

From: Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of South Florida Rpcvssf@wildapricot.org
Subject: The RPCVSF January 2019 Newsletter
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To: Marvin Hancock tmhr@me.com



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!



Newsletter

January 2019

In Memoriam: George H. W. Bush

1924-2018

by Greg Zell (RPCV Nigeria)

At our board meeting in May 1990, President Bob Anderson (RPCV Gabon and Ghana) told us he had been asked by the Peace Corps Partnership office, in honor of our support for the program, to invite two of our members to a ceremony at the White House in which President George H. W. Bush was going to send off the first 120 Volunteers to Poland and Hungary. I looked around the room to see whom I would have to kill to get one of those spots. Fortunately, President Bob was the only one to express an interest.

This was a doubly exciting occasion because one of our members, Joe Gmyrek (RPCV Thailand and Nepal) was headed for his 3rd Peace Corps assignment. Joe, a Polish-American, was hoping to learn the language which he occasionally heard growing up. Katie Bagby of Orlando and daughter of my closest friends in high school was also going to Poland. Katie, a Spanish major, would go on to earn the highest achievement in Polish language skills.

We were escorted through the visitors entrance past the queue by Peace Corps staff and given a short tour of the executive offices including the Oval Office. We ended up in the Rose Garden which had been set up with a stage and folding chairs. The day was beautiful even though there are no roses in the Rose Garden in June. Millie, Mrs. Bush's dog, was romping, chasing squirrels on the South lawn. Guests arrived and the garden was filling when the general tourists were invited to take up standing room and any unclaimed spaces.

The French doors from the Oval Office opened and out strolled President Bush...

Read more

Fair Trade Market

A Small but Interesting Connection to the Global Stage

Do you recall seeing this bag of **Congo Coffee** on the Fair Trade Market table over the years? In 2011, [Equal Exchange](#) began the [Congo Coffee Project](#) to support SOPACDI, a coffee co-op in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In addition, they **donated \$1** to the [Panzi Foundation](#) for every bag of wholesale coffee sold. (Per calculations, RPCVSF has purchased **210 bags**.) The Panzi Hospital provides **medical treatment and support to survivors of sexual violence**. It was founded in 1999 by [Dr. Denis Mukwege](#) and he continues to be its medical director. In 2018, Dr. Mukwege was one of the [recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize](#). The other recipient was [Nadia Murad](#), a survivor of this violence. Who knew coffee could support such incredible and important work?!



To learn more about the Congo Coffee Project, [visit Equal Exchanges website](#). Congo Coffee through Equal Exchange is SOLD OUT. Luckily for you, the Fair Trade Market still has **11 bags!!!** Get one while they last!

Email Linda

Upcoming Events

Happy Hour

Friday, January 11th



Join fellow RPCVs for [gemütlichkeit](#) and some good German beer (or wine) in the *biergarten* at the [Royal Bavarian Schnitzel Haus](#) on Friday, January 11 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Schnitzel Haus is located at [1085 NE 79th Street, Miami FL 33138](#). Parking is available too. Enter from 79th Street via the driveway on the east side of Schnitzel Haus. See you there!

[More Information](#)

20th Annual Everglades Outing

Saturday, January 26th

Our 20th annual Everglades Outing is planned for January 26th, 2019. We hope you can **join us as a volunteer** for the day.

Our **flagship event** has been going strong since **1998** and this year is no exception. RPCVSF, in partnership with the [Biscayne Bay Kiwanis Club](#), will provide **about 100 kids** from local group homes, shelters, and community-based programs the opportunity to experience and learn about the **unique, amazing ecosystem** right in their backyards. The kids have a full day, including breakfast, a nature walk, Junior Ranger initiation, and more.



Please **RSVP** today so we know we can count on you to be there. If you can't make it this year, consider [donating](#) instead. Thanks for your support!

[More Information](#)

[RSVP](#)

[Donate](#)

Bon Voyage Picnic

Sunday, April 28th

Save the date for the 2019 Bon Voyage Picnic. The 2019 picnic will be held on April 28th at [A.D. "Doug" Barnes Park](#) in Shelter #3. Please bring a **potluck dish** to share. We will also supply drinks and sandwiches. If possible, please consider bringing **photos from your PC service**. As the saying goes, a picture says 1,000 words and just might intrigue someone or put their mind at ease.



The park's **amenities** include nature trails, a pool, a playground, and space around the shelter if you'd like to bring outdoor games. You are welcome to come earlier to enjoy this beautiful park. The **picnic and park entrance are free**.

The picnic will be held **rain or shine**. Glass bottles and pets are not allowed in the park. For **complete itinerary**, please see the [event details](#) on our

website. Please [register](#) so we know how many to prepare for. Email Patty at pharespl@gmail.com if you have any questions. You'll enjoy talking with the latest Peace Corps Volunteers as much as they will appreciate talking with you!

More Information

RSVP

Job Listing

Peace Corps Regional Recruiter

Deadline: January 7, 2019

Peace Corps is currently filling **Regional Recruiter positions in Detroit, MI and Orlando, FL**. Recruiters are the sales force of Peace Corps and are responsible for sourcing,



retaining, and communicating with a robust pipeline of qualified candidates for service. Recruiters **work with candidates** to help them convert from people interested in Peace Corps to effective Peace Corps applicants.

Recruiters spend, on average, 30–40% of their time in their **schools and communities** and 60–70% of their time on **direct lead engagement**. These Positions are field-based. Field-based recruiters work from a **home office** for their administrative work. For more details, please see the [full job summary](#). All applicants must have NCE status.

If you are interested in a recruitment opportunity at one of the above locations, please email your detailed resume, cover letter, DOS and NCE documentation **by end-of-day 1/7/19**. Please use the following subject line: *Peace Corps Recruiter Application: (location)*. For the Detroit, MI position, contact [Mike Madej](#). For the Orlando, FL position, contact [Dwan Adams](#). Best of luck with your applications!

More Information

Grant Opportunity

Captain Planet Foundation

Deadline: January 15, 2019

Grants from the [Captain Planet Foundation](#) aim to serve as a means of bringing **environment-based education** to school inspire youth and communities to participate in community service through **environmental stewardship activities**. Grants are available for U.S.-based schools and nonprofit environmental and educational organizations. Preference is given to requests seeking funding of \$500 or less and to



is given to requests seeking funding of \$500 or less and to applicants who have secured at least 50% matching or in-kind funding for their projects. Awards range from \$500 to \$2,500. Good luck!

[More Information](#)

Travel Corner

CIE International Travel has an interesting new **10-day package** for 2019: five days in **Iceland** and five days in **Ireland**.

If you want to check out two very cool islands that start with *i*, contact travel@rpcvsf.org.

Happy travels!



Our former RPCVSF president Tuey Murdock (Colombia) will be moving with her foreign service daughter to **Windhoek, Namibia**, this summer for three years. She welcomes visitors there too. For more information, please contact travel@rpcvsf.org.

[Email Travel](#)

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