

From: **Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of South Florida** admin@rpcvssf.org
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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

March 2017

We've Been Busy

Habitat for Humanity, North Korea, and Marco Rubio probably haven't all been in the same sentence before, but there's a first time for everything. Last month, RPCVSF brought people together around those three and more.

On February 15th, Tim O'Brien (Korea), Mark Reilly (Honduras), and Daryl Wall (Ecuador) put their construction skills to work and joined **Habitat for Humanity** of Greater Miami for this year's Blitz Build. They installed insulation in one of the ten houses being built. Kudos to them for helping bring a family's home closer to completion.



Later in the month, on February 25th, we held our first **Partnership Dinner** of 2017. Tim and Hyon O'Brien presented an insightful and personal history of Korea, including fascinating accounts of their time traveling in the North. In addition to feasting on some traditional Korean fare, including *kim chi*, *bulgogi*, and *pajeon*, the dinner also successfully raised **\$480**, which went to fund C.E.S.H.P.: Constructing and Educating to Solve Hygiene Problems in **Cambodia**. The project is part of the [Let Girls Learn](#) initiative and plans to construct sanitary bathrooms in order to increase student attendance, improve hand-washing habits, decrease class time missed, and strengthen hygienic practices at the school. For more information, visit our [website](#).

As part of **Peace Corps Week**, on February 27th, some RPCVs from our group joined Peace Corps recruiter Steve



Hunsicker for the Around the World Fair at FIU. Thanks to everyone who helped out and shared their host country experiences.

Also on February 27th, some RPCVSF members met with staff at Senator Rubio and Representative Diaz-Balart's offices, respectively, to lobby each for their support in continued funding for Peace Corps for 2017. **Did you know** that in fiscal year 2016, approximately 24,000 Americans applied to Peace Corps but funding could only support 3,800 opportunities? Each year, 5,000 more Peace Corps Volunteers are requested by countries than funding allows.



Upcoming Events

GenCLEO Happy Hour

March 6, 2017

Are you under 30? Interested in addressing climate action in Miami-Dade? Consider attending the next GenCLEO Meeting/Happy Hour at The Grove Spot on Monday, March 6th from 5:30–7:30pm. What's GenCLEO, you ask? It's part of the [CLEO Institute](#) (Climate Leadership Engagement Opportunities), which works to bridge the divide between science and society. You too can learn to become a "climate communicator" and talk with authority on the things we've heard about climate change: the earth is getting warmer, the sea level is rising, and it is happening quickly. If you're looking for a way to get involved, join us to learn more and plan strategies with like-minded people. [The Grove Spot](#) is at 3324 Virginia Street, Coconut Grove, 33133. No RSVP required.



BEE-Cause (you know you like RPCVSF's Fair Trade)

March 18, 2017



The Fair Trade Market will be a vendor at [Tropical Audubon Society's BEE-Cause event](#) from 10 am to 4 pm on Saturday, March 18.

This event celebrates the pollinators who labor very intensely at the front-end of the chain that brings food to our tables. There will be "free-bee" workshops such as Backyard

Beekeeping, Baking with Honey, plus a local honey tasting. You can explore trails, wander through the three-acre nature preserve to experience the Pine Rockland and Tropical Hardwood Hammock habitats. Top it off with a tour of the historic Doc Thomas House. And, of course, you can pick up a few things at the Fair Trade

Market. The event is at 5530 Sunset Drive, Miami 33143. FREE

RPCVSF Happy Hour

March 31, 2017

It's always happy hour somewhere, but on Friday, March 31st our very own will ensue. Join us from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at [The Grove Spot](#) located at 3324 Virginia Street, Coconut Grove, 33133. We recommend parking in the CocoWalk garage adjacent or in the City of Miami garage around the corner on Oak Avenue. Cheers!

Jupiter Library Presentation

April 4, 2017

Meet other Returned Volunteers from the northern Palm Beach County area and share your experiences with future volunteers. Join us at 2 p.m. at the Jupiter Branch Library, 705 Military Trail, Jupiter, FL 33458. Email shunsicker@peacecorps.gov if you can attend.

Family & Bon Voyage Picnic

April 23, 2017



Congratulate the newest Peace Corps volunteers as they prepare to begin their service overseas. The Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of South Florida host the [Bon Voyage picnic](#) every year.

Join us at the Manatee Pavilion at [Oleta River State Park](#) for the picnic from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. [RSVP](#)

Cinco de Mayo Party

May 6, 2017

It's time for our annual [Cinco de Mayo party](#)! Join us at 5:30 p.m. Bring a dish to share and BYOB. There's a kid-friendly pool and there will be *piñatas* and *mariachis* around 7:30 p.m. For more information, or to help with set-up or clean up, please contact Helene helene@shells.com. The next will



neilenequidley@yanoo.com . The party will include an informational display about The Colombia Project (TCP), which provides micro-loans in Colombia. Plus, the Fair Trade Market will be here!
[RSVP](#)



Travel Corner

There are some exciting trips coming up in 2017. Please contact travel@rpcvsf.org if you are interested in any (or all!) of them and would like to learn more.

Namibia II	Botswana & Zimbabwe	Chile & Easter Island
August 19–September 1, 2017	November 2017	Fall 2017
Only a few spaces left to join the epic safari to Namib Naukluft, Swakopmund, Damaraland, Etosha, and Okonjima that was so popular it's happening a second time. Details here .	<i>The summer safari was cancelled.</i> However, in the coming days, we will be offering a bridge season safari in early November, which will be more reasonably priced. Stay tuned for more details. Greg Zell says that your life will be incomplete until you see Victoria Falls. Why not go and see for yourself?	Visit Santiago and Valparaiso in Chile, plus explore Easter Island. Details coming soon. 

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