

From: Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of South Florida Rpcvsf@wildapricot.org
Subject: Marvin, the RPCVSF newsletter is here!
Date: November 15, 2020 at 2:05 PM
To: Marvin Hancock tmhr@me.com

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Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of South Florida is *your* group—please join us for fun get-togethers, community service activities, job/life networking, great events, stimulating conversation, and much more.
Read on and get involved!



Tropical Currents

The RPCVSF Newsletter

November – December 2020



Join your friends at RPCVSF for a **Virtual Holiday Happy Hour!**

December 20, 2020 4pm

December 28, 2020 4pm

Hint ...Theme on the left!

Holiday Happy Hour



Genevieve Bazer

Dave Garcia

Changing Leadership

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers are a bit saddened to hear that our President Jennifer Wos Cantave is resigning from the board as of December 1 for personal reasons. Her contributions, efforts and ideas proved invaluable to our group and it is hard to think about navigating the organization without her at the helm. We wish her all the best and thank her for being someone we could always rely on. Jen has promised to remain an engaged member of our association. Thank You Jen!

Having served as Vice President for the past year or so I'll try to keep things running as smoothly as possible as your next President. Genevieve Bazer has stepped up and into

the Vice President position and with her help and a little luck, we along with other directors will try to serve your group faithfully in the coming months.

We need and would very much welcome new members to the BOD and I ask all of you to please consider joining us. The job is not demanding and won't take a lot of your time. As a board member your contributions, ideas, input and enthusiasm will help us keep the RPCVSF group interesting and engaged. Please E-mail myself or Genevieve with any questions you may have about joining the Board....or how we can better align the groups efforts to meet your needs.

Sincerely,
David Garcia





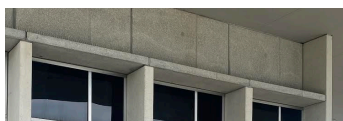
Your generosity
helped us raise
\$670 for masks!



Thanks for supporting our 2-4-1 event!

On October 19th,
RPCVSF teamed up
with Miami Dade
College and
OneBlood.

Ballots were cast or
dropped off at the
MDC Kendall early
voting site and blood
was donated at
OneBlood's Big Red
Bus at Chili's.





Welcome to Chit Chat!

We'd like to get to know our members by featuring a new volunteer each newsletter. To introduce yourself and share your experiences email qenb714@gmail.com and we'll send you a questionnaire.





MEET DAVE GARCIA

Where did the PC send you and what did you do there?

I served in Kenya From 1988 to 1990....I worked at a rural Technical School called a Polytechnic, in Kianjai Meru located about 160 miles north of Nairobi. I was sent as a Metal Shop Teacher and worked with other shop teachers (Carpenters, Masons, Taylors, Agriculture Instructors) teaching young women and men ages 16 to 20. Besides teaching I was able to collect over 350 donated technical books and started a library. I also ended up writing grants for school and shop supplies, organized the drilling of a Bore hole for fresh water in my village. and was able to join other NGO groups in their initiatives.

Please share a memorable event during your service

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There was no access to fresh water at our school or in the neighboring village. Most of it was taken from streams or caught in gutters on the roofs and contained in cisterns. I was very lucky during my travels around the country to meet a Danish Volunteer who was drilling experimental water wells in the middle of the Kenyan desert, believe it or not. I mentioned the lack of water resources in my village and told him if he ever was in the neighborhood we sure could use him. A month or so later he and his crew showed up and proceed to drill a 6 inch Bore Hole 150 meters deep right on the school grounds.

When the well was complete and we started pumping fresh water, a large group of villagers, kids, women students stood close, amazed at the "magic fresh water" being pumped out of the ground. I will always remember picking up the huge hose and turning it on crowdI thoroughly soaked everyone, they laughed, and danced.....it was like a broken fire hydrant in Brooklyn NY in mid Summer.

What was the biggest challenge you faced as a Volunteer?

Like many Volunteers around the world it was probably just staying safe. The roads in Kenya were really dangerous in those days, traveling in busses large and small was particularly scary. I lived in the mountains and narrowly escaped a bus accident that could have been fatal..

We had to worry about malaria, thieves, dysentery, rabies.....felt like I was back in the U. S, Marine Corps !

What song will instantly transport you back to your country of service?

"Hakuna Matata" from the Lion King.....In Swahili Hakuna Matata means..."No Problem". Everywhere you went, when ever you asked someone how they were doing the response was " Hakuna Matata".

Most Kenyan's were easy going, hard working people, with a pleasant outlook. I guess you could say that would go for most of the poorer people in the developing world...Hakuna Matata !

**NATIONAL RPCV RACIAL
JUSTICE INITIATIVE**



National RPCV Racial Justice Initiative thanks everyone who has worked so hard on various initiatives since they launched in June! The Peace Corps community has come together in amazing ways to fight for real change here at home in the US. The voter suppression subgroup held at least 10 events around the country to get people registered to vote, the health equity

around the country to get people registered to vote, the health equity subgroup created a database of free [Covid Testing sites](#) around the country, the Addressing Racism within the Peace Corps group has had many many meetings with other RPCV groups to work together on changes for the agency. The training and learning opportunities group branched off into a coffee hour to discuss current events, and the criminal justice reform subgroup is preparing for a speaker series. Additionally, the instagram @rpcvs4racialjustice has 1,000 followers and is a nice place to connect with other groups and share events. RPCVSF is proud to work with National Racial Justice Initiative!!

National RPCV Racial Justice Initiative

FAIR TRADE MARKET NEWS

Linda Whitmyre

The Fair Trade Market goes *VIRTUAL* !?!?!?

The Fair Trade Market is contemplating going online ... just in time for the holidays!

At the current stage of this evolving idea, the plan is to carry some of our most popular items: scarves from Vietnam and India; earrings from Nepal; aprons, small wallets and bracelets from Ghana; wire baskets from South Africa. Free delivery within a 15 mile radius of my house (roughly Biscayne Boulevard and 79th Street) is being considered (I have two hybrid cars that need to be driven!) Beyond this radius, one of the standard USPS mailing boxes will be used (additional cost to the buyer). Beyond the online sales platform, there's the possibility of a personal shopping experience via Zoom to view additional Fair Trade inventory items.

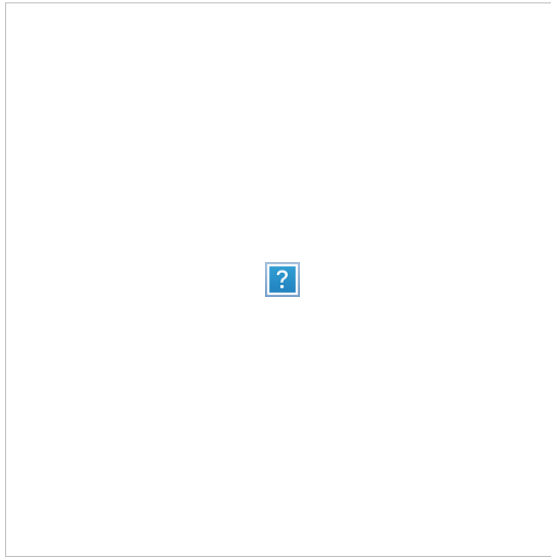
This is very much a work-in-progress. Your input is welcome and will be appreciated. Please email thoughts and/or requests to ftm@rpcvsf.org.

Wish us luck!!!

Email FTM

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Mask**

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**The 2021 Peace
Corps Calendar is
available!**

**ONLINE (surprise,
surprise!)**