

**From:** Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of South Florida [admin@rpcvsvf.org](mailto:admin@rpcvsvf.org)  
**Subject:** RPCVSF - September 2016's - News, Events and Opportunities  
**Date:** September 21, 2016 at 10:36 AM  
**To:** Marvin Hancock [tmhr@me.com](mailto:tmhr@me.com)



Today is National Peace Corps Day... What have you done for your country lately



## NEWSLETTER

September 2016



"Hate, anger, or ill thoughts are like acid, they can do more damage to the vessel in which they are stored than onto anything in which they are poured."

-Mark Twain

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

*Photo: Elephants from RPCVSF Namibia Trip by Ted Walters*

### A Peace Corps Challenge & Annual Brunch

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

A few weeks ago, Steve Hunsicker, Peace Corps South Florida recruiter issued us a challenge on behalf of Director Hessler-Radelet, "We challenge you to visit one high school and share your Peace Corps experience." The Office of the Third Goal has materials to help you, and RPCVSF can help you find the audience just contact [president@rpcvsvf.org](mailto:president@rpcvsvf.org) If you need inspiration... We would like to invite you all to our signature event, the **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** of the Membership of RPCVSF. This years 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](#)

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

## Visit Africa in Miami - Peace Corps Partnership Dinner

Article Contributed by: Barbara Junge (Togo)

Have you been wondering where can you find West African food in South Florida? Or maybe you have been looking for a place to celebrate Nigerian Independence Day? Even if those two things haven't been on your mind, we hope that you will join us on Sat. October 1 for our next Peace Corps Partnership Program dinner at Moji Nigerian restaurant in north Miami. We'll have a buffet of tasty food (including vegetarian options) for \$24 (including tax and tip), and we'll collect \$10 per person toward a project of a currently-serving Peace Corps Volunteer. Please [click here for more information and to register](#) (so that we can order enough food). The Partnership Program dinners are a key part of how RPCVSF serves its community and we hope that you will join us at one of these dinners soon. Please read on for more about the Partnership Program dinners.

RPCVSF believes in supporting the work of PCVs (our future members of the global RPCV community!) and we do so by hosting dinners four times each year to support the Peace Corps Partnership Program. The Program works this way: PCVs first apply to have their project approved for funding by the Partnership Program, and then Peace Corps evaluates the project and - if it meets criteria for funding and includes a commitment of support from the PCV's host country community - approves the project for funding through the Peace Corps Partnership Program. At our Partnership Program dinners we look at a list of projects currently awaiting funding and then everyone at the dinner votes on which project we should fund. RPCVSF matches the donated funds (thanks to your annual dues we are able to match each donation 100%) and then we follow the success of the project and post pictures and letters from the PCV on our website. **RPCVSF and its members have contributed a total of \$15,000 over the past ten years.**

## Peace Corps Retreat Breaks Record - [Watch Video](#)

[Watch the VIDEO Here.](#) Thanks to event organizer Barbara Junge (Togo) This year's RPCVSF Membership Retreat broke a few records and had a few "firsts"! We are thrilled to report that we had the largest number of attendees in recent years: 73, including RPCVs who represented every decade of Peace Corps service and every region of the world and every county of South Florida. We enjoyed great food, excellent weather and wonderful company all weekend long. We saw Saturn (thanks to the telescope and expert help from our astronomer Jim Scheidegger), and our SCUBA divers saw a shark. We also had our youngest attendee (the infant grandson of our member Jeff Guenther), and we welcomed several first time Retreat-ers. It was a great time to connect with old friends and make new friends. Pictures are posted on our

### RPCVSF Board Members

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

**Vice President**

types and make new members feel at home. All are posted on our website.

Thank you to everyone who helped make it such a success! We hope that all of our members will join us next year! Please mark your calendars now for Sept. 8-10, 2017, at Amoray Resort in Key Largo.

### **RPCVSF Members to Present & Represent at Peace Corps Connect**

Former RPCVSF president Helene Dudley and former RPCVSF board member, Heather Sayette, will participate in a panel discussion at the National Peace Corps Association Conference in Washington D.C. this week to share ideas on ways that RPCVs can continue to serve their Peace Corps communities. Helene will also participate in a panel to update Friends of Colombia (FOC) members about The Colombia Project-TCP Global, which FOC continues to support. The following week, TCP Global team members Helene Dudley and Dave Snyder will travel to Colombia with former RPCVSF president Emily Eisenhower to visit a new micro-loan site and make a presentation to Peace Corps trainees. The Colombia Project was established as a committee of RPCVSF in 2000 and evolved to an independent group of consultants as TCP Global, this group raises funds and provides support for non-profits who seek to start micro-lending programs or small businesses. RPCVSF co-founder Greg Zell, and RPCVSF Travel Coordinator Extrordinaire will also be attending on behalf of RPCVSF leadership.

### **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

Caryn Lavernia  
Vanuatu, 2005-2008  
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  
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



assistance from Condr 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.

## RPCVSF Goes on Safari to Namibia

Article Contributed By: Greg Zell (Nigeria 62-64) Travel Coordinator RPCVSF

The group met up in Johannesburg and went straight to Tribes restaurant in the Emperor's Palace casino complex for drinks and a bit of ceremony to initiate the 3 newbies to Africa. Now that they were going to be Africa hands, they would no longer say, "Johannesburg." From now on it would be, "Jo'burg." At dinner, most tried the ostrich steak fillet (farm-raised, of course) with berry sauce, washed down with a splash of South African bubbly. Both were proclaimed "delicious."

Next morning was early, the first of many, for an hour and half flight to Windhoek (vindhooek), the pretty capital of Namibia. We were met at the airport by Stewart, our fantastic guide. A 34 year old native of Zimbabwe, he said he was on his way to becoming a hooligan when he decided to pull himself together, started studying wild life and went to guide school. All his younger siblings have African names. For him, his mother just liked "Stewart." He started by setting us straight: Some of you have heard of Africa time. Namibia was a German colony. We do everything on German time. And so it was. We boarded our "safari Ferrari", as he called it, actually an enclosed air conditioned Toyota Land Cruiser for 7 of us and Stewart. Off we went on a short tour of the charming capital. Before heading to the coastal dunes, largest in the world, we stopped at a grocery store for Stewart to fill our coolers with lunch goodies and drinks. Our lunchtime routine: Stewart would pull up under a nice tree. We all pitched in to set up the folding table and chairs, unpack the coolers, chow down, and repack. ([CLICK HERE TO READ MORE.](#))

## Falling is Part of the Ride

As I am going into my last month as President of RPCVSF, I have been reflecting on the past two years. This past weekend, Brett and I were teaching the kids to surf. As the kids laid on the soft top board and glide calmly across the water to daddy they never fell off the board. I decide I am going to show them how this is done, I take the board, and when a nice little wave comes along I catch it. I jumped to my feet, and proudly stand atop the board and salute to my kids. Then the wave peters out and I do the obligatory fall off the board and into the water. When I surface, my kids are laughing hysterically because mommy fell off the board and into the water. I smile too, because I enjoy their perspective, but more so because I enjoyed the ride, the company and trying to show them something new. I look forward to seeing you on October 22 at the annual brunch.

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

In Service & Peace,  
Virginia Emmons McNaught  
President, RPCVSF

EDITS: In the last newsletter we had written about the new Peace Corps logo. Correction, the new logo is for marketing purposes and the "official" logo remains. In either case, I don't believe the image loaded properly. Also the Steve Rawlings Photo did not appear as well, both you will find here:



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## Upcoming Member Events

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### Calendar



[Peace Corps Partnership Dinner & 56th Anniversary of Nigerian Independence](#)

01 Oct 2016 6:00 PM (EDT) • Bijon African Restaurant 825 NW 119 Street in North Miami

[REEL Topics and Talk](#)

12 Oct 2016 7:30 PM (EDT) • 2151 SW 17 St, Miami

[Kennedy Space Center Private Tour](#)

14 Oct 2016 (FDT) • Kennedy Space Center

[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 Virginia Emmons McNaught 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 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

[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](mailto: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 a 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 in the next newsletter please send your announcement to Virginia Emmons McNaught at [president@rpc](mailto:president@rpc)

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)

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

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

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