

**From:** Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of South Florida [admin@rpcvssf.org](mailto:admin@rpcvssf.org)  
**Subject:** RPCVSF - October 2016's - News, Events and Opportunities - Special Event This Saturday  
**Date:** October 17, 2016 at 5:20 PM  
**To:** Marvin Hancock [tmhr@me.com](mailto:tmhr@me.com)



RPCVs Gather This Weekend for Annual Event... don't miss it!



## NEWSLETTER

October 2016



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

*Photo: Memorial at Kennedy Space Center  
Barbara Junge*

**Don't Miss One of the Largest RPCV Events, this Saturday...**

**Article contributed by: Virginia Emmons McNaught (Niger) & Matt Tanner (Costa Rica)**

We would like to invite you all to our signature event, the **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** of the Membership of RPCVSF. This year's brunch will feature the "Spirit of Service Learning Award" which exemplify the amazing work of educators in our community and how they are using "service" to further their curriculum. The AGM is a wonderful opportunity to spend the day learning about the activities and projects of the RPCVSF chapter, hear updates about what Peace Corps is doing on a local and international level, spend time with the leadership and members of our diverse chapter, and last but not least, enjoy a delicious catered lunch while touring the gorgeous grounds of the **Miami Beach Botanical Gardens**.

More information on the event and how to register can be found here: [RPCVSF Annual General Meeting](#)

To see photos and reviews of the Miami Beach Botanical Gardens, [click here](#)

**RPCVs Meet NASA RPCVs at Kennedy Space Center**

**Article Contributed by: Barbara Junge (Togo)**

On Oct. 14th, 40 RPCVs from across Florida, including several RPCVSF members, enjoyed a behind-the-scenes tour of Kennedy Space Center. Escorted

by RPCVs who work for NASA, the group visited the famous Vehicle Assembly Building (VAB) - where shuttles and rockets have been built for decades, and which is closed to the public. The VAB is the largest "single story" (i.e. open all the way to the top) building in the world. It is 526 feet tall and its upper roof takes up 4 acres. RPCVs also visited Firing Room 4 - the control room where dozens of launches were initiated.

Special Note:

Astronaut Joe  
Acala (RPCV Dom



Rep): <https://www.nasa.gov/astronauts/biographies/joseph-m-acaba/biography>

And Astronaut Mae Jemison was a PC Medical Officer in Sierra Leone and Liberia in the 1980s:  
<http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/Bios/htmlbios/jemison-mc.html>

A special thanks to Chad Chernet (Bulgaria, 2003-2005), former RPCVSF member and current Peace Corps Regional Recruiter for Central Florida, and to RPCV Madelyn Peery (Senegal, 2014-2016) at NASA's Human Resources office, for coordinating the tour. If you missed the tour this time, please watch your RPCVSF member newsletter next year as we hope to offer this tour again.

## Reel Topics & Talks

- Living on a Dollar a Day in Guatemala
- Inequality for All (Robert Reich film on income inequality)
- Citizen Four (Edward Snowden)

Films scheduled for the future include **Taking Root**, a documentary about a Kenyan Nobel Prize winner, and **Death of Two Sons** about the death of a Peace Corps Volunteer and then the subsequent shooting death of his host brother by NYPD.

If you have films to suggest for this series or if you would like to host a film event at your home, or if you would like to borrow any of the films shown previously please contact [helenedudley@yahoo.com](mailto:helenedudley@yahoo.com)

## Member Spotlight Marlee Cea



Before I started as a Peace Corps volunteer, I was a graduate student at the School for International Training in Brattleboro, Vermont. My experience as an AmeriCorps NCCC member had introduced me to

## RPCVSF Board Members

### President

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

### Vice President

Caryn Lavernia  
Vanuatu, 2005-2008  
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Engagement  
Florida International  
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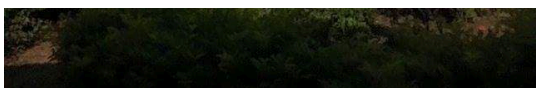
### Vice President

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

### Secretary & Membership Co-Chair

Mary Lamberts  
Thailand, 1970-1972

### Treasurer &



many different types of non-profits; environmental, social services, disaster services, youth development and so on. While I was incredibly grateful to work for such a wide array of non-profits in such a short period of time, I was also exposed to the inner workings of non-profit management and the gaps they encounter trying to balance needs of the community and needs of the organization. This insight drove me to look for a solution. I landed on the School for International Training's Sustainable Development degree program and since graduate degrees require a practicum, I decided what better time to live my dream of being a Peace Corps volunteer; two birds, one stone!

As of November of 2015, I am an official Returned Peace Corps Volunteer. In Costa Rica's beautiful coffee country, working alongside school administrators and teachers, I was able to use theory and analysis to design replicable and effective workshops and activities for students and families and use one of my projects to center my thesis around. This experience was incredibly rewarding as I was able to really explore what I had studied and was able to put it into action and see some of the immediate impact. The relationships I still hold very close enable me to hear the progress that continues almost a year now after I left.

Moving home was a whole new set of challenges and opportunities. I graduated in May with a Master of Arts in Administration and from there, began the hunt for my next professional step forward in Community Development. I realized shortly after that I needed to stay busy and invest in my hometown the way I have invested in other places I now call "home". With the help of some fellow RPCV's in



the South Florida area I was connected with the organization, HandsOn Broward, a non-profit that connects volunteers to opportunities through Broward and even in Miami-Dade counties. Being around volunteers, whether they are RPCVs, high school students looking to get scholarships, or retired but very active grandparents, I feel a sense of home and would encourage any recently returned volunteer to reach out to them, <http://www.handsonbroward.org/>. Or if you are like me and feel more comfortable being introduced by a friend, let me know, I'd be more than happy to connect you!

It must have been good karma because not long after I started volunteering with HandsOn Broward, I received a phone call about a position I had applied to through a job recruiting website. A couple interviews later, I am now the newest Family Advocate at Women in Distress; the only certified domestic violence shelter in Broward County. I feel very fortunate to be considered for this position, to be able to use my experiences to be there for families in such

**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  
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



a difficult situation and also to continue working with people who believe in what they do. It is exactly where I need to be to start my next chapter!

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

## News From The Fair Trade Market & Spirit of Service Learning

Article Contributed By: Linda Whitmyre (Malaysia)

The Fair Trade Market will be at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on October 22. You can start your holiday shopping!!!! A reminder that your purchase not only gets you something unique for yourself or someone else, but provides a fair income for an artisan and resulting benefits to her children. Profits from the AGM sales go to support the Spirit of Service Learning Award (<http://www.rpcvsf.org/page-1727773>).

This year's Spirit of Service-Learning winners and finalists at the Higher Education level are in the fields of 1) urban history, 2) English Composition, 3) Asian History, 4) Engaged Research in the Community, 5) Visual Storytelling for the Web, 6) Occupational Therapy, 7) Human Impact on Florida's Coastal Habitats and 8) Advanced Spanish. The K - 12 winners primarily work with the environment. Come and learn about these exciting service-learning courses and talk with the educators.

At other sales events, profits primarily go to Haitian Education and Leadership Program (<http://uhelp.net/>). HELP is celebrating its 20th anniversary in Haiti on the weekend of November 12 and 13. A highlight of the celebration is a 5 mile walk in Haiti, following the road HELP's first student, Isemonde Joseph, walked from her home in Cite Soleil to her university when she couldn't afford the \$1 daily bus fair. Isemonde is now a medical doctor after receiving encouragement and financial assistance from Conor Bohan to pursue her dream of being a doctor rather than settling for the secretarial course she originally talked with him about. If you want to join the walk in Haiti, there's additional information of HELP's website.

## Every Ending Has A New Beginning

This is my final newsletter as your President. A Peace Corps service commitment is two years, and my service commitment as President was also two years. Much like my Peace Corps service and reflection are the same... I wish I knew then what I know now for I could have been more helpful. I also learned a lot more from those in our RPCV community than I could have ever imparted. As for the 3rd Goal: I will remember this experience fondly, especially as it gets further behind me :), and will share with the world the wonderful members I met, and what an amazing group of dedicated people I met while serving.

You are in good hands with Marvin Hancock as incoming President, who honestly has been leading us all along for many years. It was an absolute pleasure, and extremely humbling being called your leader, and I thank you all for the opportunity. See you Saturday!

In Service, Peace & Gratitude,

Virginia Emmons McNaught

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## Upcoming Member Events

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### Upcoming Calendar of Events



#### [RPCVSF Annual General Meeting of the Membership](#)

22 Oct 2016 10:30 AM (EDT) • Miami Beach Botanical Garden, 2000 Convention Center Dr., Miami Beach, FL 33139

#### [Happy Hour - Coconut Grove](#)

28 Oct 2016 6:00 PM (EDT) • The Grove Spot, 3324 Virginia St., Coconut Grove

#### [Pool party and potluck](#)

19 Nov 2016 3:00 PM (EST) • home of Daryl and Barbara Wall, 1453 Biscaya Dr., Surfside

#### [RPCVSF Annual Holiday Party and Gift Drive](#)

03 Dec 2016 6:00 PM (EST) • Home of Ana Ciereszko, 7550 SW 61st St., Miami



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

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

#### [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 the President at [president@rpcvsf.org](mailto:president@rpcvsf.org)

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## Post It! From Our Members

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### Job Announcements

**See this link for new job opportunities that link Peace Corps service: [Career Opportunities](#)**

#### Volunteer Opportunities

[Micro-finance Volunteers](#) requested to assist Gary Snow in establishing a training programs for his projects. Mr. Snow is establishing a foundation to commemorate his wife Marisol who passed away shortly after being medically evacuated from their site in Botswana due to health problems. Gary will be returning to Botswana soon and is

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

#### [Interpreter Bank](#)

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

Please fill out the registration form with the language

requesting assistance from volunteers who are interested. Gary can be reached at [fgarysnow@gmail.com](mailto:fgarysnow@gmail.com)

[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)

Please fill out the registration form with the language 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@rpcvsf.org](mailto:president@rpcvsf.org)

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

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

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