Save the date for that once a year remarkable & unique RPCV-Madison Picnic!

Sunday, Sept 23, 2018, 4:30 pm to dark
Tower Hill Park Shelter  Fish Hatchery Road entrance, Fitchburg, WI 53711

- Rain or Shine Potluck picnic
- Elections, pay dues
- purchase 2019 calendars & notecards & school posters
- Visit with old + new friends!
- Welcome back the newest RPCV returnees!
- Family & friends welcome
- Kids playground, picnic tables, electricity, water fountain, bathrooms,
- Park on residential streets
- Join the Green RPCVs who plan to bike to the event.

Pass the word!
Questions 608.577.0730 to Helene Pesche, RPCV Cameroon, Email: hpesche615@gmail.com

What’s Not to Like About Peace Corps Connect?

By Kate Schachter, (a version of this was posted on the NPCA blog page)

Since my return from my first Peace Corps service in Ghana in 2007, I've been going to the annual conferences, except for the year I went into PC Response in Georgia. Why do I do this? Am I a glutton for meetings?

Here are just a few of the things I love about the PCC conferences.

The people! Meet or reconnect with RPCVs from every era. All the rest of the things I love start here with the community. One of the highlights for me was listening to Mandy Manning's talk about winning the 2018 National Teacher of the Year Award for her work teaching ESL to refugees. Watch for a new affiliate group, called something like RPCV Educators – she will be starting one soon!

The information! I was chatting with Averill Strasser of Water Charity and he mentioned he is working with RPCV Peter Jensen on projects all over Africa. Peter is teaching people how to bury water and has made great progress showing successes in desperate situations. Wait...what? Bury water?? Check out his YouTube channel.
And then there’s the information embedded in the many breakout sessions. Through panel presentations and discussions, cause-related groups, Peace Corps, and NPCA shared important news about projects that impact members. This year I was pleased to have the RPCVs for Environmental Action be accepted to offer a panel presentation entitled “RPCVs Take Action on the Environment.” Many thanks to the 20 or so people who chose to sit in on our presentation instead any of the six other sessions, or opt out for a kayak trip on the Delaware River!

![Image](169x627 to 265x698)

LEFT: PCC-Berkeley 2015, Meleia Egger leads the audience through a recitation of the Peace Corps Pledge.

**The groups!** A half day is always devoted to the opportunity for affiliate group representatives to get together and learn what’s going on at NPCA in the area of group services; learn from each other; and give feedback to NPCA, the Affiliate Group Network Coordinator, and the Member-Elected Board members. Outside the half-day forum, we recognize groups with the Loret Miller Ruppe Award for Outstanding Community Service, which this year justly went to the Cincinnati Area Returned Volunteers (CARV) for their work with refugees. And there are more awards: the Harris Wofford Global Citizen Award went to Kul Chandra Gautam, former Assistant Secretary General of the UN; the Sargent Shriver Award for Distinguished Humanitarian Service went to Adene Golembiewski, and the Deborah Harding Woman of Achievement Award went to Roma Guy and Diane Jones. Acceptance speeches were heart-felt and inspirational about the work each person accomplished and the commitment they brought to their work. Did you know that our group has been honored with the Ruppe Award twice: once for the calendar project, and once for the posters?

**The atmosphere!** I always feel charged from the effect of being with “my people.” It’s like going to a picnic or holiday dinner here in Madison, but with more people. The combination of meetings, receptions, dinners, and downtime turn the conference into an exciting dynamic of Third Goal accomplishment. The pomp and circumstance of a Gala dinner at the Kennedy Center or a Parade of the Flags in DC in 2011; a boat cruise and dinner on the Mississippi River in 2012; a boat ride in the Boston Harbor in 2013; a community garden service project in 2017; a hike along the Appalachian Trail in 2018. These examples bring it together for an enjoyable long weekend.

**The reflection!** It all starts with our service in Peace Corps. When I went to Peace Corps Response/Georgia, I was proud to see that they had both versions of the Peace Corps Pledge – the required one, and the new one that RPCV Meleia Egger had created in 2015. Though I knew about the pledge when I swore in in Georgia, I was still blown away by the poetry of it. The pledge created the right atmosphere in Berkeley when it was formally introduced. It remains a fitting commitment to world peace and friendship.

Next year, be there! HoT PCC is Heart of Texas Peace Corps Connect, June 21-23, 2019. What’s not to like about Austin?!

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**How Can We End Hunger?**

*Kate Schachter*

Not possible you say? In fact, it IS possible. And the organization Results is working hard to make it happen. Your help is needed.

Over the weekend at Peace Corps Connect in Shawnee, PA, Kul Chandra Gautam was awarded the Harris Wofford Global Citizen Award. As a former Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF and Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations, he has extensive experience in international diplomacy, development cooperation and humanitarian assistance. He believes it is possible to end hunger, and he is promoting a partnership with NPCA and Results to push that agenda forward.

Login to this presentation on Wednesday to find out more about how we can help.

**About Wofford Award Winner Kul Gautam of Nepal**
CAALENDAR PACKING - GREAT FUN!

This is one of the social events of the group that is posing as a work event. Join dozens of other RPCVs as we pre-pack calendars, notecards and Perpetual Calendars for expected orders.

Pizza and soft drinks will be served. BYO other beverage.

Questions? Contact Calendar Chair Michelle Possin, mpossin316@gmail.com

Date: 14 Sep 2018
Time: 5 PM – 8 PM CDT

Info for Requesting Donations at the

October 13, 2018 GiftAway

As a member of the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Wisconsin – Madison whether paid or free, you can request funding to help support a project or projects of interest to you. This year we have $40,000 available to fund these projects. If you would like to request support for a project, please read this cover letter and the attached document carefully to familiarize yourself with our GiftAway award process.

We will hold two GiftAway sessions in our fiscal year: one in October, the other in April. The October meeting will be held at 1 PM Saturday, October 13 at Madison’s Hotel Red (1501 Monroe St., corner of Regent St. and Monroe St.). Because the October GiftAway will start a new funding cycle, anyone who had a project funded this past April can submit a new request for consideration at the October GiftAway. We expect to award about $25,000 at the October GiftAway with the remaining funds withheld for the April GiftAway.

Requests for funding will be ranked by our members with higher ranking requests receiving full funding until we run out of funds. This means that requests that do not score well may not receive any funding. If time allows, we will decide which projects to fund at the GiftAway meeting once all presentations are finished.
The attached document provides the criteria that will be used for ranking the donation requests, guidelines for the amount of funding that can be requested, and details on projects that we will not support. Please read this document carefully. Because new Federal regulations require us to obtain more information about the organizations we are supporting, failure to adhere to our requirements can be grounds for not considering your proposal.

A change for those of you who are familiar with past GiftAway meetings is that we are not providing a form to be filled out. Although we still need much of the information that we requested on the old form, we need to provide you with much more flexibility in preparing the request so as to best address the ranking criteria. Please limit your request to two pages either in Word or as a pdf. Use a legible font and font size. Send the request to me by email.

I want to reiterate one statement in the attached document. We will not fund a project until someone, either you or a representative of the group for which funding is requested, attends a GiftAway meeting to answer any questions we might have about the project. If the requests significantly exceed the amount of funds available for that GiftAway meeting, we will try in advance of the meeting to inform applicants whose requests we do not expect to fund that it may not be worthwhile for them to attend that meeting.

Help the Peace Corps be the best it can be

Glenn Blumhorst, President & CEO, RPCV Guatemala 1988-91

– By mobilizing our community to advocate in record numbers, NPCA has ensured level funding for Peace Corps by Congress in Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019, despite proposed cuts by the administration. At the same time, we’ve championed legislation providing for vital health care reforms for Peace Corps Volunteers and Returned Peace Corps Volunteers.

Empower members and affiliate groups to thrive – Our network of affiliate groups and members is more robust than ever. Your financial support helps meet the growing demand for NPCA services, be it access to technology that helps connect members in meaningful ways or capacity building for affiliate groups to advance the Third Goal and other causes.

Amplify the Peace Corps community’s development impact – by pooling your resources with other members you help maximize NPCA’s social impact, collective action that to date has supported hundreds of PCV and RPCV projects in communities around the world.

Become a Mission Partner today with a tax-deductible donation, and when you do, consider helping us do more by increasing your support! Thank you for your investment in the critical work NPCA undertakes on behalf of the Peace Corps community.

Monthly Board Meeting

Date: 19 Sep 2018
Time: 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm CDT

Your opinion matters. Join the Board as we review the details of group management.

Contact Board President Marty Haslovic (president@rpcvmadison.org) for details.

Hotel Red, 1501 Monroe Street, Madison, WI 53711, USA
The Liberian Assistance Program is preparing for the 10th Anniversary Celebration on Sept. 7 and 8, 2018. The celebration will begin on Friday evening with the film, The Land Beneath Our Feet, and continue through Saturday evening with a Liberian dinner. For details and to register go to www.rpcvmadison.org/events/liberian-assistance-program--10th-anniversary

Welcome Back! Happy Hour

Monday, September 10, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. | Social Hour at the Memorial Union Terrace will be targeted to students and community members interested in Peace Corps service. RPCVs encouraged to come and share your stories...the good, the bad, the bizarre.

Look for the Peace Corps flag.

Any questions, feel free to ask! Kate Schachter UW-Madison Campus Peace Corps Recruiter peacecorps@international.wisc.edu 608-262-1121

PCPP request from Panama


Here is a request from a person with Wisconsin connections. It has been sent to our PCPP coordinator, for consideration. The project has > $5,000 to go to be filled, so there is plenty of room for contributions. If you like fish pond projects or projects in Panama, please consider this one

My name is Liam Krause, I am a current PCV serving in Panama. I grew up in Deerfield, just outside of Madison. I am reaching out because I hope to find some Wisconsinites who are able to help our community reach our funding goal for a grant posted on the Peace Corps Donate webpage. We are trying to develop a model and training program to promote environmentally sustainable aquaculture in the region. If you wouldn’t mind posting this link to the Facebook page or if you could suggest any resources that could help us, we would really appreciate it. Thank you so much!


Job Opening in Madison with Amigos de las Americas

Robin Craig, RPCV Jamaica 1982-1984, AMIGOS Wisconsin Chapter

Amigos de las Americas is hiring a full time Program Associate to work with the Wisconsin Chapter of AMIGOS and
the Youth Ambassadors program. The position involves some travel in the U.S. and Ecuador.

Further details about the position can be found here:

https://amigosinternational.org/volunteeropportunities/join-our-team/full-time-program-associate

You are also welcome to contact Robin Craig at robincraig486@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Prudence Barber at St. Mary's

Lee Roveleerow@sbcglobal.net

Prudence Barber, a long-term member of the RPCVs of WI-Madison, suffered a stroke and is in St. Mary’s hospital. After an initial inability to move or speak, Prudence is now able to talk but has not been eating and suffers episodes of apparent delirium.

Members of the cohousing where Prudence lived and current neighbors have been visiting and keeping her company and invite other friends to do the same.

I don’t have details of her room number, but from what others say, she’s not difficult to find or to visit.

If you have time and are able, please stop by and say hello to this lovely lady to whom Peace Corps meant so much.

I just got a report that Prudence was doing much better today, is off the IV and feeding herself and in good spirits.

Good news!