



# Common Ground

Idaho Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Spring 2017

## Peace Corps Week 2017

### Highlights:

- Holiday Party 2
- Michele Magera 3
- Members 4
- Peace Corps 5
- Bon Voyage 6
- Director's Message 7
- Upcoming Events 8

This year's Peace Corps Week theme was **Highlighting Hospitality: How does your Peace Corps Country Make People Feel Welcome?** Volunteers are often humbled by the hospitality of their Peace Corps country. Those traditions of hospitality and feelings of welcome with the world were shared this Peace Corps Week from February 26-March 4, 2017.

Peace Corps Week celebrates President Kennedy's establishment of the Peace Corps on March 1, 1961. During this annual event, the Peace Corps community celebrates all the ways that Peace Corps makes a difference at home and abroad and renews its commitment to service. Volunteers and Returned Peace Corps Volunteers celebrated Peace Corps Week in various ways all around the globe. How did you celebrate? A special congratulations to the winners of this year's Peace Corps Video challenge! Honors were given to videos sharing the culture and experiences of Senegal, Armenia and Mozambique, to name a few. *(Article and images taken from [www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov))*



## IRPCV Calendar Update



### Idaho RPCVs Make a Difference!

IRPCV would again like to thank everyone that helped sell calendars this year. All of our 2017 calendars were sold out before the beginning of the new year. Since 1988, net proceeds (more than \$1 million) from these International Calendar sales have been donated to invaluable community projects around the world. Countries featured in the 2017 calendar are Peru, Fiji, Argentina, Uganda, The Gambia, Togo, Micronesia, Morocco, Ghana, Mongolia, Armenia and Indonesia.

# *Holiday Party 2016*



*Our IRPCV Holiday Party was held at the home of Mike and Sharon Bixby (Jamaica 1968-1970) on December 3, 2016.*

## Global Citizen Honors Idaho RPCV

In his acceptance remarks "Expression of Gratitude," in the Winter 2016 WorldView, Ibrahim Sankare of Mali made special mention of Michele Pare (Orofino) and Brigid Andrew. Sankare received the Harris Wofford Global Citizen Award at this summer's NPCA Washington DC gathering.

"In my case, the dozens of Volunteers who have collaborated with me should be congratulated. In particular, I must make special mention of my nominators, Michele Pare and Brigid Andrew who are here with me now."

"Today, the whole world knows me, but what the world does not know is the involvement of these two compassionate individuals and the ideas that they planted within me for 24 years, and with which I find the energy to transform obstacles into opportunities and opportunities into realities."

"Today more than ever, I believe that peace is possible in Mali if certain mentalities are changed. Who better than a Peace Corps Volunteer can help to change these mentalities by helping us develop federal projects for children and young people? No one! Provided that they are Micheles and Brigids."

Mr. Sankare is Secretary General of de IONG Delta Survive, Mopti, Mali. Michele (Pare) Magera (Mali 1988-1990) is the daughter of RPCVs Joan and Moe Pare (Ecuador 1961-1963) who gained fame at our annual breakfast feed at the Northwest campouts.



**Charles (Sam) Greer**  
*RPCV Ethiopia, 1966-1968*

## ★ IRPCV Seeking Grantees for 2017 ★

Do you know of some group or project that could use a little extra money to further the goals of volunteerism of Peace Corps? Maybe one of the small grants (\$300 each) that IRPCV will distribute in 2017 can be that financial boost.

### Grant Criteria:

- An Idaho group or project working with youth, refugees or immigrants, the homeless, women, etc.,
- A service project of a currently serving Idaho Peace Corps Volunteer

**Application Process:** Send a letter on official letterhead including **1)** Details of the organization or group seeking the grant **2)** A statement of purpose for which the grant money will be used and **3)** A signature by an official representative of the group and/or organization. Send the letter to Connie Collins at 512 S Eagleson Rd., Boise, Idaho, 83705, or e-mail the letter to [connie1940@gmail.com](mailto:connie1940@gmail.com). The deadline for submission is **April 5th, 2017**.

## Thank you to all our IRPCV Members - 2017

<b>Matt Anders</b>	<b>Boise</b>	<b>Kazakhstan</b>
<b>Joseph Bartels</b>		
<b>Sharon Bixby</b>	<b>Boise</b>	<b>Jamaica 1968-1970</b>
<b>Mike Bixby</b>	<b>Boise</b>	<b>Jamaica 1968-1970</b>
<b>Aviva Braun</b>	<b>Boise</b>	<b>Senegal 2011-2013</b>
<b>Arnold Burgemeister</b>	<b>American Falls</b>	<b>India</b>
<b>Lila Cabrera</b>	<b>Boise</b>	<b>Paraguay</b>
<b>Douglas Clegg</b>	<b>Nampa</b>	<b>Vanuatu</b>
<b>Connie Collins</b>	<b>Boise</b>	<b>Ukraine</b>
<b>Jim Crow</b>	<b>Eagle</b>	<b>Antiqua</b>
<b>Colleen Crow</b>	<b>Eagle</b>	<b>Antiqua</b>
<b>Darrell Deppert</b>	<b>Boise</b>	<b>Nepal 1971 –1974</b>
<b>Victoria Deppert</b>	<b>Boise</b>	<b>Nepal</b>
<b>Paula Dorney</b>	<b>Boise</b>	<b>Kenya</b>
<b>Patricia Duncan</b>	<b>Nampa</b>	<b>Vanuatu</b>
<b>Diana Gardner</b>	<b>Boise</b>	<b>Namibia</b>
<b>Lee Godshalk</b>	<b>Boise</b>	<b>Korea</b>
<b>Dave Greegor</b>		
<b>Sonya Greegor</b>		
<b>Charles B. Greer</b>		
<b>Annette Hansen</b>		
<b>Marilyn Hemker</b>	<b>Boise</b>	<b>Burkina Faso 1975-1977</b>
<b>John Hooper</b>	<b>Boise</b>	<b>Niger</b>
<b>Aaron Hueth</b>	<b>Boise</b>	<b>Kazakhstan</b>
<b>Pat Hughes</b>	<b>Boise</b>	<b>Thailand</b>
<b>Walter Kaiser</b>	<b>Boise</b>	<b>Bolivia</b>
<b>Dennis Larsen</b>	<b>Blackfoot</b>	<b>Costa Rica</b>
<b>Kevin Laughlin</b>	<b>Garden City</b>	<b>Belize</b>
<b>Gail Le Bow</b>	<b>Boise</b>	<b>Bolivia</b>
<b>Andrew Long</b>	<b>Boise</b>	<b>Tanzania</b>
<b>Andrea Mason-Huntley</b>		
<b>Susan Mason</b>	<b>Boise</b>	<b>Honduras</b>
<b>Trish McKernan</b>	<b>Boise</b>	<b>(Spouse)</b>
<b>Amy Mercer</b>		
<b>Mallory Michaelson</b>	<b>Boise</b>	
<b>Mezelle Moore</b>	<b>Boise</b>	<b>Mongolia 2012-2014</b>
<b>Taylor Munz</b>	<b>Boise</b>	
<b>Mike Philley</b>	<b>Boise</b>	<b>Bolivia</b>
<b>Sue Philley</b>	<b>Boise</b>	
<b>Jennifer Rogers</b>	<b>Boise</b>	<b>Malawi</b>
<b>Chloe Ross</b>	<b>Boise</b>	<b>Gabon</b>
<b>Justin Ross</b>	<b>Boise</b>	<b>Senegal 2011-2013</b>
<b>Carolle Skov</b>	<b>Boise</b>	<b>El Salvador</b>
<b>David Snyderman</b>	<b>Boise</b>	<b>Belize</b>
<b>Myrna Stahman</b>		
<b>Robert Stahman</b>		
<b>Kathy Stearns</b>	<b>Boise</b>	<b>Mali</b>
<b>Dale Stephenson</b>	<b>Boise</b>	<b>Mali</b>
<b>Meg Stephenson</b>	<b>Boise</b>	<b>Colombia</b>
<b>Sarah Stewart</b>		
<b>Kathleen Tilford</b>	<b>Salmon</b>	<b>Thailand 2010-2012</b>
<b>Phoebe Uricchio</b>		
<b>Danielle Walsh</b>	<b>Boise</b>	<b>Thailand</b>
<b>Priscilla Wegars</b>	<b>Moscow</b>	<b>Ghana</b>
<b>Charlotte Zaugg</b>	<b>Caldwell</b>	<b>Ghana</b>
<b>Jerry Zaugg</b>	<b>Caldwell</b>	



**You Shop and Amazon Gives:  
IRPCV Partners with Amazon  
Smile**

Are you an on-line shopper, especially from Amazon? Did you know that you, your family and friends can have a small percentage of every purchase from Amazon donated to the **IRPCV?**

Just visit [www.smile.amazon.com](http://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!

**Peace Corps Seattle Recruitment  
Office**  
1601 5th Ave, Suite 605  
Seattle, WA 98101

**Our Peace Corps Representatives:**

**Erin Erickson**  
*Moldova 07-10*  
Seattle Office (AK, MT, OR & WA)  
**206.239.6624**  
**855.855.1961**  
**[eerickson2@peacecorps.gov](mailto:eerickson2@peacecorps.gov)**

**Amber Gomes**  
*Kenya 12-14*  
Seattle Office (ID)  
**206.239.6611**  
**[agomes@peacecorps.gov](mailto:agomes@peacecorps.gov)**



**Financial Statement 2017**

**Idaho Returned Peace Corps  
Volunteers, Inc**

<i>Checking</i>	<b>\$5,221.89</b>
<i>Event Equipment</i>	<b>\$560.00</b>
<i>Total Assets</i>	<b>\$5,781.89</b>

*\*Note: As a not-for profit 51(3c) organization, IRPCV must publish a yearly financial statement to the membership. For a detailed financial statement, request from Secretary Meg Stephenson.*

**IRPCV Annual Meeting**

**Your Presence is Requested!**

**Please join all Idaho Returned  
Peace Corps Volunteers at our  
annual meeting**

**Date:** Sunday, April 9th, 2017

**Time:** 4 pm-8pm

**Location:** The Church on  
Woodlawn  
Boise , Idaho

# Bon Voyage 2017



**Location:**  
Cassia Park

**June 2nd**  
**5 - 9 pm**

*Join fellow IRPCVs to welcome those who have recently returned from service and congratulate those who will be leaving in the near future. Bring a dish to share!*

## IRPCV Memberships

Peace Corps service continues long after Volunteers leave their posts. President Kennedy stated that the third goal of the Peace Corps is to "strengthen Americans' understanding about the world and its peoples." This is a life-long commitment you made when you joined the Peace Corps. The easiest way for you to meet this goal is to join Idaho RPCVs. Together we can strengthen the understanding of other cultures in the State of Idaho. The annual dues are a pittance - just \$15 per year (less than a single dinner at a restaurant)! So there is no acceptable excuse for not joining us. If you live in Idaho and you served in the Peace Corps join IRPCV!

Thanks to all who have renewed your IRPCV membership. Renew or join online at [www.idahopeacecorps.com](http://www.idahopeacecorps.com). You can also mail your annual payment to Connie Collins (512 Eagleson Rd., Boise, ID, 83705). First time IRPCV members can join for 1 year free!

## IRPCV Trailer needs a home!

Aaron Hueth is moving and is trying to find someone who can house the IRPCV trailer. The trailer has been used in the past to transport the IRPCV taxi. Please e-mail Aaron at [cincygrif-fey@aol.com](mailto:cincygrif-fey@aol.com) if you are able to store the trailer.



## A Message from the Director:

Dear Returned Peace Corps Volunteer,

As I complete my service this week, I want to reach out to all of you for the last time to express once again how grateful I am to have served with you during my tenure as director of this amazing agency. It has truly been the greatest honor of my life to return to the Peace Corps and lead you all in our historic efforts to safeguard the Peace Corps' extraordinary legacy, welcome a new generation of Volunteers, and so much more. The magic of the Peace Corps depends on collaboration and on the will and spirit of each person to be of service to the world. I remain in awe of the creativity, drive, and goodwill that I have witnessed among our staff and Volunteers (serving and returned) over the last nearly seven years. The agency is invigorated—and it is because we truly share and respect our great mission. We are in this together. We are family. I am sad to leave you—and to end my time here at the Peace Corps. But I leave in full confidence that your collective vision, passion, and hard work will lead us to places we are only imagining today—and that our proud 55-year legacy is secure.

Please remember, no matter how short or long your tenure with us, no matter what your job or role: you are not just holding down the fort or keeping the ship on course. You are the ship; you are the fort. The Peace Corps is strong and on a steady course. I look forward to the opportunity to collaborate with you again as we champion the cause of peace, and work to send committed Americans to serve those most in need of our nation's noblest impulses to help, heal, and bring hope.

Until we meet again, warmest regards,

**Carrie Hessler - Radelet**

(Taken from mass e-mail on January 19, 2017)

Peace Corps official merchandise!  
Visit the NPCA online store at  
[peacecorpsconnect.org](http://peacecorpsconnect.org)

We are on Facebook!  
Idaho Returned  
Peace Corps Volunteers



## IRPCV 2017 Executive Board

Co-President:  
**Lila Cabrera**  
Paraguay 90-93  
208.344.1506  
[cabrerailila@gmail.com](mailto:cabrerailila@gmail.com)

Co-President:  
**Aaron Hueth**  
Kazakhstan 07-09  
208.340.9391  
[cincygriffey@aol.com](mailto:cincygriffey@aol.com)

Secretary:  
**Meg Stephenson**  
Mali 86-88  
208.890.8934  
[megletter@msn.com](mailto:megletter@msn.com)

Treasurer/Membership Chair:  
**Connie Collins**  
Ukraine 03-05  
208.412.2135  
[connie1940@gmail.com](mailto:connie1940@gmail.com)

Service Chairs:  
**Aviva Braun & Justin Ross**  
Senegal 11-13  
301.802.0956  
[irpcvservice@gmail.com](mailto:irpcvservice@gmail.com)

Education Chair:  
**Andy Long**  
Tanzania 03-05  
208.571.1016  
[andyjlong@hotmail.com](mailto:andyjlong@hotmail.com)

Newsletter Editor:  
**Mezelle Moore**  
Mongolia 12-14  
478.342.4298  
[mezellem@mail.usf.edu](mailto:mezellem@mail.usf.edu)

Web site Editor:  
**Matt Anders**  
[Smse.trout@gmail.com](mailto:Smse.trout@gmail.com)

Past President:  
**Chloe Ross**  
Malawi 10-12  
208.789.7547  
[irpcvpresident@gmail.com](mailto:irpcvpresident@gmail.com)



**\*\*\*IRPCV Bar Night is April 8th at Meriwether Cider Company! Come join us at 6 pm\*\*\***



## Sagebrush and Bitterbrush Planting

**About:** The Sagebrush and Bitterbrush planting volunteer day with Fish and Game will take place this year on April 1st from 8 am-5pm. Come play outside (rain or shine) while planting sagebrush and bitterbrush seedlings on the Soda Fire burn scar. This should be a morning to afternoon event and you'll need to dress appropriately. It is encouraged that you come with food and drink. The Department of Fish and Game has asked us to sign up online. Please follow this link to sign up: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1apzaKFhOykhgkNXxonekQLiLB7KRvqhFC8naXMke07k/viewform?edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1apzaKFhOykhgkNXxonekQLiLB7KRvqhFC8naXMke07k/viewform?edit_requested=true). There is also a volunteer application that is super easy to fill out that everyone will have to do. Either find it online or ask Aviva Braun for it. More information can be found on their page and the IRPCV Facebook page.

**When & Where:** We will meet at MK Nature Center at 8 am and drive to the planting site together! If you have any questions or would like to express your interest in this event, e-mail [ircvservice@gmail.com](mailto:ircvservice@gmail.com), say that you are "going" on the Facebook event page, or call/text Aviva at [301-802-0956](tel:301-802-0956). A head count of those attending with IRPCV would also be appreciated. We hope to see you there!



**HUNGRY?**

**Don't miss Ethnic Food Night at Bombay Grill on Saturday, May 20th @ 6 pm**

**Located at  
928 W Main St  
Ste 102  
Boise, ID 83702**







**IDAHO RETURNED  
PEACE CORPS  
VOLUNTEERS**

[www.IdahoPeaceCorps.com](http://www.IdahoPeaceCorps.com)