



Common Ground

Idaho Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Winter 2016

Celebrate Peace Corps Week!

Highlights:

- Food Bank 2
- Western USA 3
- Members 4
- New Board 5
- Food Bank 6
- Message 7
- IRPCV 8

It all began when President John F. Kennedy signed an executive order bringing the Peace Corps to life. Peace Corps celebrates its birthday during Peace Corps Week, which is February 28-March 5, 2016. The theme for this year is "Highlighting Happiness: What Does Joy Look Like in My Peace Corps Country."

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 are celebrating Peace Corps Week in a variety of ways. For example, for the Peace Corps Week Video Challenge, PCVs are creating a 2-minute video that captures laughter, joy and celebration within their host culture. Public voting for these videos can take place on Facebook. Finalists will be featured in a public screening. *(Article taken from www.peacecorps.gov)*



IRPCV Snapshot



Returned IRPCVs Make a Difference!

Last semester, Dale Stephenson was working the table for a recruitment event at BSU. He encouraged a potential volunteer, Nicholas Warnecke, to contact him with questions. When Nicholas contacted Dale, Dale gave him some great advice on how to emphasize his strengths during his interview and application. Nicholas was accepted and leaves for Tonga this August to serve as an English Literacy Facilitator. Congratulations Nicholas and thank you Dale for being such a great mentor.



The RPCV Holiday Party was held at the home of Chloe Ross (Malawi 2010 - 2012) on December 12, 2016.

2016 Western USA Peace Corps Group Leaders Meeting

The Columbia River Peace Corps Association looks forward to hosting the 2016 Western USA Peace Corps Group Leaders meeting in **Portland, Oregon**.

The meeting will be **Saturday, March 19, 11am-2pm PDT**, at Portland Community College's Cascade Campus, Terrell Hall room 112 ("TH" at <http://www.pcc.edu/about/locations/map/#ca>). We're sorry to not be giving you a choice of dates as is customary. The reason is that we're timing the meeting around the Portland appearance of National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) President **Glenn Blumhorst** (RPCV Guatemala 1988-1991).

We hope each of our region's groups (CRPCA, Idaho RPCVs, INPCA, SeaPAX, WCPA) can send at least one representative--more than one is ideal! At minimum, the meeting's agenda will include the following:

- reports from all groups in attendance
- NPCA initiatives
- Museum of the Peace Corps Experience status
- future Western representation on the NPCA board
- upcoming regional campout and regional meeting Hosts

We need to know who all is attending (either in person or via the internet) so we know whether we can accommodate additional attendees from outside Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.

Thank you!

Bill Stein (RPCV Niger 1990-1993), on behalf of CRPCA



Regional Campout

Attention: Calling all IRPCVs who love camping out and spending time exchanging stories with fellow returnees. Idaho will host RPCVs from Oregon, Washington and Idaho. Don't forget to mark the dates on your calendar and stay tuned for further details. This year the campout will take place at Grayback Campground from August 11, 2016 to August 14, 2016. Grayback Campground can be found just 36 miles northeast of Boise, Idaho, right off of scenic Highway 21. Idaho City is located only two miles north of the campground. Some highlights campers can enjoy include fishing in Mores Creek and exploring the Grayback Gulch Trail.



Intercultural Dinners

Hungry? IRPCVs held the first intercultural dinner on Saturday, February 6, at the Vietnamese restaurant, Pho 79. Aviva Braun, our new service chair, had arranged a shortened menu to help make our decisions easier. There was a great turnout, with thirty-four newly returned and veteran members swapping stories, getting acquainted and enjoying not only each other's company, but the delicious, fresh soups, spring rolls and a wonderful variety of other Vietnamese dishes. These intercultural dinners are scheduled to take place once every other month so watch for our next one in April!



IRPCV Membership 2016

<i>Matt Anders</i>	Boise	<i>Kazakhstan</i>
<i>Sharon Bixby</i>	Boise	<i>Jamaica 1968-1970</i>
<i>Mike Bixby</i>	Boise	<i>Jamaica 1968-1970</i>
<i>Aviva Braun</i>	Boise	<i>Senegal 2011-2013</i>
<i>Arnold Burgemeister</i>	American Falls	<i>India</i>
<i>Lila Cabrera</i>	Boise	<i>Paraguay</i>
<i>Douglas Clegg</i>	Nampa	<i>Vanuatu</i>
<i>Connie Collins</i>	Boise	<i>Ukraine</i>
<i>Jim Crow</i>	Eagle	<i>Antiqua</i>
<i>Colleen Crow</i>	Eagle	<i>Antiqua</i>
<i>Darrell Deppert*</i>	Boise	<i>Nepal 1971 –1974</i>
<i>Victoria Deppert*</i>	Boise	<i>Nepal</i>
<i>Paula Dorney</i>	Boise	<i>Kenya</i>
<i>Patricia Duncan</i>	Nampa	<i>Vanuatu</i>
<i>Bonnie Gentil</i>	Boise	<i>Senegal 1980-83</i>
<i>Lee Godshalk</i>	Boise	<i>Korea</i>
<i>Sam Greer</i>	Boise	<i>Ethiopia 1966-68</i>
<i>John Hammond</i>	Boise	<i>India</i>
<i>Marilyn Hemker</i>	Boise	<i>Burkina Faso 1975-77</i>
<i>John Hooper</i>	Boise	<i>Niger</i>
<i>Aaron Hueth</i>	Boise	<i>Kazakhstan</i>
<i>Pat Hughes</i>	Boise	<i>Thailand</i>
<i>Walter Kaiser</i>	Boise	<i>Bolivia</i>
<i>Dennis Larsen</i>	Blackfoot	<i>Costa Rica</i>
<i>Kevin Laughlin</i>	Garden City	<i>Belize</i>
<i>Gail Le Bow</i>	Boise	<i>Bolivia</i>
<i>Andrew Long</i>	Boise	<i>Tanzania</i>
<i>Lawrence Manning</i>	Nampa	<i>Ethiopia</i>
<i>Susan Mason</i>	Boise	<i>Honduras</i>
<i>Mary McGee</i>	Boise	<i>Botswana</i>
<i>Trish McKernan</i>	Boise	<i>(Spouse)</i>
<i>Ashlee Nicole</i>	Ohio	
<i>Breanne Ndayambe*</i>	Rigby	<i>Rwanda 2013-2015</i>
<i>Mike Philley</i>	Boise	<i>Malaysia</i>
<i>Jennifer Rogers</i>	Boise	<i>Bolivia</i>
<i>Chloe Ross</i>	Boise	<i>Malawi</i>
<i>Mark Siemon</i>	Boise	<i>Gabon</i>
<i>Carolle Skov</i>	Boise	<i>Grenada</i>
<i>David Snyderman</i>	Boise	<i>El Salvador</i>
<i>Donna Statler</i>	Lewiston	<i>Belize</i>
<i>Kathy Stearns</i>	Boise	<i>Dominican Republic</i>
<i>Dale Stephenson</i>	Boise	<i>Mali</i>
<i>Meg Stephenson</i>	Boise	<i>Mali</i>
<i>William E. Stratton</i>	Pocatello	<i>Colombia</i>
<i>Debra Tiffany*</i>	Beaverton	
<i>Kathleen Tilford</i>	Salmon	<i>Guinea, Burundi, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire</i>
<i>Loreen Todd</i>	Boise	<i>Thailand 2010-2012</i>
<i>Danielle Walsh*</i>	Boise	<i>Tanzania 2004-2006</i>
<i>Priscilla Wegars</i>	Moscow	<i>Thailand</i>
<i>Charlotte Zaugg</i>	Caldwell	<i>Ghana</i>
<i>Jerry Zaugg</i>	Caldwell	<i>Ghana</i>



**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 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

Amber Gomes

Kenya 12-14

Seattle Office (ID)

206.239.6611

agomes@peacecorps.gov



IRPCV 2016 Executive Board

Co-President:

Lila Cabrera

Paraguay 90-93

208.344.1506

cabreraila@gmail.com

Treasurer/Membership Chair:

Connie Collins

Ukraine 03-05

208.412.2135

connie1940@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor:

Mezelle Moore

Mongolia 12-14

478.342.4298

mezellem@mail.usf.edu

Co-President:

Aaron Hueth

Kazakhstan 07-09

208.340.9391

cincygriffey@aol.com

Service Chair:

Aviva Braun

Senegal 11-13

301.802.0956

irpcvservice@gmail.com

Web site Editor:

Matt Anders

Smse.trout@gmail.com

Secretary:

Meg Stephenson

Mali 86-88

208.890.8934

megletter@msn.com

Education Chair:

Andy Long

Tanzania 03-05

208.571.1016

andyjlong@hotmail.com

Past President:

Chloe Ross

Malawi 10-12

208.789.7547

irpcvpresident@gmail.com

Food Bank 2016

IRPCV is volunteering at the Food Bank again this year. A Web site has been developed specific to our group in the electronic volunteer sign-up system. Please see the shift dates for the Food Bank dates and times. To volunteer at the food bank, new volunteers will not have to enter a Join Code and will be automatically enrolled in the IRPCV group by going to <http://boisepeace-corps.idahofoodbank.volunteerhub.com>. Once you enter the Web site, you will need to scroll down, even if you are not logged in, to see the shift dates. You will only see the shifts your group has reserved for the upcoming 3 months. Thank you for giving your time again this year! If there are any questions, please contact Jennifer Rogers by phone at 208-484-7511 or by e-mail at Jen30rog@gmail.com.

Shift Dates

*March 29th
April 26th
May 24th
June 28th
July 26th
August 23rd
September 27th
October 25th*

**Shifts are scheduled on
Tuesdays from 7 pm-9 pm.*



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. We hope that all of you do so in the next week or so. Renew or join online at 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 Seeking Grantees for 2016

Do you know of some group or project that could use a little extra money to further the goals of volunteerism of Peace Corps? One of the small grants (\$300 each) that IRPCV will distribute in 2016 could be their financial boost. The grant can go to the service project of a current Idaho PCV or a Idaho group or project working with youth, refugees or immigrants. To apply, send a letter on official letterhead to Connie Collins at 512 S Eagleson Rd., Boise, ID, 83705 (connie1940@gmail.com). The letter should include details about the work of your group and should state how the funds will be used. It should also be signed by the group's official representative. **Deadline: May 17, 2016**



A Message from Peace Corps:

In celebration of National Peace Corps Week, AmeriCorps Week and Women's History Month, you are invited to **National Service: Creating Opportunity, Building Skills for the Future** a conversation between Carrie Hessler-Radelet (Director of the Peace Corps) and Wendy Spencer (Chief Executive Officer: Corporation for National and Community Service). You can attend either in person or virtually on March 4, 2016 from 9:30 am to 10:30 am. The event will take place at Paul D. Coverdell Peace Corps Headquarters (1111 20th Street, NW, Washington, DC). Be sure to RSVP through the Peace Corps Web site!

Join us during National Peace Corps Week (February 28 to March 5) and on the kick-off of AmeriCorps Week (March 5 to 12) as these two leaders reflect on the state of national service and announce a new milestone for Employers of National Service, a presidential initiative that connects AmeriCorps and Peace Corps alumni with leading employers from the private, public, and non-profit sectors to create recruitment, hiring, and advancement opportunities. Please let us know as soon as possible should you require reasonable accommodations in order to participate; we will do our best to accommodate if given advanced notice. Email tadams2@peacecorps.gov.

Peace Corps official merchandise!
Visit the NPCA online store at
peacecorpsconnect.org

We are on Facebook!
Idaho Returned
Peace Corps Volunteers



Financial Statement 2015

Idaho Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Association

Beginning Asset	\$3,930
Income	\$3,392
Expenses	\$3,804
Balance	\$3,518

**Note: As a not-for profit 501(3c) organization, IRPCV must publish a yearly financial statement to the membership. For a detailed financial statement, request from Secretary Meg Stephenson.*

IRPCV: Who Are We?

Over 350 returned Peace Corps Volunteers live and work in Idaho. They live in rural communities; large urban centers like Boise and Pocatello; in university towns in the mountains and in the high deserts. They work as educators, health professionals, consultants, with refugees and immigrants, environmental specialists, in businesses and for NGOs. No matter where they live or for which organizations—public or private—they may work, IRPCVs continue the PC goals of volunteerism and bringing the world home to America.

Idaho Peace Corps Volunteers have served in 78 different countries beginning in 1963, 2 years after the foundation of the Peace Corps by President John F. Kennedy. Peace Corps no longer serves in some countries—they don't need us anymore or violence makes it impossible to accomplish our work. (See below)

In 2011, Peace Corps celebrated its 50th anniversary of service throughout the world. Idaho Returned Peace Corps celebrated too with panels, museum exhibits, and cultural activities from Ethiopian coffee ceremonies to the painting of *pysanky*—Ukrainian colored eggs. This year, 2016, Peace Corps will again celebrate its achievements of 55 years and its push to recruit more 55+ volunteers. You are invited to join us in our celebration this summer. Watch for schedule of events in this newsletter and in our updates.

<u>Africa</u>	<u>South/Central America</u>	<u>Asia</u>	<u>Europe</u>	<u>Island Nations</u>
Benin	Bolivia	Kazakhstan	Albania	Dominican Rep
Botswana	Belize	India	Bulgaria	Granada
Burundi	Ecuador	Afghanistan	Estonia	Philippines
Burkina Faso	El Salvador	Iran	Moldova	Sri Lanka
Cameroon	Colombia	Thailand	Poland	Cape Verde
Cote de Ivoire	Guatemala	Korea	Ukraine	Haiti
Dem Rep Congo	Honduras	Mongolia	Russia	Jamaica
Ethiopia	Costa Rica	Nepal	Hungary	Antigua
Gabon	Mexico	Pakistan	Slovakia	Fiji
Gambia	Paraguay	Turkmenistan		Micronesia
Ghana	Peru	Turkey		Borneo
Guinea	Nicaragua			Marshall Islands
Kenya	Suriname			Samoa
Lesotho	Venezuela			St. Kitts/Nevis
Liberia				Vanuatu
Malawi				Madagascar
Mali				
Morocco				
Namibia				
Niger				
Rwanda				
Senegal				
Sierra Leone				
Tanzania				
Togo				
Tunisia				
Uganda				
Zaire				
Zambia				





*****IRPCV Bar Night is March 19th at the Kindness Bar! Come join us from 4-7 pm*****



IRPCV Volunteer at the Learning Lab

About Learning Lab: The Learning Lab's mission is to teach and encourage adults who struggle with literacy, and to encourage families to discover the joy of learning. It is a computer-assisted learning center for adults and families with children ages 6 and under. Students in this program receive basic skills instruction including mathematics, reading, writing, spelling, GED preparation and workplace skills. IRPCV is lucky enough to have been invited to work with their student population through one of our co-president's classes!

Where we come in: The aim is to come volunteer at each of Lila's classes about once a month. We will start with resume help (though it may be more of a conversation about what they can include on a resume), and build from there. We may eventually do a how-to-use-google maps tutorial. All work at the Learning Lab is one-on-one.

Where we will work: The people we will be helping are refugees and those living in the US who are trying to better their lives. The first student group that we will work with are mostly refugees (class located at the Boise Library) and the second student group we will work with is mostly Latino (class located in a Garden City facility).

Get in touch if you're interested: We will cap the number of volunteers going at 14, so it'll be first come, first serve. Aviva will need to know who's interested by the week before each event, so she can let Lila plan for our arrival. Please RSVP to Aviva at irpcvservice@gmail.com or call 301-802-0956 with any questions.

IRPCV Volunteer for the Agency for New Americans

About ANA: ANA's mission is to help refugees achieve self-sufficiency in their new lives by providing the skills, education, and support necessary during their resettlement period.

What we will do to help ANA: We will help the supply coordinator organize and box donated items for distribution amongst refugee families. Then we will help deliver packages to 1-2 families each! Each individual can decide whether they want to stay and have a conversation with the family, or just drop off and run, based on their individual comfort level.

When: This activity is set to occur every 3 months. Proposed dates are yet to come, so stay tuned and look out for emails and Facebook posts!

Get in touch if you're interested: We aren't sure if there will be a limit to those able to volunteer, but if you are interested, please RSVP to Aviva at irpcvservice@gmail.com or call 301-802-0956 with any questions.

★ **Come to the NNU 3rd Goal Education & Recruitment Event for NNU students!** ★

When: March 14th from 10 am - 2 pm at the Student Center table & evening presentation and Q&A session at 6:30 pm.



**IDAHO RETURNED
PEACE CORPS
VOLUNTEERS**

www.IdahoPeaceCorps.com