

From: Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of South Florida admin@rpcvssf.org
Subject: RPCVSF - April 2016's - News, Events and Opportunities
Date: April 25, 2016 at 5:23 PM
To: Marvin Hancock tmhr@me.com



Annual Picnic & Cinco de Mayo... April Showers Brings May Events, Join us!



NEWSLETTER

April 2016

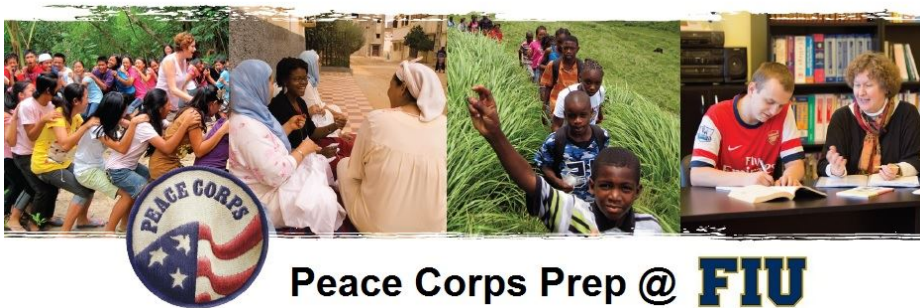


Is the glass half full or half empty? A Peace Corps Volunteer looks at a glass half full and says "I could take a shower in that."

-Kiki Mutis, RPCV

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

Photo: April 2016 Peace Corps Partnership Dinner that raised funds for a multipurpose health building in Zambia.



Peace Corps Prep @ **FIU**

FIU launched a [Peace Corps Prep](#) program in 2014 to continue building the global citizenship of students. All FIU students take at least two global learning courses as part of the university's award-winning [Global Learning for Global Citizenship](#) initiative that helps them to develop globally-focused problem solving skills needed for the classroom and the work force. The 93 students currently participating in Peace Corps Prep also commit to additional global learning courses, language courses, and participation in a year-long engagement project. The project and events surrounding Peace Corps Prep @ FIU are led by a group of student leaders who are passionate about the mission of Peace Corps and

who are passionate about the mission of Peace Corps and who all hope to serve overseas after graduation. The program engages RPCVs in a series of fireside chats called "Conversations with RPCVs" and hosts an art contest - "Transformation through Service." - where the first place prize is a trip to DC to visit Peace Corps Headquarters. For additional information, please contact Caryn Lavernia at claverni@fiu.edu

Justin Stivers, RPCV Honduras 2008-10 - Member HighLight



I am a Florida native (born in Tampa), but raised in Knoxville, Tennessee. I chose to attend college at a small school in Boone, North Carolina called Appalachian State University due in large part to my love of the mountains and hiking. As the first person in my family to attend college, I had very little direction with what to study. I decided to double major in Philosophy and Religion after taking an Intro to Philosophy class. As chance would have it, the study abroad office happened to be located in the building where almost all of my classes were held. This peaked my interest in travel and I immediately began studying and traveling abroad in places such as Israel, Costa Rica, Scotland and Mexico just to name a few. Having discovered my love of traveling, I stumbled across Peace Corps and knew that it was my next step. I applied and was sent to Honduras in July of 2008.

As all Peace Corps volunteers can relate, I had a lot of "free time" on my hands and probably too much time to think about what I wanted to do with my life post Peace Corps. Originally I wanted to work in international development but somehow I decided that law school would be a good next step. I started applying to various law schools and having fallen in love with the Spanish language, Latin culture, and warm weather, I knew that I wanted to move to Miami. I applied and was fortunately accepted into the University of Miami School of Law.

Since graduating, I have worked for several prominent law firms in Miami and have been exposed to a variety of areas of law including personal injury, real estate and immigration. In October of 2015 a former colleague of mine, David Djebelli, and myself began attempting to purchase properties at foreclosure auctions. In doing so, we realized that we had several clients that wanted us to open our own firm. We started helping these clients on the side and set a goal of opening up our own firm in August of 2016. However, by December 2015 we were swamped with work and decided we had enough business to go out on our own.

Stivers Djebelli officially opened in February 2016. We wanted to focus on real estate related issues which is why we also started a title company. We have already processed numerous closings and recently acted as the title company on a million dollar home. In addition to acting as title agents, we also handle landlord/tenant disputes, evictions, foreclosure defense, quiet title actions and general real estate contract review. If there is a property or some sort of real estate related issue involved, chances are we can help. I am also a licensed real estate agent and have been able to help both buyers and sellers in my capacity as a realtor.

In addition, we have also been fortunate to have numerous

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Colombia, 1963-1
Retired Internati

other types of cases. With my connection to Honduras and the diversity here in Miami, I have helped several clients obtain visas, stay deportation and assist in other immigration related issues.

As our practice continues to grow, we have been fortunate to receive nearly all of our business through word of mouth. We have done very little marketing which I believe is a testament to our hard work and growing reputation for providing excellent legal services. Our office is located just west of Coral Gables at 6790 Coral Way, 3rd Floor in Miami, FL. You can reach us at (305) 907-9206, by email at justin@sdlegal.net and find us on the internet at www.sdlegal.net. If you or anyone you know has any real estate related issue, I hope you will keep us in mind.

Saludos,

Justin

Fair Trade Market

Contributed by Linda Whitmyre (Malaysia, 1967-1969)



The Fair Trade Market (FTM) participated in Barry University's Earth Day Celebration on Monday April 18. Students circulated around the booths "collecting signatures." A requirement for them to receive a FTM signature was for them to understand the Fair Trade concept. If they didn't, I gave my "fair trade in a nutshell" speech. Cultivating awareness is the FTM's major goal. This event was very successful in that respect!

The FTM will be at the Cinco de Mayo fiesta on May 7. We're having our end-of-season sale, 25% off the consignment items ... beaded jewelry from Nepal, earrings from Costa Rica and pendants from Nicaragua.

Peace Corps Partnership Dinner

Contributed by Doris Vincent (Venezuela 1964-66)

On Thursday, April 7th, 2016, 22 RPCVs and family members gathered for a Peace Corps Partnership Dinner at Taste Buds of India in South Miami. Besides the good food and great company, we all enjoyed hearing from RPCV Subrata Basu about his Peace Corps country, Belize, and his many projects there. His presentation was accompanied with some beautiful photographs, and was very informative. The group voted to contribute a total of \$554.40 (donations plus RPCVSF matching funds) toward a Multipurpose Health Building in Zambia. Thanks to Subrata and to all who attended!



RPCVSF Travels to Namibia

Message from Trip Coordinator: Greg Zell, Esq. (Nigeria 1962-64)

Bank President & CEO

Membership 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
Nicaragua, 2003-2005
Educator, Florida Virtual

Byron Hauser
Ukraine, 2011-2012
Professor, Miami Dade College

Corey Lewis
Haiti, 2002-2004
Manager of Corporate Relations
Center for Literacy
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, 1972-1974

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

Members at Large

Even though we have a few hundred members we are always seeking assistance to lead

We are trying to fill a second safari vehicle. We need 3 or 4 more travelers to bring the price down on the second vehicle. You have not seen Africa until Africa hands show it to you with professional guides through Africa Adventure Company. For more information on the trip [click here](#).

events, groups, and small projects. If you have a desire to get involved at any level, please contact Virginia Emmons McNought by email at president@rpcvsf.org

Returned Peace Corps Volunteer New Leaders Program



Picture above: Returned Peace Corps Volunteers: President of the Clinton Foundation Donna Shalala, Former Peace Corps Director Williams, President of Knight Foundation and President of RPCVSF and Educate Tomorrow Virginia Emmons participate in a panel at UM for Peace Corps.

Being asked to sit among these giant leaders as a new leader in our community was one of the highlights and honors of my life to date. Pictured above, I was just starting to make an impact in my community, when I was asked to sit on this panel. The most amazing part of the invitation was not sharing my story with the over 400 people there but it was the private dinner we shared afterward, and sharing my story at the White House for Peace Corps Anniversary. I share this because all of this happened because of the RPCVSF network and friends and connections I have made through the years. This is why Vice President of RPCVSF Caryn Lavernia and I are launching the RPCVSF Peace Corps New Leaders Program.

We know the value of connections and we aspire to help you get to the next level in your career. This six month program is designed to launch, inspire and develop community leaders among the RPCVSF community. This leadership series will include private dinners with some of Miami's and the nation's most notable Peace Corps volunteers and community leaders, leadership training, and amazing networking and mentoring experiences. If you are new to the area or are looking for new opportunities in South Florida, or need a boost of inspiration then please send a brief (no more than 200 words) motivation statement and resume to Caryn Lavernia at clavernia@yahoo.com. The first co-hort will be limited to 10 applicants. We look forward to being inspired together!

In Service,

Virginia Emmons McNought

President, RPCVSF, Niger 2000-2002 &

President/Co-Founder Educate Tomorrow

Upcoming Member Events

Upcoming Member Events

MAY



[Board of Directors Meeting - May 2016](#)

01 May 2016 5:00 PM (EDT) • Miami Shores Country Club



[Cinco de Mayo Party](#)

07 May 2016 5:30 PM (EDT) • 2151 SW 17th St, Miami



[Oleta State Park Camp Out](#)

13 May 2016 (EDT) • Oleta State Park



[RPCVSF Annual Family & Bon Voyage Picnic](#)

14 May 2016 3:00 PM (EDT) • Oleta River Park, 3400 NE 163rd St, North Miami (Exact Site TBD)



Do you want to host an event? If so please contact president@rpcvsf.org

[All Upcoming Events-click here](#)

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

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

[RPCVSF Dive Club - click here](#)

Post It! From Our Members

Job Announcements

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

[The Riverside House's](#) "Thinking for Change" life classes are weekly classes for 12-15 people, but 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 volunteering at larrysilvester@me.com RPCVSF thanks Larry for his continued service and dedication to making our community a better one.

[Interpreter Bank](#)

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

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

If you would like to have something posted here the next newsletter please send your announcement to Virginia Emmons McNaught at president@rpcvsf.org

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

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

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