

**From:** Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of South Florida [admin@rpcvsvf.org](mailto:admin@rpcvsvf.org)  
**Subject:** RPCVSF - November 2015's - News, Events and Opportunities  
**Date:** November 29, 2015 at 10:53 PM  
**To:** Marvin Hancock [tmhr@me.com](mailto:tmhr@me.com)

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Holiday Party Next Weekend, and much to be thankful for...



## NEWSLETTER

November 2015



"The month of November makes me feel that life is passing more quickly. In an effort to slow it down, I try to fill the hours more meaningfully."  
-Henry Rollins

[Renew your membership today](#) memberships lapsed on March 1.

*Photo: Todd Heustess (RPCV, New World Center Assistance Vice President), Edward Crawford (RPCV), US Rep Joe Kennedy (RPCV), and Maleia Egger (RPCV, Peace Corps Third Goal Program Specialist)*

### Recap of Kennedy & Shriver RPCVSF on October 2, 2015

"What You Can Do for Your Country," brought together over 340 Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, award winners, guests and speakers to highlight the impact of Peace Corps Volunteers. Sponsored by Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of South Florida (RPCVSF), Knight Foundation, and Educate Tomorrow the event was hosted by New World Symphony on Miami Beach, October 2. TED style talks were shared by notable Peace Corps Volunteers including members of Peace Corps' founding family: Congressman Joe Kennedy, and Best Buddies Director Teddy Shriver. RPCVSF President and event producer Virginia Emmons McNaught shared, "We put this event together to shine a bright spotlight on the work and stories of so many great citizens that began their service in the Peace Corps." The event will see a second season in the fall of 2016. For more information contact: [president@rpcvsvf.org](mailto:president@rpcvsvf.org)

### Representative Diaz-Balart wants to hear from you!

The NPCA recently had a very productive meeting advocating for an increased Peace Corps budget with Rep. Diaz-Balart's staff in Miami. Click [here](#) to use their new software and take a few easy steps to tell Rep. Diaz-Balart to increase the Peace Corps budget!

### RPCVSF Board Members

#### President

Virginia Emmons  
McNaught  
Niger, 2000-2002  
Co-Founder &  
President  
Educate Tomorrow

#### Vice President

Caryn Lavernia  
Vanuatu, 2005-2008  
Community

## Ocean Guardian Contest and letter from Bodhi Surf School

A message from Bodhi Surf School

My name is Travis and I am a fellow RPCV Costa Rica 2005-08 — I did my service in a little coastal community called Bahia Ballena in Costa Rica, where I currently live and operate a small surf and yoga camp called Bodhi Surf School. In addition to my work with Bodhi Surf, I help PCCR select potential PCV communities in the South Pacific of Costa and consult for the [Costa Rica - USA Foundation \(CRUSA\)](#) which annually gives \$100k for small grant projects for PCCR PCVs. I enjoy being connected to PCCR and the greater RPCV network!

The reason I am reaching out to you is because Bodhi Surf is currently running their third annual [Ocean Guardian Contest](#) and I thought your members might be interested in participating. Through essays and photo submissions, the competition calls for participants to prove that they're taking unique and powerful steps to reduce carbon footprints and catalyze conservation efforts. The grand prize winner will win a free, weeklong surf and yoga camp at Bodhi Surf School in Uvita. If you'd like to enter the contest please do so [here](#). If you are interested in helping to spread the word, please use the attached posters or follow contest highlights via our [facebook page](#).

And finally, please know that currently serving and returned Peace Corps Volunteers receive 15% discount on Bodhi Surf vacation packages. I'm so thankful for the opportunity Peace Corps gave to me and feel this is one of the many ways I can give back!

## Volunteer opportunity with FHETA

A message from Higher Education & Training in Africa

FHETA is a new organization with a great plan to help improve the quality of higher education in African countries. We are currently looking for reliable and talented volunteers who will enthusiastically devote some of their free time to FHETA. Volunteers will conduct online assignments which will help us inform the general public of FHETA's work.

Because these volunteer assignments can be done remotely from the comfort of one's home, a cafe, a library, etc., we have decided to expand our volunteer search beyond our borders in the DC metro area. This is a wonderful volunteer opportunity for RPCV from Africa who would like to keep in touch with African nations and are interested in helping propel a startup nonprofit.

Community  
Engagement  
Florida International  
University

### Vice President

Matt Tanner  
Costa Rica 2006-  
2008  
Director Workforce  
Readiness  
Miami Dade College

### Secretary & Membership Co- Chair

Mary Lamberts  
Thailand, 1970-1972

### Treasurer & Webmaster

T. Marvin Hancock  
Colombia, 1963-1966  
Retired International  
Bank President &  
CEO

### Membership Co- Chair

Barbara Junge  
Council, Damian &  
Valori, LLP  
Togo, 1985-1987

### Fair Trade Market Director

Linda Whitmyre  
Malaysia, 1967-1969

### Co-Founder & Governance Chair

Greg Zell  
Nigeria, 1962-1964  
Attorney

### Directors

Grace Dessa  
Nigeria, 2008

We are wondering if this volunteer opportunity may be of interest to members of RPCVSF. If so, we would be happy to send you a 1p detailed description. Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to hearing from you very soon.

## Shriver Peaceworker Fellows Applications!

A message from the Assistant Director, Meghann Shutt:

I am writing you from the Shriver Peaceworker Fellows Program in Baltimore, MD. Peaceworker is a competitive graduate fellowship program exclusively for RPCVs, and our current recruitment season is open and accepting applications. Fellows complete fully funded masters degrees in any discipline while serving 20 hours per week with a nonprofit or government partner in Baltimore. The program covers tuition, health insurance and a living stipend for the full two years of graduate school.

Each year we select a group of 6-8 fellows. The program starts in late July 2016, and the application deadline is December 14, 2015. The link to our website with information on applying is below. Would you please forward this to your NPCA group members who might be interested in pursuing graduate school? You can reach out to me with any questions you might have.

Thank you so much for helping us spread the word! Last year's incoming class included volunteers from: Guinea, Senegal, Indonesia, Nicaragua, China, Cameroon, and Togo. We'd love to add more to our list!

Please click [here](#) for more information!

## Much to Be Thankful For

In this time of reflection it is humbling to be able to be a part of such an amazing group of leaders. I am excited about the new year and the new leadership we have here at RPCVSF, both Caryn Lavernia and Matt Tanner were elected Vice President and both finished their service in Peace Corps in 2008. They bring a lot of amazing ideas and have already hit the ground running. Keep an eye out for new initiatives to launch this year.

There is much to be thankful for, and you and I know very well as Peace Corps Volunteers that no matter how difficult our day may be, we once lived in a place where the families around us reminded us of the challenges or those in much more difficult circumstances. So I share this little piece that I saw, borrowed a bit, then adapted for my fellow Returned Peace Corps Volunteers...

I am thankful for...

- #1 Early Morning Wake Ups - I am alive.
- #2 Cleaning the House - I have a roof over my head and lots of gifts to organize.
- #3 Laundry - I have both clothes and a machine that will do most of the work for me.
- #4 Doing the Dishes - Lots of dishes to prepare multiple course meals, with sides and dressings.
- #5 Cleaning the Floor - Food in such abundance that if it falls on the floor it is left there.
- #6 Cleaning the Bathroom - Indoor plumbing, both shower and toilet.
- #7 Answering emails, phone calls, and computer work - I have access to lots of devices.
- #8 No Time to Rest - Family and friends that love me.
- #9 Paying the Bills - I have a job, a paycheck, an education, and a degree.
- #10 Paying Taxes - I live in a free country, have access to opportunity, sleep well most nights knowing I am pretty well protected.

Thanks for your membership in RPCVSF, and hope to see you at the next event!

PS The events calendar for 2016 is up. Please check it out, mark your calendars and let me know if I missed anything or if you care to host an event.

Nicaragua, 2003-2005  
Educator, Florida  
Virtual

Byron Hauser  
Ukraine, 2011-2013  
Professor, Miami  
Dade College

Corey Lewis  
Haiti, 2002-2004  
Manager of Corporate  
Relations, Center for  
Literature, Miami  
Dade College

Matt Lord  
China, 2009-2011

Lindsey Nieratka  
Honduras, 2004-2006  
City of Hollywood

Marilyn Page  
Marshall Islands,  
1966-1969

Patty Phares  
Samoa, 1972-1975

Doris Vincent  
Venezuela, 1964-1966  
Retired International  
Credit Card Services  
Professional

**Members at Large**  
Even though we have a few hundred members we are always seeking assistance to lead events, groups, and small projects. If you have a desire to get

anytime you need assistance or information.

In service to you all,

Virginia Emmons McNaught

President, RPCVSF, Niger 2000-2002

involved at any level,  
please contact  
Virginia Emmons  
McNaught by email:  
[president@rpcvsf.org](mailto:president@rpcvsf.org)

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## Upcoming Member Events

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### [Holiday Party & Gift Drive](#)

05 Dec 2015 5:00 PM • Ana Ciereszko's house, 7550 SW 61st St., Miami

### [Peace Corps Divers - Scuba and Snorkeling Outing](#)

06 Dec 2015 • TBD

### [Holiday Get Together for Trivia Night Tuesday at Taurus & Gift Drive](#)

15 Dec 2015 8:00 AM • 3540 Main Highway Coconut Grove, FL 33133

### [Board of Directors Meeting](#)

10 Jan 2016 5:00 PM • Miami Shores Country Club - Lounge Area

### [Peace Corps Partnership Dinner & MLK Service Day](#)

16 Jan 2016 • TBD

### [Cooking and Conversation Club Luncheon](#)

23 Jan 2016 11:00 AM • home of Christine McFarlin, Coconut Grove

### [All Upcoming Events-click here](#)

Do you not see an event you are expecting here? Or do you have an event or group you would like to organize for RPCVSF or need volunteers for a community project please email Virginia Emmons McNaught at [president@rpcvsf.org](mailto:president@rpcvsf.org)

### [RPCVSF Cooking & Conversation Club-click here](#)

### [RPCVSF Dive Club - click here](#)

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## Post It! From Our Members

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### Job Announcements

**AmeriCorps Vista Opening**, The University of Miami is currently accepting applications for the position of AmeriCorps VISTA, William R. Butler Center for Volunteer Service and Leadership Development within the Division

[The Riverside House's](#) "Thinking for Change" life skills classes are weekly classes for 12-15 people, but they far exceed that so they in seeking volunteers, Spanish speaking preferred, to assist. The day/times are flexible. Please contact Larry if you are interested in volunteering at [larrysilvester@me.com](mailto:larrysilvester@me.com) RPCVSF thanks Larry for his continued service and dedication to making our community a better one.

[Interpreter Bank](#)

of Student Affairs. For more info, please see the [Employment section](#) within the Members Only menu choice on the left.

#### **Volunteer Opportunities**

Educate Tomorrow, lead by two Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, seeks volunteer educational mentors for youth "aging out of the foster care system." Join us to learn more about the amazing opportunities to do great third goal work with other returned volunteers.

Deliver the Dreams Seeks volunteers to assist in family weekend retreats for families with serious medical issues. Contact Elizabeth Coomber RPCV for more details: [ecoomber@deliverthedream.org](mailto:ecoomber@deliverthedream.org)

RPCVs with foreign language proficiency can be a huge help during times of need. RPCVs who are available may be asked to support as interpreters for newly arrived immigrants, especially unaccompanied minors project.

Please fill out the registration form with the languages you speak and your fluency level. Please list if you can speak, read, and/or write.

If you would like to have something posted here, for the next newsletter please send your announcement to Virginia Emmons McNaught at [president@rpcvssf.org](mailto:president@rpcvssf.org)

[Renew Membership Today, Click Here!](#)

[RSVP for an Event, Click Here!](#)

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