

From: Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of South Florida Rpcvsf@wildapricot.org
Subject: RPCVSF's Sep-Oct 2022 Newsletter
Date: September 3, 2022 at 4:34 PM
To: Marvin Hancock tmhr@me.com

R

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

Sep - Oct, 2022

Articles in this issue:

View from the Ukraine

Are You Ready for a Positive,
Uplifting Evening?

Annual General Meeting

Taylor Majher Reports

2023 International Calendar

Going Out of Business Sale!

Broward RPCVs ... RAA Needs
You

Peace Corps Oral History Project

Travel Revisited

Upcoming Events:

Sep 10 - Tour of Hampton House
and Brunch

Sep 13 - The View from Ukraine*

Sep 15 - Marlins vs Phillies

Sep 24 - Volunteer with Feeding
South Florida

Oct 1 - Changemaking Education
Award Potluck*

Oct 15 - Annual General Meeting*

Visit the website for details and to
register: [RPCVSF](#)

* related articles below

Picnic (July 16):
Dave serves up lunch!



Happy Hour at Berries (Aug 19):
Greg presides!



GLOBALTIES > Miami
BRINGING THE WORLD TO YOU



The View from Ukraine

RPCVSF is co-sponsoring this virtual event with Global Ties Miami and others to provide an inside look at the Ukrainian Crisis and its impact on ordinary people. The discussion is between a Ukrainian and an American (Peace Corps Ukraine 2002-2004) currently living in London. Both have been working for months to bring non-lethal supplies to Ukrainians.

This is a free virtual event on **Tuesday September 13 from 6:00-7:00 PM EDT.**

More information and a registration button can be found here: [Ukraine](#)

Are You Ready for a Positive, Uplifting Evening? (who isn't?)

Come join us **Saturday October 1** at the Miami Springs Women's Club to honor local educators at our Changemaking Education Award* Potluck.

This year's winners and honorees include a TESOL Issues and Strategies professor whose students work with Church World Services to evaluate the English language ability of recent immigrants. Then there's an International Relations professor who jumped through all the necessary bureaucratic hoops so that his students could discuss the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals with students at a university in Iran. These are just two (out of 12) of the educators being honored.

The specifics and registration can be found here: [CEA Potluck](#)

*formerly Spirit of Service-Learning Award



RPCVSF, Inc. Annual General Meeting 2022

October. Somewhere, it means that leaves are starting to change to their beautiful autumn colors. For us, it means it's time for our Annual General Meeting!

By popular demand and despite the noise created by the comings and goings of flights to and from Miami International Airport, we will be returning to the same venue we used for last year's AGM, the 94th Aero Squadron's outdoor tent. In addition to a nice, sit-down, served lunch, we will have a program that will include:

- a welcome and update on RPCVSF activities during the past year
- self-introductions
- an update on Peace Corps activities
- election of 2022-2023 Board of Directors
- guest speaker

This year's **guest speaker** will be our own **Kristen Guskovict, Burkina Faso, 2000-2002**. Kristen will discuss some of her vast experience with refugees, torture survivors, and organizations that work with them, and how her Peace Corps service influenced her career choices.

The Fair Trade Market will be open, and it may be your last chance to buy some of the wonderful products available – and at going-out-of-business sale prices!

Please register to join us on **Saturday, October 15, 2022**, from **11:00 am until 3:00 pm**. Details and Registration can be found here: [AGM](#)



Taylor Majher Reports ...

From her role as Team Leader for Afghan Family Team #2: Our family has moved to Lincoln, NE! They flew out on Monday (8/1) morning and arrived that evening, they are currently staying with the husband's friend as they search for an apartment. They have already been paired up with a case worker who is helping the husband find a job, get the son enrolled in school and begin the transfer of their medical insurance to set up medical appointments. Our RAA volunteer team will come together for one more Closing Meeting on Saturday, 9/3 to discuss how we plan on moving forward, but for the most part we will continue to volunteer with RAA just by helping out the existing refugee families with individual tasks.

From her role as Peace Corps Recruiter: Peace Corps now has twenty two countries active with volunteers, most recently Kosovo and Panama received trainees in the month of July. Forty eight other countries have sent out invitations for volunteers and the agency plans on filling those vacancies by the end of this year/beginning of 2023. As recruiters, we have a new protocol in place stating that we can not do any in-person activities if our county is in the "High" COVID Risk Level, but if it is in "Medium" or "Low" we are able to attend those events. Since Miami-Dade and the surrounding counties have been "High" all of June and July, I haven't been able to carry out the in-person meetings and events that I planned for these months. The next virtual event that I am hosting will be an Information Session that is sector specific for Education, scheduled for September 15th at 5-6pm, registration can be found by following this link: [**EDUCATION**](#)



Online purchases can be made
here:

CALENDAR

Coupon Code **PC4RPCVSF**
reduces your cart total by \$1 ... and
RPCVSF receives a referral fee.

The International Calendar is one of the ways the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Madison, WI group works to fulfill Peace Corps' third goal: to help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans. The cover of the 2023 calendar features novice monks scurrying along a terrace of a pagoda in Myanmar. Countries featured monthly are: [Nepal](#), [Ghana](#), [China](#), [Armenia](#), [Haiti](#), [Dominican Republic](#), [Tanzania](#), [Bolivia](#), [Ukraine](#), [Cambodia](#), [Ethiopia](#), and [Iran](#). The calendar, as well as the website, is packed with information.

Madison continues to offer the online sales program begun 2 years ago in response to Covid. By using Coupon Code PC4RPCVSF, you will receive a \$1 discount from your cart total, plus RPCVSF receives a referral fee. Inflation has not reached the calendars ... they remain at \$15 each ... \$14 if you buy 3-6, \$10 if you buy 7- 30. Inflation, however, has affected shipping with the cost to ship one calendar at \$4; however the cost to ship 2 is only \$5 and the unit cost continues to decrease.

Thanks for your support (very much appreciated) and

All the best to you in 2023!!!

Going out of Business Sale!!!!

Linda Whitmyre

Yes, the **Fair Trade Market is “closing its doors”** at the Annual General Meeting on October 15th. It's been a long (since 2005), interesting (learned so much) and fun (met many great people) run. But times have changed and I have changed. The Fair Trade concept is more mainstream. Covid has changed so much re: interacting with the public. And my “older version” does not relish going around the county with tent, tables and inventory.

Quantitatively, we've also done well. Sales over the years total \$83,946 generating profits of \$33,189. These profits were donated to different non-profit organizations; the major (\$17,095) recipient has been the Haitian Education and Leadership Program (HELP). And, our wholesale purchases of \$40,843 supported fair trade vendors and artisans all over the world. Yes, we've done well!!!

We have one more event (the CEA Potluck on Oct 1) before the AGM and then prices drop!!! If perhaps you've been eyeing a certain item for a couple of years but never got around to buying it and decide now's the time, let me

or years but never got around to buying it and decide now's the time, let me (ftm@rpcvsf.org) know and I'll set it aside for you.

May all your purchases be fair!!!



Broward RPCVs ... RAA Needs You!
(perhaps North Miami-Dade also)

Refugee Assistance Alliance (RAA) is looking for volunteer teams to be matched with newly-arrived families in Broward. Working through RAA in 2022, RPCVSF sponsored two teams to assist recently arrived Afghan families. Team members assisted in arranging and accompanying family members to doctor and dental appointments, helped with setting up bank accounts and online access to other information, took them on outings to familiarize them with the transportation system, arranged school enrollment for the children, held picnics and even arranged a marriage (document not with them). It's another example of "the toughest job you'll ever love" and a "getting more than you give" situation.

RAA's Community Sponsorship Team (CST) approach is "volunteer friendly" ... no one person needs to know everything about introducing the family to life in the US. You can specialize ... health, education, etc. RAA provides training and support. Teams are around 4 - 6 people. Information about CSTs can be found here: [RAA](#). If you're interested, please complete the RAA Intake Form and also let us know!



Peace Corps Oral History

Over the last few months I have received a few emails from Daryl Wall about his participation in the Peace Corps Oral History Project. He seemed quite excited about it and, in a way, was encouraging others to record for posterity. Other members I know who've participated are Helene Dudley, Larry Geiter, Ted Dieffenbacher and Trent Blare; there may be others. I've just heard positive comments along with encouragement to participate.

To learn more and request to be interviewed yourself, start here:

[Peace Corps Oral History](#)



Travel Revisited
By travel@rpcvsf.org



Our Namibia safari for 2023 was cancelled due to not enough takers for the minimum needed. True: it was expensive. It was essentially a repeat of the trip we took 4 years ago plus one added stop. I have all the paperwork from the previous trip for comparison. At the start of the pandemic, Namibia closed its borders and limited travel in and out of the country bringing disaster to its tourist industry. The local vendors seem to be trying to make up for lost revenue all at once. They did not do themselves any favors. Kudos to my travel agent Africa Adventure Company for putting together an exceptional itinerary. They select the vendors but do not control them. When I tried to rework the safari for 7 travelers instead of 14, the vendors raised the price of the package \$600 per person or \$4200. I told them where to put their safari.

Travel will be traveling in the coming months: January to Morocco with OAT (google oattravel.com); Poland in June (google gate 1 river cruises). *Travel* will no longer serve