



Common Ground

IDAHO RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS

FALL 2019

Board Members

President

Katie Miller
madermade@gmail.com

Vice President

Vacant

Treasurer

Steve Randolph
irpcvtreasurer@gmail.com

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James Watson
chefwatson13@gmail.com

Social Chair

Sonya Greegor
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Lila Cabrera
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Secretary

Chelsea Krema
kremac@gmail.com

Newsletter

Chloe Ross
rosschloe@hotmail.com

Past President

Aaron Hueth
cincygriffey@aol.com

2020 CALENDARS FOR SALE

The 2020 Peace Corps calendars are now available! As always, the calendars feature beautiful photos taken in host countries, past and present, and an amazing array of holidays and commemoration days from around the world.

Consider buying 2 or 3 for holiday giving or just because. This is our biggest fundraiser for the year and all proceeds go to the organization's grant program.

The prices are:

1-3 = \$13 each

4 or more = \$11 each

If you need one mailed, postage for one is \$2.50

Calendars will be available to pick up at all the upcoming IRPCV activities. You can also contact a board member to make special arrangements for a pick-up. Each board member has committed to selling at least 25.

If you wish to pay using PayPal or your credit card, please calculate what your order total is and pay using the "Donation" page and then send an email to irpcvtreasurer@gmail.com to confirm the order and your address if you wish the calendar to be mailed.

Contact Steve Randolph with any questions at irpcvtreasurer@gmail.com.



JOIN THE BOARD!

Here is your opportunity to give back to the IRPCV community!

We have quite a few board seats opening up in January. Voting will take place at the January board meeting

Upcoming vacancies are below:

President – vacant January 2020

Vice President—vacant now

Treasurer—vacant January 2020

Secretary— vacant January 2020

Newsletter Editor –vacant January 2020

Please contact Katie Miller at madermade@gmail.com if you are interested or know someone who would be a good fit.

A Message from Kathy

Здраво! My name is Kathy and my husband Allan and I returned about nine months ago from a three and a half year stint in the Peace Corps in North Macedonia, a small Balkan country in Eastern Europe. We are excited to be back in Boise, are retired and living in the North End. And we'd love to get together with other RPCVs who are new to Boise or recently returned to hear all about your Peace Corps story, for coffee or lunch or just a walk on the Greenbelt. We've got



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In order to preserve the aging and delicate parade taxi, we are officially decommissioning it for the annual parades the group regularly takes part in. The board still plans to store and maintain the taxi and will bring it out at for future, special events.

In lieu of the taxi, the board is asking every parade participant to acquire and fly their country flag at upcoming parades. Multiple flags waving along the parade route is bound to attract attention and generate excitement.

Bring a 3 x 5 ft flag of your host country to fly alongside the American Flag. You can find them [here](#) for less than \$10.

The currently has 11 flags from: Mexico, Paraguay, Ukraine, Belize, Macedonia, Senegal, Malawi, Jamaica, Thailand, El Salvador, Costa Rica.

The next parade is the holiday parade on Saturday, November 23rd .



Bringing the World Home Osher Institute Class



The Geopolitical Importance of **Ukraine** will be the subject of a short course presented by Connie Collins (Ukraine 2003-2005) at the Boise State Osher Institute of Learning November 5, 2019. This will be the second lecture series on **Ukraine** presented by Connie who served as an environmental consultant during her service. The first course was on **Ukrainian** history up to and including the 2014 Revolution. The course offered in November will focus on the geopolitical features that have made **Ukraine** so important to other countries including the U.S.

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Boise State University is a membership-based lifelong learning program offering college level, non-credit classes for intellectually curious adults over age 50. The Osher Institute follows a semester-based academic schedule. Offerings typically last two hours and are structured as one-time lectures, multi-day short courses, off-site special events or member-led special interest groups. (SIGS).

Boise State University is among a cadre of over 120 universities and colleges throughout the country that are endowed by the Bernard Osher Foundation. To learn more about the BSU program or if interested in presenting go to osher.boisestate.edu.

Join us for a Peace Corps Story Slam



The Center for Global Education presents;

Peace Corps, Their Story, Your Story.

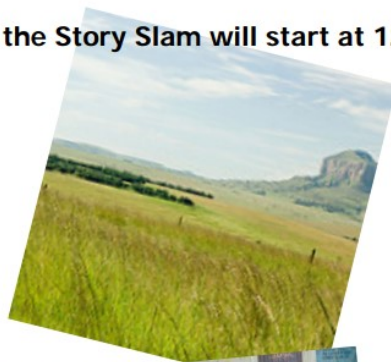
Join members of the Boise State Peace Corps Community during International Education Week 2019 for the 2nd annual Story Slam! Come and listen to returned Peace Corps Volunteers share short stories about their Peace Corps service built around 1 meaningful image. Following the stories there will be a Q&A about Peace Corps service. A FREE lunch will be served prior to the start of the program.

WHEN: Friday, November 22nd, 2019

WHERE: Student Union Building (SUB) on the 2nd Floor in Bergquist Room

WHAT: Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and Soon-to-be Volunteers share their stories about Peace Corps using 1 image as a prompt

TIME: FREE lunch starts at 12 PM, the Story Slam will start at 12:30 PM.



FALL 2019

August 20, 2019

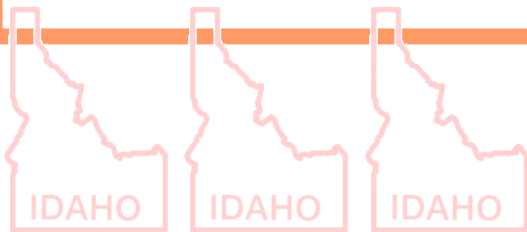
WASHINGTON, D.C.— Over five years after the suspension of its program in Kenya, the Peace Corps announced today it will re-open its doors in the East African country.



“Since the departure of our volunteers in 2014, the Government of Kenya, the Peace Corps and the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi have been steadfast in our desire to return to the important work volunteers were doing throughout the country,” said Jody Olsen, Director of the Peace Corps. “Based on the results of a thorough assessment earlier this year, we have determined that in-country conditions support the return of Peace Corps volunteers. We look forward to working with our friends and colleagues in Kenya, continuing to build bonds of international peace and friendship together.”



Peace Corps’ efforts in Kenya will focus on math, science and deaf education. Once in Kenya, volunteers will undergo three months of comprehensive cultural, language and technical training before they are given their assignments to serve for two years. The first Peace Corps volunteers to serve after the suspension of the post will arrive in late 2020. Available positions can be found [here](#).



2020 Memberships!

As always, if you haven't already, please renew or join online NOW at www.idahopeacecorps.com. You can also mail your annual payment to Steve Randolph at 1011 N. 5th St, Boise, ID 83702.

Remember, first time IRPCV members can join for 1 year free!

Bethany

Martinez

Idaho Field

Recruiter



Ukraine 15-17

208-283-7465

bmartinez@peacecorps.org

Visit www.smile.amazon.com and click “Pick a charity.”

Search for Idaho Charities and **IRPCV**. Like magic, an

Amazon icon will appear on your home tool bar,

making it easy for you to click on the icon every time

you want to shop Amazon. When you make a

purchase, click on the icon and a percentage will

go to us, giving us a little more to help us

continue our work!



Upcoming Events

Fall 2019

November 3: 1pm Quarterly Board Meeting @ James' house

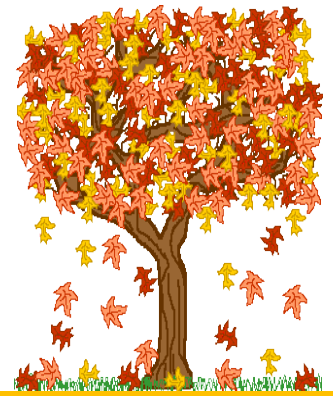
3866 N. La Fontana Way

November 22: Boise State Story Slam

November 23: Holiday Parade

December 6: Artisans for Hope First Friday in
Garden City

December 7: Holiday Party, 6-9pm
Broadway Dance and Events Center
893 E Boise Ave



We are working to re-locate our first Friday location.

Fill out the survey on the [IRPCV Facebook Page](#) to share your preference and then stay tuned for the results.

Boise State Story Slam for International Education Week

Date: Friday, November, 22nd, 2019

Time: 12:00PM – 1:30PM

- Lunch will be provided from 12:00PM – 12:30PM
- StorySlam will take place from 12:30PM – 1:30PM

Where: Boise State University, Student Union Building in the Bergquist Lounge

What: Join the Peace Corps Prep program and support IRPCVs as they share a picture and story from their Peace Corps service. This event is open to all and we hope to have a good turnout of individuals who are thinking about joining Peace Corps!

Storyfort 2020!

(Date, Time and Location TBD)

Peace Corps has been invited back to Storyfort to share stories from IRPCVs! This was a great event last year and we are excited to do this event again.

This year's theme is Peace Corps Love Stories. We will be looking for three couples to share their stories. Preferably, a couple who served in Peace Corps together, two PCVs who met in Peace Corps and a PCV and HCN (host country national) that met during the PCVs time in their country. Applications to be a storyteller coming soon!



www.IdahoPeaceCorps.com

NPCA Group/Regional Advocacy Coordinator Opportunity

To strengthen Peace Corps community impact on matters of public policy and grassroots citizen lobbying, the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) seeks interested volunteer Advocacy Coordinators to serve as a liaison with NPCA's Advocacy Program staff in Washington D.C. On Tuesday, October 29th, a one-hour webinar (8 PM Eastern) will be hosted for individuals interested in taking on a very important role within our community - becoming an advocacy coordinator in a particular state/region.

We currently don't have a Boise/Idaho advocacy coordinator to serve as a key grassroots, on-the-ground link between our advocacy program, the Boise RPCV group and other members and friends of our community. With Senator Risch now serving as Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and Congressman Simpson serving on the House Appropriations Committee, strong voices of the Idaho Peace Corps community are as important as ever in helping the Peace Corps be the best that it can be.

Where applicable, coordinators will be a liaison with NPCA affiliate groups in their coverage area. With the understanding that this is a volunteer position, it is our hope that Advocacy Coordinators can meet the following expectations:

- ⇒ Make a minimum two-year commitment to the position
- ⇒ Join monthly national conference calls (or listen to recordings of these calls)
- ⇒ Assist NPCA with advocacy mobilization and activity at least twice a year, including the annual National Days of Action in Support of the Peace Corps, held each March
- ⇒ Take action and share information in conjunction with NPCA action alerts
- ⇒ Be familiar with NPCA advocacy initiatives and priorities, and be knowledgeable of key NPCA advocacy resources, including NPCA's electronic letter writing action center and NPCA's state resources page.

Other Opportunities Beyond the expectations outlined above, NPCA Advocacy Coordinators can also play a key role in our movement through any of the following activities (assisting in at least one of the following tasks is encouraged).

- ⇒ Assist NPCA during critically important advocacy fundraising initiatives.
- ⇒ Assist NPCA in building 3 – 6 member grassroots Peace Corps advocacy teams in every congressional district.
- ⇒ Assist NPCA in building 3 – 6 member grassroots NPCA Advocacy Advisory Councils in each state.
- ⇒ Organize/conduct an NPCA advocacy training or other promotional/introductory event in your region.
- ⇒ Conduct at least one attempt for earned media in your region (e.g., television interview, letter-to-the-editor, etc.).
- ⇒ Assist NPCA with state or local public policy issues (e.g., Peace Corps resolutions, state retirement credit legislation).

Because the NPCA is a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization, coordinators understand and adhere to the non-partisan nature of NPCA advocacy, and is prepared to reach out to all policy makers - regardless of party affiliation - with respect and anticipation that all policy makers have the potential to be supporters of a strong, vibrant and improved Peace Corps.

If you are interested in joining the October 29th webinar, or want to learn more but can't attend on that evening, please contact Jonathan Pearson (Micronesia 87-89), Advocacy Director, National Peace Corps Association.

Email: jonathan@peacecorpsconnect.org

Web: <http://www.PeaceCorpsConnect.org>

Refugee Communities in Greece Need Your Help!

In the last 3 months, the number of refugees on the island of Lesbos, Greece has surged. Housing conditions are very poor and resources extremely limited. Most international refugee organizations have turned their attention elsewhere. Fortunately, small, local NGO's have sprung up to provide some measure of relief. They offer services in education, recreation, health, hygiene and much more. They depend almost completely on volunteer help. RPCVs' experience with acculturation, ambiguity and limited resources are ideal in these situations. Learn more about this fulfilling opportunity, by clicking here on the [Peace Corps Community for Refugees website](#).



Please join our webinar on October 30, 2019 at 8:00pm Eastern Time to learn more about opportunities and to hear more from RPCVs who have worked on the island. Click [this link on the NPCA website](#) to register for the webinar.



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VOLUNTEERS