV OFFICERS

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## Pack Books for PCVs

**CTRPCV will be assisting Darien Book Aid on January 21, 2017 between 9am and 12pm. 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**



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**WHO:** Members of the CT Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and their Friends

**WHY:** Fun Social with great food!!

**WHERE:** Soul de Cuba at 283 Crown Street, New Haven, CT 06511

**WHEN:** Tuesday, February 7 at 6:30 pm

We will enjoy a delicious Cuban dinner and the comradery of fellow RPCVs.

Everyone can order whatever they want because we will have individual checks. I know personally that the food is delish and the Mojitos are fabulous!

We will have our instant raffle for our CTRPCV Community Service Fund. Please bring something, perhaps from your world travels, a jar of home-made jam, a great book that you read, a plant, etc. Someone once brought a beautiful cake that she made and decorated. Use your imagination... it makes the instant raffle more fun!

To see the menu go to <http://www.souldecuba.com>. We can seat about **20 people**, so **YOU MUST RSVP** to [MaureenShanley@hotmail.com](mailto:MaureenShanley@hotmail.com) or call her at 203-775-9222.



### CT RPCV's to Provide Assistance to CT Food Bank

As we begin the new year, let's lend a helping hand by joining fellow Connecticut Returned Peace Corps Volunteers at the [Connecticut Food Bank](#) to provide nutritious food to people in need. The Connecticut Food Bank offers food distribution services and promotes public awareness about the problem of hunger. Through a network of community-based programs such as soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters, residential programs and day programs serving adults and children, the Connecticut Food Bank provides food and much needed resources to those in need. We need 25 volunteers to join

"Save the Date" for Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. (until noon) at the Connecticut Food Bank at 2 Research Parkway, Wallingford, CT 06492



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The Peace Corps community experienced a tremendous year — one that closes an era and presents an open future. Together in 2016, we reinforced our connection and shared experience; we advocated for the right to serve; we created positive impact both domestically and abroad. In the 55th year of America's greatest institution, Peace Corps Volunteers expanded programs into new countries, while Returned Peace Corps Volunteers united to meet new global challenges in affiliate groups. The following list reflects closure, new beginnings, and our community's diverse acts toward Peace Corps values in 2016:

NPCA published the final print Peace Corps Community Directory, and provided an [online platform](#) for all PCVs, RPCVs and Peace Corps staff to connect with individuals and affiliate groups.

Peace Corps announced historical new programs in [Myanmar](#) and [Vietnam](#).

With firm conviction that RPCVs have the cross-cultural skills, adaptability, and commitment to make a significant contribution in the global humanitarian effort, [Peace Corps Community in Support of Refugees](#) became an official NPCA affiliate group.

With the retirement of Congressman Sam Farr (D-CA) and the defeat of Congressman Mike Honda (D-CA), [just two RPCVs are left in Congress](#), the lowest level of representation in almost 40 years.

Peace Corps unveiled a [new look](#) to engage the next generation of service-minded Americans.

In one day, over [230 individuals arrived on Capitol Hill](#) to tell Congress that America and the world need a bigger, better Peace Corps. \*To read more about NPCA's 2016 advocacy wins click here.

The community celebrated the [55th anniversary of the Peace Corps](#) in Washington, D.C. Sept 21-25, 2016.

NPCA transformed into a mission-driven organization with the global impact of the [Community Fund](#).

Carrie Hessler-Radelet served her final year as the 19th Director of the Peace Corps. \*\*[Share your memories and photos here](#) in gratitude for her service.

Donald Trump became President-elect of the United States. A 115th Congress and a Trump Administration [present a new political landscape](#).

Navigating the future for the Peace Corps depends on all of us. With your support and engagement, we will continue shaping history together in 2017.

Source: 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 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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