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A magazine of news and comment about the Peace Corps world

PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL PEACE CORPS ASSOCIATION



The stage at the County Music Hall of Fame is ready for Peace Corps Connect-Nashville 2014.

## **FEATURES: Partnerships**

### **18 | Winds of Change**

The new Peace Corps Director looks to the future in partnership with NPCA.  
*By Carrie Hessler-Radelet*

### **20 | Small Small Catch**

Monkey  
Partnership at the project level helps get the job done in Cameroon.  
*By Layne Anderson*

### **26 | Let There Be Light**

Good things happen when two Shriver Award winners work together.  
*By Erica Burman*

### **23 | The Worms That**

Support The Desert  
When a volunteer partners with a municipality, compost happens.  
*By Diego Shoobridge*

**ON THE COVER** The photo was taken by Nathanael Jochola. A resident of Puente de Gomes, Guatemala proudly shows her new solar lantern.

# WorldView

A magazine of news and comment about the Peace Corps world

Fall 2014

Volume 27, Number 3

## DEPARTMENTS



### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

- 6 Let's Go Together**  
*By Glenn Blumhorst*

### AROUND THE NPCA

- 8 Group News Highlights**  
A look at what NPCA member groups are up to  
*By Jonathan Pearson*

- 10 Advocacy Update**  
RPCVs around the country participate in district office advocacy initiative  
*By Suzanne Smith*

- 12 Add Music and Stir**  
Peace Corps Connect – Nashville brings together RPCVs, great ideas  
*By Erica Burman*

### BUZZ FROM THE FIELD

- 28 Ultimate Frisbee**  
**Fever in Cambodia**  
Teaching leadership to Khmer women through the Spirit of the Game  
*By Vicki Chan*
- 42 Where in the World is WorldView?**  
Send us a photo!

### COMMENTARY AND OPINION

- 30 A Heartbreaking Journey**  
At reunions, we watch lives unfold  
*By Nicole Anderson, Colleen Daley, & Elizabeth Whitton*
- 32 "The World is My Home"**  
What it's like to be deaf in the Peace Corps  
*By Kelly Rogel and Nehama Rogozen*

- 36 Grandmother's Propel**  
**Social Change**  
*By Kimberly Brown*

### LETTERS FROM ...

- 38 Letter from Zambia**  
Rainy Season Run  
*By Lea Schram von Haupt*
- 40 Excerpt From Strange Borderlands**  
*By Ben Berman*

### COMMUNITY NEWS

- 41 Recent Achievements of Our Community**  
*Edited by Jonathan Pearson*
- 45 In Memoriam**

### ADVERTISER INDEX

44

## THE PUBLISHER

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## LET'S GO TOGETHER

By Glenn Blumhorst

Partnerships were central to President John F. Kennedy's vision for the Peace Corps. In his March 1, 1961 announcement of the Executive Order providing for the establishment of the Peace Corps, he articulated an expectation of social responsibility from the private sector that would enable the Peace Corps to best achieve its objectives:

*"In establishing our Peace Corps we intend to make full use of the resources and talents of private institutions and groups. Universities, voluntary agencies, labor unions and industry will be asked to share in this effort—contributing diverse sources of energy and imagination—making it clear that the responsibility for peace is the responsibility of our entire society."*

A partnership by definition involves two or more entities committed to a common task, yielding a reward to all partners. Successful public-private partnerships enable both entities to do what they do best to achieve common goals and objectives more efficiently than working alone.

It's logical and strategic, then, that the Peace Corps and the NPCA work in close collaboration as foremost partners in our community, recognizing that what is good for one is good for all. The NPCA's new strategic plan reflects that commitment in our goal of "helping the Peace Corps be the best that it can be."

A historic memorandum of understanding recently signed between the Peace Corps and the NPCA frames the long-term partnership of our two organizations in working toward that

common goal. We see this commitment manifested in several ways already:

- Leveraging private sector resources for increased Peace Corps program impact —some 1,000 serving Peace Corps Volunteers have received Nexus Android tablets in 2014 through a Google in-kind donation to the NPCA
- Building a vibrant Peace Corps community—the Peace Corps and the NPCA wrote the program and shared the stage in Nashville at our 2014 annual gathering in Nashville, Peace Corps Connect which serves to engage and connect our community members
- Advocating for the betterment and expansion of the Peace Corps—the NPCA's and Peace Corps' mutually-reinforcing strategies envision a Peace Corps of 10,000 serving Volunteers by 2018, as we push for federal appropriations and legislation that enhance the Peace Corps experience

Building on this principal, the NPCA is forging a range of partnerships that will advance our strategic objectives. We expect emerging partnerships with Arizona State University and Ashoka to facilitate the NPCA to repurpose *Africa Rural Connect* as *All Resources Connect*, a forum linking RPCVs, academics and practitioners to collaboratively resolve development challenges.

Our partnership with Northeastern University's Cultural Agility Learning Lab (CALL) seeks to leverage private sector gifts of knowledge to increase the development impact of serving Peace Corps Volunteers and engage RPCVs as cultural coaches to private sector pro bono advisors. Though a partnership with OneRoof-Netagogo, the NPCA is preparing to launch a voice over Internet protocol (VoIP) international calling service that will

enable PCVs, RPCVs, family and friends around the world to stay connected.

While the opportunities for partnerships are many, the most vital are within our own community. As a grassroots organization, the NPCA is driven by its members and member groups working together—a core value. From mobilizing RPCVs for continued



With Peace Corps Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet

service and civic engagement to hosting Peace Corps Connect, our members and member groups are working in partnership for the greater good of our community.

At Peace Corps Night at the Washington Nationals ballpark, September 24th, I was given the honor of throwing the ceremonial first pitch. This gesture from Peace Corps leadership is indicative of the mutual confidence and respect in our collaborative relationship. It represents the strength of our broader Peace Corps community working in partnership.

You are a valued partner in our community. Thank you for your contribution to our mission.

In service,

**Glenn Blumhorst**

President, National Peace Corps Association  
RPCV Guatemala, 1988-1991

You can reach Glenn at president@peacecorpsconnect.org.

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**Alan E. Guskin**, Distinguished University Professor, PhD Program in Leadership and Change, Antioch University President Emeritus

“My Peace Corps service in Sierra Leone provided a valuable foundation for my career. Insights from the experience inform my teaching at Antioch University Seattle, and I appreciate the skills, commitment and critical thinking of RPCVs in our graduate programs.”

Mark Hower, PhD



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# GROUP NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

A look at what NPCA member groups are up to

*By Jonathan Pearson*



## BURKINA FASO

Since 2002, the Friends of Burkina Faso (FBF) has supported the Lambs Project, a self-sustaining program that expands primary school opportunities for young

girls in the northern part of the country. Participating families raise and sell lambs, the annual proceeds of which are used to buy key school supplies that support a school-age daughter currently enrolled in class. Thanks to FBF's advocacy efforts and groups like GlobalGiving.org—a collaboration initiated through an NPCA partnership—contributions have enabled this project to reach more than 3,000 village girls, helping them obtain a primary-school education and setting their sights on high school and beyond. In the next two years, every village within the region will have had an opportunity to send young girls to primary school—this means another 600 girls will be able to pursue their right to education.

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Congratulations to the Friends of the Dominican Republic for crossing an impressive milestone. The most recent contribution through the group's Community Challenge Fund (CCF) means more than 20,000 Dominicans have been positively impacted by this program. The CCF is designed to assist some of the poorest communities in the country to meet basic needs through small-scale construction projects that are designed to improve health, education and other basic necessities. The milestone-breaking grant provided \$1,800 to the eastern community of Punta Larga for a new aqueduct project.

## LIBERIA

As the Ebola epidemic spread to Liberia, the Friends of Liberia (FOL) worked with groups on the ground that are taking direct action in the affected areas. FOL members in the Minnesota area volunteered with Global Health Ministries to pack an emergency



shipment of personal protective clothing that was sent to three hospitals, two of them in the most affected areas. To help ship these critical supplies and get them to the hospitals once they arrive, FOL donated \$10,000 to Global Health Ministries. The group also donated \$10,000 to Doctors Without Borders, which has erected an intake center for Ebola cases in the capital, Monrovia. FOL continues to research the needs of groups doing the best work on the medical crisis and is a key participant on the NPCA's Ebola Relief Fund Steering Committee.

## MALAYSIA

Fighting breast cancer has become an ongoing focus for the Friends of Malaysia. This spring, the group made a donation of



\$1,100 to support the work of the non-governmental National Cancer Society of Malaysia (NCSM). The donation was put toward NCSM's "Curb Cancer Campaign," and allowed nearly thirty women in a low-income portion of Kuala Lumpur to receive free breast cancer screenings. The group's breast cancer fund honors Karen Bowlsby Perez Grayson and Sherry Zembower, two 1960s era Malaysia Volunteers who succumbed to breast cancer in the past decade.

## NEW YORK

Every other year, members of the RPCVs of Northeastern New York (NENY) clean house—literally—with a purpose. This past summer, the group held its sixth community garage sale, with proceeds supporting international development projects. A large percentage of NENY's



members donate items for the garage sale, and about a dozen members volunteered for the two-day event. The \$1,400 raised this year will support a school project in Ghana, a village orphanage in Lesotho, selected Peace Corps Partnership projects and the U.S. Committee for Immigrants and Refugees. Organizers note the garage sale provides an opportunity to educate others in the Albany area about the Peace Corps, and connect with RPCVs who did not know about the group. Sale items are also set aside if they are needed by local refugee resettlement groups.

## UGANDA

As noted in the Summer 2014 edition of *WorldView*, the NPCA has facilitated the distribution of hundreds of Google Nexus tablets, which have been donated for use by selected groups of Peace Corps trainees at stateside staging events. The Friends of Uganda got involved in this effort, as co-leader Alan Olson attended a send-off in Philadelphia for nearly forty new Peace



Corps trainees. Along with providing each trainee with a new tablet, Alan shared details about the country of service group and shared a few thoughts about his Peace Corps experience, including the fact that his Peace Corps service similarly began with a Philadelphia send-off back in 1970.

*Get connected and learn more about these and other achievements of NPCA's 142 member groups by visiting <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/resources/member-groups/>. WV*



## WASHINGTON

The Seattle Area Peace Corps Association (SEAPAX) continued its local relationship with Solid Ground, a King County nonprofit organization that works to meet the food, shelter and transportation needs of 55,000 individuals in the greater Seattle area. After providing a 2013 small grant to support its food security programs, nine SEAPAX volunteers turned out this past June to donate time and energy at Solid Ground's Lettuce Link Giving Garden at Marra Farm. Weeding, planting and composting was the order of the day, as the local RPCVs contributed to community efforts which annually yield approximately ten tons of local produce that is donated to area food banks.

# TAKING ADVOCACY OUTSIDE WITH COLORADO RPCVS

RPCVs around the country participate in District Office Advocacy Initiative

By Suzanne Smith

*From country fairs to district office meeting rooms, members of the Peace Corps community continued to meet with their elected representatives during the months of August and September. As the accompanying photographs show, National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) advocacy meetings took place all around the country during our fourth annual District Office Advocacy Initiative. And, as this summary from members of the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Colorado ([www.rpcvcolorado.org](http://www.rpcvcolorado.org)) indicates, there are many venues at which to hold an effective meeting. - Editor*

**S**ummer in Colorado is a time for being outside. In Denver, the warm sunny days mean that flowers are in full bloom in the parks and leafy trees provide welcome shade. For the RPCVs of Colorado, summer means that the annual garden project, now in its fourth year, is at its peak. On a weekly basis, volunteers for the RPCVs of Colorado harvest more than 20 pounds of produce from the garden and donate it to the Gathering Place, a day time drop-in center for women and children in Denver who are experiencing homelessness and poverty.

When NPCA sent the request for the District Office Meeting Initiative, the RPCVs of Colorado decided to take the meetings outside and invite members of Colorado's congressional delegation to see the garden project.

"The District Office Meetings seemed like a great opportunity to demonstrate to our elected officials that serving in the Peace Corps establishes a life-long dedication to service," says RPCV of Colorado's President, Sherry Manning (Philippines 2006-2008).

"When encouraging continued support for stable funding for Peace Corps, we were able to point to the gardens as evidence that the investment in Peace Corps leads to dividends down the road for the communities that the

elected officials represent. When talking about the valuable skills learned while in Peace Corps, such as building strong collaborative partnerships and responding to community needs, we were able to point to the partnerships developed with Grow Local Colorado and the Gathering Place for the garden project to demonstrate how these skills continue to be used."

Senators Mark Udall and Michael Bennet and Representative Diana DeGette (D-1) were the first to be invited due to the close proximity of their district offices to Civic Center Park, where the garden project is located. Though schedules for all three members of Congress were fully booked for August, the RPCVs of Colorado were able to meet with Brandon Rattiner, Denver Metro Regional Director for Senator Udall, and

Top: L-R: Dana Miller, Director, Grow Local Colorado; Rosemary Rodriguez, State Director for Senator Bennet; Arianne Burger (Kazakhstan 1999-2001), Secretary, and Amber Palmeri (St. Lucia 2009-2011), Garden Supervisor, RPCVs of Colorado.

Right: L-R: Suzanne Smith (Mongolia 2005-2007), Advocacy Chair, RPCVs of Colorado; Brandon Rattiner, Denver Metro Regional Director for Senator Udall; Arianne Burger (Kazakhstan 1999-2001), Secretary, RPCVs of Colorado; and, Dana Miller, Director, Grow Local Colorado.

Rosemary Rodriguez, State Director for Senator Bennet, and a meeting is being scheduled with staff from Representative DeGette's office.

"The congressional staff was very willing to meet at the gardens," reports Manning, "and they expressed their amazement at seeing well-kept, volunteer-run, urban gardens in the heart of Denver. It is my hope that the meetings were memorable and will lead to even stronger support for Peace Corps.

To find out how you can get involved in NPCA advocacy efforts, visit [www.peacecorpsconnect.org/advocacy](http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/advocacy). **WV**

**Suzanne Smith** (Mongolia 2005-2007) is the advocacy chair for the RPCVs of Colorado.



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Read Sophia's story

# ADD MUSIC AND STIR

## Peace Corps Connect – Nashville brings together RPCVs, great ideas

By Erica Burman

**T**hey don't call it "Music City" for nothing.

If there is one thing that set the 2014 Peace Corps Connect – Nashville event apart from previous annual gatherings of the Peace Corps community, it was the music woven through Saturday's program. From a soulful hymn by country legend Emmylou Harris, to a raucous jam session with

audience participants led by Great Ideas speaker Peter Govert, to a rocking set by the Carmonas, this National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) conference—co-hosted by the hard-working and dedicated Tennessee Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (TNRPCV) group—just sang (pun intended!). The local RPCVs did a tremendous job of welcoming the wider Peace Corps community to their city, of

which they are justifiably proud.

Things kicked off on Thursday, June 19 with a career conference, career fair and "around the world" Third Goal event, hosted by the Peace Corps and open to the general public. Then on Friday, the main Peace Corps Connect conference got underway at Vanderbilt University. Attendees could wander through the exhibitor hall between sessions, taking in



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1. The legendary Emmylou Harris performed a ballad.
2. Under Pete Govert's guidance, audience members put the Community Music Circle concept into action.
3. Ann Puddu and Eva Canan served in Morocco exactly 50 years apart: Ann from 1962-1964, Eva from 2012-2014. Eva was only back home from Peace Corps for 19 hours before she jumped in to volunteer at the conference.
4. The Peace Corps Connect torch was passed—literally!—to Will Spargur, president of the Northern California Peace Corps Association. NorCal will host the next conference at the University of California, Berkeley, June 5-6, 2015.



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**1.** Winners of the 2014 Sargent Shriver Award for Distinguished Humanitarian Service, Kristin Johnson and Renae Adam, flank NPCA President Glenn Blumhorst. The founders of Global Mamas were profiled in the Spring 2014 issue of *WorldView*. **2.** Representatives of our event sponsor, USC Marshall School of Business, were eager to talk to RPCVs about the scholarships they offer. **3.** "Jack?!" Malawi RPCVs Jack Allison and Paul Willis hadn't seen each other since training, 50 years ago. **4.** Dr. Herman DeBose (Kenya 1969-1972, far left) and NPCA board member Hank Ambrose (Kenya 1971-1973, far right) flank fellow participants on the panel they organized to explore the minority experience in the Peace Corps. **5.** Backstage, Peace Corps Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet mingled with some of the Tennessee Returned Peace Corps Volunteers hosts. **6.** Great Ideas Speaker Fredaline Healy (Mali 2004-2006) talks about the moringa tree.

topics as diverse as the legacy of women in the Peace Corps, politics and the Peace Corps, writing Peace Corps history, and minorities in the Peace Corps; a spoken word workshop; research presentations by RPCV graduate students; and country of service meetings.

On Saturday the action moved to the striking Country Music Hall of Fame. Five RPCV Great Ideas Contest winners gave fascinating TED-style talks, showcasing the breadth and innovation of our community.

A highlight of the day was the signing of the first-ever memorandum of understanding between NPCA and the Peace Corps, followed by a sweeping and heartfelt speech by the newly sworn-in Peace Corps Director, Carrie Hessler-Radelet.

In the afternoon, Mike Tidwell, founder of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, urged the Peace Corps

community to speak out on the issue of climate change, because so many of the places we have come to know as Volunteers are now threatened. Finally, the program was rounded out by presentations of several awards: the TNRPCV Phill Robinson Continuing Community Service Award, Loret Miller Ruppe Award for Outstanding Community Service, the Sargent Shriver Award for Distinguished Humanitarian Service, and the Harris Wofford Global Citizen Award.

Following the concluding announcement of next year's Peace Corps Connect host, the Northern California Peace Corps Association, the 300-plus attendees moved to a reception where the conversations between new friends and old continued. No surprise, RPCVs had to be shooed out of the room even after the bar closed, but the socializing continued at an after-party at a local music club.

The conference in Nashville proved to be an amazing experience for all who attended, and we are sure that the next gathering, in Berkeley, Calif. in early June 2015, will be just as fun!

For a more detailed look at Peace Corps Connect – Nashville, check out #PCCNASH on Twitter, visit our Nashville playlist on YouTube ([www.youtube.com/user/peacecorpsconnect](http://www.youtube.com/user/peacecorpsconnect)) with videos of the entire Saturday line up, view our photos on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/peacecorpsconnect](http://www.facebook.com/peacecorpsconnect)) and read the follow-up blog posts on our website ([www.peacecorpsconnect.org/annual-gathering](http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/annual-gathering)). **WW**

**Erica Burman** (*The Gambia 1987-1989*) is the director of communications for the National Peace Corps Association. You can reach her at [news@peacecorpsconnect.org](mailto:news@peacecorpsconnect.org).

# 2014 LORET MILLER RUPPE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE

Pakistan, Missouri RPCV groups cited for their work

By Jacqueline Steinkamp

Each year the National Peace Corps Association recognizes two Returned Peace Corps Volunteer member groups "for a project or projects that promote the Third Goal of Peace Corps or continue to serve host countries, build group spirit and cooperation, and promote service." The Loret Miller Ruppe Award for Outstanding Community Service—named for the widely admired 10th Director of the Peace Corps—is meant not only to recognize NPCA member group efforts, but to showcase ideas that others can emulate in their own communities.

This year's winners were the Central Missouri Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (CMRPCV) and Friends of Pakistan USA (FOPUSA). Representatives from both groups were on hand at Peace Corps Connect - Nashville to accept their awards.

CMRPCV received the award in recognition for its annual "Third Goal International Film Festival," which this year attracted over 500 attendees. Not only does the festival spotlight RPCV filmmaking talent, it generates discussion around some of today's pressing topics, and creates a connection to the local community.

Friends of Pakistan USA (FOPUSA) was singled out for its efforts in support of girls education. Not only has this exceptional member group raised over \$5,000 to provide literacy classes for over 22,000 people through the Aagahi Project, but they have also donated \$2,000 annually over a five-year period to



fund the education of ten girls at Phengali Girls High School near Lahore, Pakistan. Earlier this year the group surpassed a previous goal of \$10,000, and it is working towards increasing the six 11th and 12th grade scholarships to 36 over the next six years.

To learn more about the Ruppe Award, the 2014 winners, and past recipients, visit the NPCA website at <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/about/awards>. **WV**

**Jacqueline Steinkamp** is a fall intern with the National Peace Corps Association. She attends George Mason University.



Top: Carol Cespedes accepts the Ruppe Award for Friends of Pakistan USA. She didn't realize the award came with a check. Bottom: Carol Cespedes of Friends of Pakistan USA, and Mike Burden of the Central Missouri Peace Corps Association.



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# A PROUD “PEACE CORPS PRODUCT”

Dr. Surin Pitsuwan of Thailand accepts the Harris Wofford Global Citizen Award

**O**n June 21, 2014, at the National Peace Corps Association’s three-day Peace Corps Connect event, Dr. Surin Pitsuwan accepted the 2014 Harris Wofford Global Citizen Award. Dr. Surin has served both his country and the world in a number of highly influential posts, including as a member of Parliament, a member of the Commission on Human Security of the United Nations, advisor to the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty, member of the International Labour Organization’s World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization, and advising the peace negotiations between the Acehnese Independence Movement and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia. As a Thai Muslim of Malay descent from a sometimes violent region of southern Thailand, he has worked to incorporate minority views at all levels of dialogue. He is a current member of the Advisory Board of the UN Human Security Trust Fund, the Advisory Board of the International Crisis Group, the International Advisory Board of the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, an International Academic Advisor of the Centre for Islamic Studies, Oxford University, and an advisor to the Leaders Project, a conference arm of the Cohen Group of Former U.S. Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen.

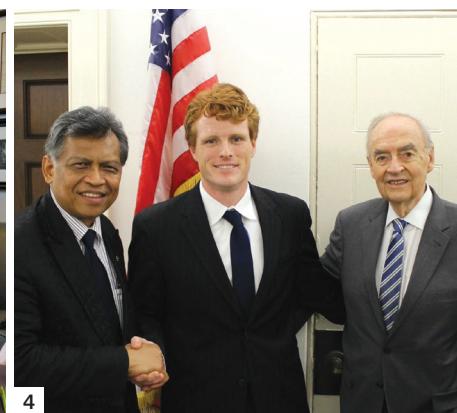
More recently, Dr. Surin has inspired the current Peace Corps Volunteers serving in Thailand with his idealism, belief in his country, and support of the Peace Corps’ mission. He was nominated for the 2014 Harris Wofford Global Citizen Award by the Volunteers of Peace Corps Thailand, Group 124. Following Nashville, Dr. Surin traveled

to Washington, D.C., where he met with numerous members of Congress, government and think tank officials, and with the Friends of Thailand RPCV group.

His acceptance speech, as prepared, is on page 17.

You can view Dr. Surin delivering his speech, as well as other speeches and presentations given at Peace Corps Connect, on NPCA’s YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/peacecorpsconnect>. **WV**

—Editor



1. Dr. Pitsuwan accepts the Wofford Award from Thailand RPCV Sarah Lingo, whose group nominated him for the award. 2. Dr. Pitsuwan was thrilled to speak to the audience of RPCVs. 3. Meeting on Capitol Hill with Rep. David E. Price (D-NC). 4. Sen. Harris Wofford (right) joined Dr. Pitsuwan (left) for his meeting with Rep. Joseph Kennedy III (Dominican Republic 2004-2006).

## Address by Dr. Surin Pitsuwan

It gives me an immense pleasure and a distinctive privilege to appear before you all this afternoon at this very special gathering of the returned Peace Corps Volunteers of over half a century to be bestowed the 2014 Harris Wofford Global Citizen Award. I am standing before you with both a sense of pride and also a sense of humility. Proud because it is an honor that recognizes not only myself, but millions of other so called "Peace Corps Products" all around the world whose lives have been enriched and influenced by their association with all of you during your time of noble services in those countries. Humble, because I am sure there are many among the millions out there who probably equally, if not more, deserve this distinguished award too.

I am grateful to Kevin Quigley and to the Peace Corps Volunteers in Thailand last year, and one of them is here in the audience, Sarah Lingo, who together nominated me to the selection committee, chaired by David Wofford.

Mine is probably a typical life of humble beginning in an isolated village in the middle of a rubber plantation, far away from everything, without a paved road, without running water, without electricity, without any amenities considered to be essential for a decent life under the current Millennium Development Goals. I had no shoes to wear until I was eleven. I had to ride a bicycle up and down the hills, day in and day out for eight years on a road that would disappear in the monsoon season. I would be soaking wet in a thunderstorm, and covered with red dust in the dry season.

The Big Break came in 1965-67 with two Angels of Hope in the form of Peace Corps Volunteers. David and Phyllis Johnston were sent to my provincial boy and girl schools. David taught English and Math and Phyllis helped the girl students with English and social studies. I was lucky enough to have caught their caring hearts and searching eyes. They must have seen in me a future recipient of the Harris Wofford

Global Citizen Award. They took me into their tutorship and grilled me with the use of English language. They helped me in my application for the American Field Service (AFS) in 1967. I was selected as an exchange student to spend a year in an American high school. The selection committee asked if I had a choice, which state in America I would want to go and spend my last year of high school. I immediately shot back, either the Sunshine State of Florida or the Golden State of California.

They sent me to Minnesota!

Ladies and gentlemen, here we are, more than a half century after John F. Kennedy conceived of the idea of the Peace Corps on the steps of the Michigan Union in the early morning of 14 October, 1960, an idea for "greater purpose," he said, "to bear the burden of the twilight struggle...against the common enemies of man: tyranny, poverty, disease, and war itself." Here we are, 215,000 Peace Corps Volunteers later, celebrating that idea of greater purpose. The world has changed, but the struggle is still on.

But that twilight struggle has been joined by many individuals, in whose lives you all have made the difference. In my case, you have snatched me from the tyrannical jaws of poverty and hopelessness. Many professionals, distinguished in their own fields, be it doctors, engineers, lawyers, civic leaders, teachers, and politicians are now your comrades in arms who are also "rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation" in their efforts to help their own communities and countries in the same spirit as the Peace Corps Volunteers have been doing in the past five decades.

So, in my view, the most important and valuable gift that the Peace Corps program has given to the world is far more significant than the sum of individuals like myself, catapulted from the hilltops and the deep valleys of remote corners of the globe. Far more significant is the Peace Corps spirit of volunteerism that has sprung up in many communities and many countries. You all have planted that very unique American

value, observed by Alexis de Tocqueville during Andrew Jackson's America, "the Civil Religion" he called it, with admiration. In my part of the world and in other regions, the emergence of civil society, inspired by a similar "civil religion," to help their own communities and countries is in a large part a legacy of all of you, Peace Corps Volunteers of America.

Under my watch, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) adopted a vision that calls for the creation of a "Community of Caring and Sharing Societies" among 10 member states in Southeast Asia. In Africa and Latin America and Central Asia, similar phenomena are occurring. This is the most fitting reciprocation that the world is celebrating now in return for the noble services and sacrifices that you all have made. We celebrate your gift to us by emulating your spirit of volunteerism to manage other challenges facing our global community. And next year the UN is organizing the first World Summit of Civil Society for Post 2015 Global Development in Istanbul.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Harris Wofford Global Citizen Award recognizes "outstanding global leaders who grew up and continue to live in a country where Peace Corps Volunteers served and whose life was influenced by Peace Corps." Well, I am only one such individual among hundreds of thousands more out there whose lives have been touched, inspired and transformed for the betterment of our global community. I humbly accept the 2014 Harris Wofford Global Citizen Award on behalf of those men and women who are lucky enough to have their own "David and Phyllis" to point the way and help paint a better future for them.

I thank my "Angles of Hope," David and Phyllis Johnston. And I owe much to the Peace Corps program. Please take pride in whatever valuable accomplishments I have made, for they are, in large part, inspired by all of you.

Thank you.

# WINDS OF CHANGE

*By Carrie Hessler-Radelet*

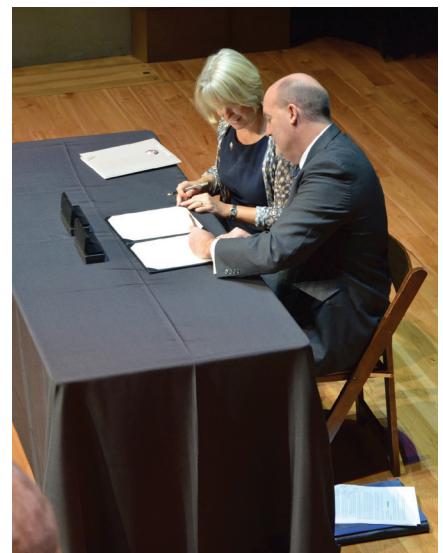
**S**ome things never change—from the strength of the relationships that Peace Corps Volunteers build with their host communities across the globe, to Volunteers' willingness to roll up their sleeves to make a difference. The Volunteers I meet today are no different than the Volunteers I served with in Samoa in the 1980s. They are creative, passionate, dedicated and willing to try anything (from unexpected food options to flush toilet alternatives). Yet at the same time, today's Volunteers bring new skills, new interests, and new aspirations.

Our founder, President John F. Kennedy, once said, "Change is the law of life." With that outlook in mind, we seek to nurture and grow the core values that make Peace Corps timeless, while empowering Volunteers to use today's tools and technologies to make a measurable difference in their communities. We want to reignite the passion that characterized Peace Corps' early days, while offering Americans from all backgrounds greater freedom than ever before to define their impact on the world.

That's why, as our agency modernizes to keep pace with changing times, we're shaking things up—starting from the very entry point to Peace Corps service. This past July, with support from key partners like the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA), we announced historic changes to Peace Corps' recruitment, application, and selection process, making the process of applying to Peace Corps simpler, faster, and more personalized than ever before.

We launched a new, shortened application that can be completed online in less than one hour—streamlined from what used to take more than eight hours—and implemented clearer deadlines to give applicants more certainty in planning for their future. And now, for the first time in recent history, applicants to Peace Corps can apply to specific countries of service and individual programs that meet their personal and professional goals—whether that means focusing on a certain area of the world, a particular language, or a program sector that interests them most.

And across the board, we're transforming our recruitment model to a more proactive approach by



Peace Corps Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet and NPCA President Glenn Blumhorst sign a historic memorandum of understanding agreement, paving the way for enhanced future partnership efforts.

actively researching, identifying, and engaging with prospective Peace Corps applicants. For example, along with our long-standing Master's International and Coverdell Fellows Programs, we are expanding university partnership programs such as Peace Corps Prep and

Peace Corps Campus Ambassadors at schools across the country to diversify our pool of qualified Peace Corps applicants and promote the Peace Corps to new communities.

Already, the response to these new initiatives has been tremendous—whether measured by all-time highs in web traffic to PeaceCorps.gov or record-breaking application numbers, including the highest number of applications in a single day since the implementation of our current tracking system. Thus far, every single post has received an application, and the number of clicks and views on job postings ranging from “Life Skills Volunteer in Botswana” to “Community Health Volunteer in Ecuador” continue to grow.

With the recent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Peace Corps and NPCA, we’re eager to build on our two organizations’ longstanding partnership and work together to inspire more Americans than ever to explore opportunities with the Peace Corps. Today, as NPCA members know, the Peace Corps is not just a chance to make a difference in a faraway country; it’s a life-changing, life-defining opportunity unlike any other in the world, and a launching pad for a 21st-century career. It’s a win-win opportunity, and we want to encourage Americans from all walks of life to consider the Peace Corps.

As we continue to track the surging response to our new application process, we’re keeping our vision squarely in sight: a gateway to service that inspires a new generation of global leaders, one that opens doors and changes lives—just as it did for me, and the 215,000-plus Americans who have served as Peace Corps Volunteers around the world. We want every American to know about the Peace Corps, and with the help of NPCA, the global RPCV community, universities, and partners of all kinds, we’re well on our way. **WV**

*Carrie Hessler-Radelet (Samoa 1981–1983) is the Director of the Peace Corps.*



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# SMALL SMALL CATCH MONKEY

Partnership at the project level helps get the job done in Cameroon

*By Layne Anderson*

The original vision I had of my Peace Corps self was probably the epitome of a rough and rugged hippie. I was, after all, using my Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree in a way quite contradictory to the average nurse. Instead of exercising my newly minted RN badge by passing out medications at a hospital, I was packing my bags for the underdeveloped villages of Cameroon to preach condoms and mosquito nets. With suitcases full of airy cotton skirts, hiking shoes, head lamps, and three jars of Jif extra-crunchy (for those homesick rainy days), I boarded a jumbo jet for Africa dreaming about the idealist life I would lead in a mystical village off the map.

Ask any Peace Corps Volunteer about their experiences abroad, and they will tell you that their time was spent in a completely different way than expected. My start in West Africa was



Kim teaches about the importance of hygiene and sanitation to children during one of Needs For Children's outreach programs. The NGO team visits villages surrounding Kumba on a monthly basis to educate children on a variety of health topics.

LAYNE ANDERSON

about as rocky and haphazard as the roads that link one Cameroonian village to the next. Originally I was posted to a small yet vibrant village 15 kilometers outside the bustling town of Kumba in Cameroon's Southwest region. My time there, however, was short lived, as a few security concerns quickly arose. Details about that ordeal do not matter at this point, but I can easily say that I was a miserable and anxious mess. Peace Corps quickly removed me from my post, and with compassionate consideration for the fragility of my mental state, I was instructed to stay with a Volunteer in my neighboring town of Kumba. Reflecting on that failed launch to my service only makes me smile with gratitude now, for every wrong turn up until that point simply led me to the exact place I was meant to be. Every small twist of fate guided me towards one of the most inspirational people I have ever met, and someone I proudly now call my counterpart, my friend, and my sister.

Kim Van Elderen was not the type of person that I expected to find strolling down the chaotic streets of Kumba. It was by chance that I met her at a local human rights fair just after being displaced from my original post. The first thing I noticed was her striking blond hair, blue eyes, and fair skin. Then she opened her mouth and out flew a slew of deep Pidgin English that only local Cameroonian would possibly be able to understand. Intrigued, I introduced myself and quickly learned that Kim was also a registered nurse, working in Kumba as president of her own NGO. Originally from Holland, a study abroad opportunity during nursing school led her to Cameroon where she was deeply affected by the health disparities she witnessed in rural Africa. Upon graduation, Kim defied the quintessential expectations of a newly graduated nurse by moving back to Kumba to start Needs For Children. I had found my European doppelganger in Kim, and from that moment on I was determined to collaborate with her unique organization.

Needs For Children wears many hats, but their main goal is to enrich the lives of Kumba's *pikin* (that's Pidgin talk for "children") through health education. Kim's organization teaches about hygiene and sanitation, HIV/AIDS, and malaria to children in the local

prison and orphanages, and provides financial support to individual kids suffering from a slew of health problems. Through collaboration with Cameroonian organizations, Needs For Children has been able to provide healthcare and most importantly, hope, to hundreds

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of children throughout the community. Peace Corps immediately recognized the astonishing work that Kim and her NGO were accomplishing, and I was granted the honor of partnering with Needs For Children for the remainder of my service.

I am now nearing the one-year mark in Cameroon as a Volunteer, and I could not imagine a more rewarding experience than the one I have been living as Kim's partner. Through her NGO I have been working with a local orphanage to secure them a new and clean well on their compound. Clean water and sanitation is a recurring theme that has required considerable work in Kumba, as many

Layne and Kim visiting local children on Cameroon's national "Youth Day." Needs For Children provided balloons and candy for impoverished children to celebrate the event.



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of the area's health problems can be attributed to a lack of safe hygiene practices. With the help of Peace Corps, Kim and I will soon be able to provide sanitary drinking, cooking, and bathing water for 31 vulnerable orphans who currently live in indescribably dirty conditions. And with this newfound partnership between Needs For Children and the Peace Corps, it is my hope that many more life-changing projects will be accomplished.

No, I may not be living out my preconceived idea as a Volunteer working amongst sleepy mud huts and rolling cocoa farms, but I truly believe I have found a better niche in collaborating with Kim. Those bright African stars have aligned perfectly, and through this unique blend of Cameroonian, American, and Dutch culture, our world is becoming more closely united in an unexpected way. Change is happening, lives are enriched and, as they say in pidgin, small catch monkey; little by little, we shall arrive. WV

**Layne Anderson** is currently serving as a Health Volunteer in Cameroon.

# THE WORMS THAT SUPPORT THE DESERT

When a Volunteer partners with a municipality, compost happens

By Diego Shoobridge

**T**he coast of Peru is a thin strip of desert between the Pacific Ocean and the Andes mountains. However, in the northern part of the country, close to the equator, the desert gives way to a unique ecosystem, the dry forest, where the trees have twisted trunks, grow slowly yet are extremely drought resistant. These forests are found in a small portion of the desert in northern Peru and disappear in Ecuador to make way for more tropical vegetation. They are endemic forests home to a rich biodiversity and are fed by the sporadic rains brought by the “El Niño” phenomenon.

Surrounded by this forest is the province of Ferreñafe in the department of Lambayeque. Cradle of ancient cultures like the Moche, Ferreñafe is surrounded by archaeological centers that constantly surprise the world with new discoveries, scientific studies and excavations, like Sican. This attracts many tourists and the city of Ferreñafe is a crucial stop for them due to its interesting museum and transportation to the Pomac

Forest Historical Sanctuary.

The municipality of Ferreñafe is working decisively to better the service it provides the population and to address the challenges that the flow of tourists brings. With this in mind, municipal programs emphasize sustainable environmental management, the improvement of environmental quality, and the beautification and care of green areas. In this context, the municipality has launched, with the support of the Peace Corps, an ambitious recycling and compost/fertilizer program—and committed resources and financing to strengthen these programs. The municipality has purchased a small truck for recycling collection, designed efficient routes, trained the population on appropriate waste separation, and promoted the population's active participation in the program.

When Michael Mazotti, a Community Based Environmental Management Peace Corps Volunteer who lives in Ferreñafe, realized that the inorganic (plastics, metals) recycling system was already established and working, he focused on strengthening the reutilization of organic material to generate natural fertilizer. The municipality assigned a small space within the municipal stadium for Michael to establish beds for the production of compost using worms. Earthworms digest the organic

material. The municipality assigned a small space within the municipal stadium for Michael to establish beds for the production of compost using worms. Earthworms digest the organic



D. SHOOBRIDGE

Far left: To feed the worms and get the most of the organic matter, it needs to be carefully placed in uniform layers.

Left: The project began with two worm beds, now it has eight and is still expanding.

material, accelerating the process and producing a high quality natural fertilizer.

Michael began this project from scratch. He himself fitted the compost beds and worms and prepared the area for effective work, first working with the earth, then with stones. He added plant debris from the nearby tree nursery and garden, but

quickly realized that the material from the stadium was not going to be enough to maintain the increasingly hungry worms. So he started collecting bruised or rotting fruit and vegetables left over in the market—and became very well known. It was rather strange to see a “gringo” collecting rotting organic waste that nobody wanted. Still,

this caught the attention of merchants and fruit sellers in the market, imparting an important lesson: this “waste” can be used to make natural fertilizer.

Over time, compost production has increased rapidly. The municipality now fertilizes their parks and gardens with it, with excellent results. Not only is this compost useful, but it saves the major expense of buying fertilizer. After seeing the concrete, positive results of Michael’s work, the municipality has strengthened the project by contracting new personnel specifically for the required work, and providing tools and materials to expand the number of compost beds, and construct them in an appropriate manner to provide the necessary protection and shade for the worms.

In 15 months of work, the municipality has produced 14 tons of compost for its green areas. Today the project is sustainable. Michael now plays the role of consultant and knows that when he completes his service, the project will continue functioning and growing with the local participation. Currently, 500 kilograms of compost is produced weekly, and laboratory analysis shows that the fertilizer is clean, free of germs, and with good levels of nitrogen and appropriate nutrients. The municipality is developing training materials to engage new participants and has assigned financing to build permanent compost beds using brick and cement in a more extensive municipal area with aspirations to triple the size of the project.

The strong collaboration between the Volunteer and the municipal environment office leadership has been crucial for the implementation, development and successful functioning of the project. Because Michael has been involved in all of the phases of the project—collection of organic material, construction of the beds, maintaining the appropriate temperature and humidity, separation and care of the worms—he completely understands the details of the process. This systemized, organized and professional approach has instilled trust.

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stagnate. In this case, thanks to the results achieved, the project has been assigned a larger municipal budget to expand in the future. Michael's experience shows that committed authorities working with the Peace Corps volunteers can make a big difference in the implementation of community development projects. **WW**

**Diego Shoobridge** is the Associate Peace Corps Director for the Community-based Environmental Management Program for Peace Corps/Peru. He was among those featured in the Fall 2012 issue of *WorldView* article, "The Unseen Heroes of Peace Corps – Host country national staff play a pivotal role" by JoAnna Haugen.



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# LET THERE BE LIGHT

Good things happen when two Shriver Award winners work together

By Erica Burman



NATANAEL JOCHOLA

A proud new owner of a solar light.

**E**ight thousand miles and ten years separate two former Sargent Shriver Distinguished Humanitarian Award winners: Sam Goldman (Benin 2001-2005) and Sue Patterson (Guatemala 1966-1968). But that didn't prevent them from collaborating on a small project to enhance the quality of life for 31 families in an isolated village, Puente de Gomez, Guatemala.

In addition to founding and serving on the board of WINGS ([www.wingsguate.org](http://www.wingsguate.org)), which works on family planning issues, and for which she received the Shriver Award, Sue has served for 15 years on the board of Behrhorst Partners for Development, a 40-year-old nonprofit working to improve health in a rural, Mayan indigenous area of Guatemala. (Sue, like many Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, never "returned" and resides fulltime in Guatemala.) Some 10 years ago, she hiked with a staff member and the now-mayor of the municipality for over an hour over steep, rocky terrain to Puente de Gomez. They wanted to explore with the villagers the possibility of working together to provide each family with an improved, vented wood cookstove. She was told that not only did the villagers have no electricity, but that they were unlikely ever to have it due to their challenging location. She never forgot the women trying to cook by candlelight, and the children unable to do homework after dark.

Fast-forward to a small gathering of former winners of the Shriver Award (Sue was the winner in 2003) at the celebrations for the Peace Corps' 50th anniversary in Washington, D.C., in 2011. Sue met that year's winner, Sam Goldman, founder of d.light, which makes inexpensive solar-power lamps, and was impressed with his vision.

Recently, she reconnected with Sam, seeking information about how to acquire lamps for Puente de Gomez. And "presto"—Sam told her there is a d.light vendor in Guatemala.

Cobbling together donations from the villagers, from six generous friends and a

fairly deep discount from the vendor, she was able to order lights for three-quarters of the village homes. The lamps provide four levels of light, and also can be used to charge a cell phone, most useful in Guatemala where landlines are scarce and cell phones are not. According to an article by Nicholas Fusso in the Summer 2014 edition of *WorldView*, "studies show that families who purchase a lamp realize enormous savings, see household income increase by 15 to 30 percent, double study hours for children, and eliminate the dangers from fire-prone kerosene lanterns."

Clara Luz Curruchich of Puente de Gomez can speak directly to the impact:

*I live with my husband and two children, 3 and 6. We've never had electricity, so we always have to use candles, which cost us more than \$5 a month. Besides that, my kids are mischievous and I always had to be*

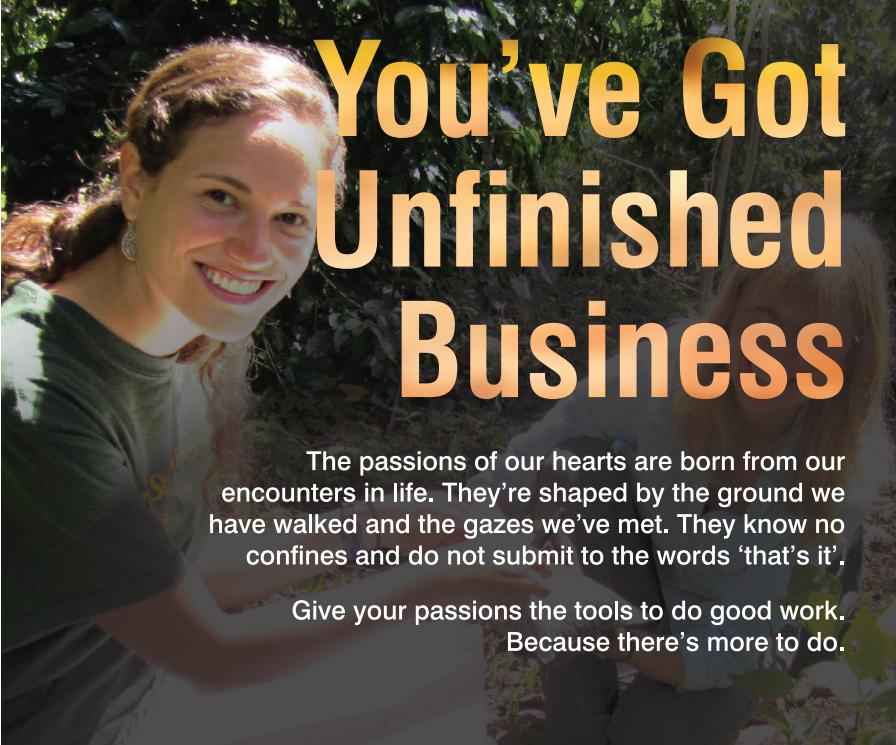
*watching over them so that they wouldn't knock over a candle and burn down the house. So they weren't allowed to play at night. But now with this solar light, they can play while I'm doing other things.*

*In addition, we have a cell phone for emergencies, and my husband always had to walk several kilometers each week to the nearest village to recharge it. Now he doesn't have to do that.*

*We did not know these lamps existed, but it has made our whole family happy!*

Seeing a need. Making a connection. Finding a solution. It's exciting to see the Shriver Award not only honoring past humanitarian service, but being used today as a mechanism to continue that work. **WV**

**Erica Burman** (*The Gambia 1987-1989*) is the director of communication for the National Peace Corps Association.



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# ULTIMATE FRISBEE FEVER IN CAMBODIA

Teaching leadership to Khmer women through the “spirit of the game”

By Vicki Chan

**O**n occasion when biking through the plaza of the Provincial Teacher Training College (PTTC) where I work, a soccer ball would whiz across my path. And every time I looked up, there was a young male teacher trainee racing to retrieve it. In fact, men dominated both the soccer field and the volleyball court at the PTTC, even though the school is comprised of 75% women. I wondered where the women played sports.

It didn't take long to discover, though, that few Cambodian women take part in any kind of public sport. As I set about observing local sports culture, I found that many of the women trainees used the 30 minutes of free time at the end of physical education class to sit in the shade of a tree and chat with one another. Meanwhile, the young men used the time to exercise and get better at volleyball and soccer. In addition, there are no female teachers who play sports at the PTTC, and though the sporty men were open to having women join in their games, they were not particularly encouraging or welcoming. Thinking I might encourage more female participation, I invited a few women to play volleyball and soccer with me for several sessions. After many balls flying out of bounds and messy foot handling scrapes, it was clear to everyone that something else was needed.

So I turned to the sport I knew best: Ultimate Frisbee. Before joining the Peace Corps in 2012, I had been an avid Ultimate Frisbee player for 7 years, with additional experience as a team captain,

board member, and volunteer coordinator for the Ann Arbor Ultimate League in Michigan. To those unfamiliar with the sport, Ultimate Frisbee is known for its “spirit of the game” values and self-refereeing system. Ultimate players play to develop their skills and try to embody the ideal of welcoming all newcomers wholeheartedly with good camaraderie, no matter their ability or gender. Playing to play well, exercise, have fun, teach, and learn is how I define the “spirit of the game.” While Ultimate had the right values for promoting participation among both genders, it was also a foreign game. Could it catch on in this soccer-and-volleyball town?

I began to bring Frisbees to school. Contrary to my expectations, the Frisbee gained momentum very quickly. My

excitement started to build as my trainees got hooked on the plastic disc, learning how to flick their wrists and lean into the throw. It was easy to learn for them, and more importantly, it was a sport that didn't come with any previous gender connotations. Its novelty, rather than being a liability, was turning into a great asset. But for now it was just recreation, not serious sport, and it was time to display to the school and the community—and the women participants themselves—just what these athletes were capable of.

Having played in the international Cambodian Ultimate Frisbee two-day tournament in Phnom Penh in 2013, I knew the organizers at the Phnom Penh Ultimate Association (PPUA) firsthand. They were excited to get more



The first all-Cambodian national Ultimate Frisbee team at the Mekong Cup in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

ROD WELL KOW



CHANDA CHENG

Sonita, first year PTTC trainee, catches the disc thrown to her at an Ultimate Frisbee workshop in Phnom Penh.

Cambodians playing Ultimate, so together we arranged for a one-day workshop and tournament for my trainees. Before loading everyone into the bus for a 3.5 hour bus ride to the capital city, my co-teachers and I organized weekly practices with any trainees who were interested. We did conditioning drills (unheard of for many), learned how to catch and throw properly, and played scrimmages against one another. I saw two of my women trainees start to gain confidence in their skills, and I asked them to teach the newcomers, both men and women, what they knew.

On May 5th, 2013, the day of the workshop, I had 15 trainees attend the tournament—more than half of them women. This was beyond my expectations, and beyond many of the trainees' as well. Some of them had never been to the capital city before, and most had never met any other foreigner, yet they thrived at the workshop. The PPUA community was the perfect model to set the tone for the “spirit of the game” by including everyone, regardless of experience. Seeing young Khmer women sprint and play and lead others had been a rare but extremely gratifying sight in Cambodian athletics. The bus ride back to our provincial town was buzzing with positive energy. Though the workshop exhausted them, my trainees came back with a self-confidence and excitement that I'd never seen in them before.

Their success didn't end there. Eight

of the local women players were invited to play on the all-Cambodian Ultimate Frisbee team in an international tournament, the Mekong Cup. Appropriately, their team won the Spirit of the Game award. Additionally, the sport and the women were featured in Cambodian Sports (CamSports) magazine, April 2014 edition. As young teacher trainees, they are already breaking barriers by proudly chasing that plastic disc in clear view of the current

and future teachers of Cambodia, and people have taken notice. They even have a following of grade school students that they train both to play and to pass on the “spirit of the game.”

In the early months of my service, I'd

have to beg and cajole my trainees to come out and play. I often sat alone on the small, grassy plot of land that served as our field, waiting for players. These days, though, my trainees are often the ones badgering me to play in the plaza after class. So I do what most Cambodian women teachers don't—I untuck my button down shirt, take off my shoes, hitch up my long traditional teaching skirt and join my students running downfield to score. Of course, when we do, the soccer players smile back at us and make way. **WV**

*Vicki Chan and her husband, Michael Haak, just completed their Peace Corps service in Cambodia (2012-2014). Vicki played for the Yale University Women's Ultimate Frisbee Club team and was a key member of the Ann Arbor Ultimate Frisbee League community in Michigan.*

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# A HEARTBREAKING JOURNEY

## At reunions, we watch lives unfold

By Nicole Anderson, Colleen Daley, & Elizabeth Whitton

once read a blog post that said, “Peace Corps will break your heart.” Truly, heartbreak has followed us all through our journeys. Injustice and sadness in the world broke all our hearts, and drove us to join Peace Corps. The stories of people we served while doing “toughest job you’ll ever love” broke our spirits yet we weathered it with the support of our new Volunteer family. Stomach viruses and street harassment and insect invasions and sun poisoning broke down our personal boundaries and brought us closer together. And now, five

years after our close of service, it is again my Peace Corps family that has healed the biggest of all the holes in my heart: the truly crippling break that came when I left Peace Corps.

There is something inherently risky about reunions. They are notorious for being a theater through which you must show how great and beautiful you have become, or a forum in which to seek revenge on your high school bully or ex-boyfriend. Reunions risk being composed solely of awkward interactions wherein the only thing holding anyone together is nostalgic reminiscing about the past. Our Memorial Day weekend in Holland, Mich. was nothing of the sort. Because we lived together-but-apart for so many grueling months, when we got back together, it was not awkward or competitive, but easy, full of joy and love.

We knew it was a success from the very beginning: it is hard to find the words to describe what I felt, the first morning, being amongst this group of 30 after five years, eating a sublime breakfast strata and standing around the kitchen talking like we used to in Morocco. I kept having to mentally pinch myself to make sure that it was all real—that the most



RPCVs dressed in Moroccan garb

glorious two years of my life did actually happen—and that we were back together again. It only got better from there: There were lawn games, field trips to the beach, dancing, singing, and even late night games of Cards Against Humanity. In keeping with our commitment to the Peace Corps and the Third Goal, we shared our adopted traditions, dress and food with our new extended family members. During our Saturday night goat party, I was thrilled to see the non-RPCV guests dressed in djelbas and tkshetas and eating our freshly slaughtered goat, some who had never tasted goat before

What really struck me, however (as tends to happen in Peace Corps), was the people. I found myself listening so much. I found myself craving to learn about my fellow RPCVs’ lives, because this reunion allowed us to come together over tea (or wine, hooray, since we are no longer in Morocco) and reconnect in a way not achieved through Facebook status updates, tweets, Instagram posts, and LinkedIn profile updates. I had forgotten that crucial rule of Peace Corps, that “time spent” is perhaps the most valuable work of all.

And from this time spent, I re-learned how unique our group was and still is. Many of us continue to live overseas working in development or the US Department of State. We have been awarded Fulbright and Presidential Management Fellowships, contributed to Public Radio International, and translated works of literature from their original Arabic language. We have started families and are raising funny, mature, precocious, and adorable children. We are



ELIZABETH WHITTON

The Yockie Dock Yacht Club welcomes the 5-Year Reunion for Peace Corps Morocco Youth Development/Small Business Development, 2007-2009.



entrepreneurs, researchers, government employees, nonprofit professionals, graduate students, and educators. We work in sustainable farming enterprises, promote green building practices, and aim to incorporate sustainability into supply chains and product life cycles. We have earned graduate degrees and are pursuing PhDs and medical degrees. We are brilliant artists, masters of the written word, and talented actors. We are community organizers, volunteers, and neighbors.

During Peace Corps, I was constantly amazed at the people I had the pleasure of serving with. They challenged me to be a better Volunteer and a better person, and they still challenge me. I am amazed at how much they have accomplished, the lessons and values they promote and share, and their visions for what the future holds. These people inspire, cajole, and peer-pressure us to be better, work harder, reach further in our personal and professional lives. And I am as inspired and humbled by them six years and 9 months down the line as I was on that fateful day of September 8, 2007, when we first met in Philadelphia.

By letting such a special group of people into that little crack that started us on this journey, we commenced a journey that will never end, a journey where we allow ourselves to be vulnerable. We let our hearts break for the sadness of others, in hopes of tempering their pain. We let the joy, goodness, and beauty of their broken hearts fill the cracks in our own. And this journey continues to test the capacity of my heart to hold an immense amount of happiness and love without bursting wide open. It is truly this network of journeys that allows volunteers and returned Volunteers to

live life so fully, inevitably experiencing heartbreak and simultaneously finding the fervor, strength, and integrity to live the purposeful and intentional lives that we do. With excitement and anticipation I look forward to our 10-year reunion for which the planning is already in the works: May 23, 2019!

*Reprinted from the blog Arabesques: <http://zineb-returns.blogspot.com/2014/06/a-heartbreaking-journey.html>. WV*

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**Elizabeth Whitton** was a Small Business Development volunteer in the Middle Atlas region of Morocco. Her experiences as a PCV led her to pursue a career in land use and public health planning. She is currently a researcher exploring ways the built environment can positively influence

community health. **Colleen Daley** was a Youth Development Volunteer in a small city outside of Marrakech, Morocco. Her love for Morocco and her Peace Corps experience led her to pursue a career in international education, and she hopes to one day become a professor in Middle East studies or the director of a study abroad center. **Nicole Anderson** was a Youth Development Volunteer in a medium sized city outside of Casablanca: Ben Ahmed, Morocco. Her Peace Corps experience led her to pursue studies in teaching writing to ESL students and rhetoric with a special interest in Middle Eastern politics and hip-hop. She currently works at the University of Chicago as an international alumni relations director and hopes to spend her life in pursuit of wanderlust and the fulfillment thereof.



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**Student Ayman Yassa conducting a survey in Kono district, Sierra Leone (Summer 2010)**  
Credit: Yolanda Barbera Lainez, International Rescue Committee



Outside of Rogel's village, Ogongo, Kenya.

# "THE WORLD IS MY HOME"

What it's like to be deaf in the Peace Corps

By Kelly Rogel and Nehama Rogozen

**S**ince 1961, according to the best estimates of deaf Returned Peace Corps Volunteers themselves, approximately 70 deaf/hard of hearing (HOH) individuals have served as Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) around the world. Serving with a hearing loss is a challenge which also opens up new opportunities for growth and sharing, both for PCVs and for the communities that become their home for two years. Kelly Rogel served in Kenya from 2011 to 2013, and Nehama Rogozen served in the Philippines from 2011 to 2013. Here they share their stories with the Peace Corps community.

**Rogel:** My parents found out I was profoundly deaf when I was 20 months old. I was fitted with hearing aids and started learning Signed Exact English (SEE2) at age 2 and learned American Sign Language (ASL) in high school. I attended mainstreamed schools with sign language interpreters, captioning services, and speech therapy. I made the decision to get my first cochlear implant (CI) when I was 25 and received my second CI two years later. Everyone is diverse,

including people with hearing loss. People benefit from CIs in different ways. My CIs improve my ability to lip-read and provide environmental awareness such as hearing music and cars.

**Rogozen:** My parents found out I was deaf when I was one year old. With hearing aids and auditory-verbal therapy, I learned to hear and speak. Because my loss was progressive, I continued to lose hearing, and at the age of 11, received

my first CI. Because the implant bypasses the damaged hair cells in the inner ear and sends sound straight to the brain, I avoided the chance that my hearing would eventually disappear, while receiving the clearest and loudest sound I had ever heard before. At age 18, I received my second implant, providing me with bilateral sound. I have spent my life in regular schools, communicating verbally, and don't know sign language. I had to work to get to where I am today. My parents were told I would never learn to hear, speak, or read beyond a third-grade level. It was a battle for me to get the services I needed, in a time when options were more limited. Joining the Peace Corps was in some ways, a personal validation that I can do anything that a hearing person can.

**Rogel:** One challenge I encountered was the misconception that all hearing aids and CIs are the same, which caused difficulties in getting necessary replacement parts and having to use rechargeable batteries when I did not have reliable electricity. Another challenge was due to being a deaf nominee who used sign language. Since sign language is my primary mode of communication, I was limited to only one program. I had to do a lot of waiting before departing in October 2011.

**Rogozen:** I submitted my Peace Corps application in December 2009 with the fear that I would be rejected; I didn't know if having CIs would disqualify me. My research turned up little information and I entered the application process crossing my fingers. I received a conditional acceptance, but things



AMBER LINDH



Top: Rogozen was shocked to find strawberries in the Baguio City market.

Bottom: Rogel trying to figure out how to balance a basin on her head, which her students found hilarious.

A black and white photograph of the statue of Lady Justice, also known as Justitia. She is shown from the waist up, facing right, holding a set of scales in her left hand and a sword or rod of justice in her right hand. Her blindfolded eyes are visible at the top of her head. The background is a plain, light color.

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got difficult. It took many forms for my audiologist, conversations with medical and placement, and three tentative placements before I finally received the coveted blue folder in the mail. Because a PCV with cochlear implants was a new frontier for Peace Corps, I had to educate the medical office about what I needed—electricity to charge batteries and a CI clinic. Finding a country with those qualifications, plus a program that met my generalist skills, was difficult, but I finally left for the Philippines as a Children, Youth, and Families Volunteer in July 2011.

**Rogel:** I lived in Ogongo, a rural village near Lake Victoria in Kenya where I taught at Lambwe Christian School for the Deaf. Locals were welcoming and warm. They were happy to find alternative means of communicating with me through writing, texting, gesturing, and learning basic KSL (Kenyan Sign Language). There is an underlying stigma associated with being deaf in Kenya. Oftentimes children who are deaf are hidden since they are considered to bring shame to the family. At my school, some students didn't start the 1st grade until they were 12 years old. "Deaf people are dumb" was a common statement, one that even deaf students said about themselves.

**Rogozen:** I lived in Ormoc, a town on the island of Leyte, where I worked with local community development organizations. I expected my hearing loss to define my experience and interactions

with locals, but surprisingly, it was not really a factor. Most people often didn't realize I had CIs or were too shy to say anything. With my closer friends, the topic came up and I tried to explain in Cebuano that what I had on my ears were not some kind of iPods. What posed a challenge was communicating with my host family that when I took off my CIs at night, I couldn't hear anything, so no amount of knocking on the door could get my attention. Sometimes they understood, and would text if they needed me, but other times they thought I was ignoring them or unhappy with them.

**Rogel:** With time, I wore my CIs less and less in public even though I wore them in my house. I found that my students would become jealous and would sometimes want to try my CIs on. My community also treated me differently when I wore them because it reinforced the stereotype that foreigners are rich. I felt more immersed and accepted when I didn't wear them in public daily. It was difficult being deaf in a country that has such a stigma associated with disabilities. However, it was easy to communicate with strangers compared to America. Many languages are spoken in Kenya so people are used to finding different ways to communicate. In America, people sometimes tend to become frustrated or embarrassed or they will say things like "never mind...sorry...I'll tell you later...it's not important." In Kenya it didn't matter how communication happened, as long as it happened.



Rogel's students showing their name signs.



KAITI RITER



Top: Rogozen doing a World Map project with her youth.  
Bottom: Rogel's class 4 and 5 students.

**Rogozen:** After confronting a lot of challenges, I found myself happy, successful, and integrated in my community. However, I experienced a lot of guilt, like other PCVs, about the privilege and security I was afforded as an American that my Filipino community members did not have. I also felt guilty about the opportunities I had as a deaf American every time I interacted with a local who was deaf or had another disability. My supervisor's daughter was deaf. In the Philippines, where many people with disabilities people are kept at home, out of sight, she had difficulty finding a job, communicating with her family, and being a part of our community. Her mother would tell me how access to cochlear implants, working hearing aids, or speech therapy was unavailable and unaffordable. The irony that I sat there, able to hear her speak due to my CIs, was incredibly difficult to deal with.

**Rogel:** As a deaf PCV, I learned that because I am deaf, the world is my home. It doesn't matter where I go, there will always be deaf/hard of hearing people who will welcome me even though I come from

a different cultural background, because we share similar experiences. Sometimes this common factor allows others to overlook certain things that make it harder for a foreigner to become immersed. I also learned the importance of teaching someone a skill instead of doing something for them and instead of giving them material goods. It's such an amazing gift to give someone. I also learned that teaching is a two-way street. I learned so much more than I feel like I could ever teach and that's because my community and I worked towards finding a common ground where we respected each other and expressed interest in learning from each other.

**Rogozin:** Just like any PCV, I have had challenges in my life and during my Peace Corps service. My hearing loss was just an additional challenge but one that gave me the opportunity to learn more about alternate methods of communication, cross-cultural sharing, and what life is like for those with disabilities in developing countries. Deaf and hard of hearing PCVs contribute so much to their host countries and show their communities that people with disabilities are just like anyone else. By increasing Volunteer outreach to deaf and hard of hearing communities (as well as those with other disabilities) in the US, Peace Corps will be able to access an important pool of individuals who can truly make a difference abroad, and represent the diversity of America. **wv**

**Kelly Rogel** served in Ogongo, Kenya as a teacher at Lambwe Christian School for the Deaf. Some of her secondary projects include helping establish the first deaf camp in Kenya to promote leadership within the deaf community and contributing to the Kenyan Sign Language Mathematics and Science Glossary. She received her undergraduate degree in Genetics from the University of Kansas and her Masters degree in Human Genetics from Sarah Lawrence College. Kelly is meeting the Third Goal of Peace Corps by giving presentations near her hometown of Olathe, Kansas while working towards her

goal of getting a second Masters degree in Public Health.

**Nehama Rogozin,** originally from Cleveland, Ohio served in the Philippines as a Children, Youth, and Families Volunteer from 2011-2013 on the island of Leyte. She worked with

local groups supported by World Vision and ChildFund International. She received her undergraduate degree in Government & Politics at the University of Maryland. She is now pursuing her Master's in Development Practice at UC Berkeley, where she is focusing on issues of gender, migration, labor, and trafficking.



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# GRANDMOTHERS PROPEL SOCIAL CHANGE

By Kimberly Brown

**S**ome development professionals think of elders as outdated, resistant-to-change members of the community who dig their heels into their traditions and old ways, refusing to progress in the face of a modern world.

Tell this perception to grandmothers who have gathered in the school building of a small Senegalese village in West Africa.

Arms, still strong from so many years pounding grain, gesturing wildly, ignoring the drowsiness caused by the hot African sun glaring through the school's metal window frames. They stand before their communities, making their voices heard on such issues as early and forced marriage, teenage pregnancy, corporal punishment and female genital

community development. Binta actively advocates for the abolishment of female genital cutting in her community, saying, "We have culture that is good—and we lift it up. But we also have culture that is bad... and we must leave that behind."

The American and Senegalese nongovernmental organization, The Grandmother Project ("Change through Culture"), recognizes grandmothers as key community members who hold an influential role within their families and communities. Rather than unmovable pillars set against change, they—like Binta Sabaly—can accept new mindsets: they can be leaders of development; levers for change. Serving as a trusted resource, they can promote new ideas and affect positive change in traditional practices, including early/forced marriage of girls, female genital cutting and other practices that have a significant impact on the health and well being of children, women and families. As the Pulaar proverb states, "*Mawbe rewbe woni demngal gale*"—*Grandmothers are the door to the home*.

GMP works mainly in West Africa, and its co-founder and executive director Judi Aubel (Ivory Coast 1970-1972) is committed to developing programs that build on existing cultural assets.

"Many development programs focus on problems" Judi says, "ignoring the valuable resources that exist in all communities. To improve the lives of women and children, an abundant but often neglected resource is the grandmothers." GMP's assets-based approach has been used in programs dealing with education, health and protection of women, children and girls, in particular in Laos, Mali, Uzbekistan, Albania, Mauritania and Djibouti. In all cases, grandmothers have proved to be open to change when an approach based on respect and dialogue was used.

The Grandmother Project organizes intergenerational community forums, in which grandmother leaders, and leaders of other age groups, both male and female, come together for two days to



ANNICKA WEBSTER

The Praise of Grandmothers, community activity hosted by The Grandmother Project.

mutilation. These are issues many communities find difficult to discuss, more easily hidden in a dark corner not to be addressed.

And yet, in the face of societal pressure towards silence, you can find strong community leaders like 60-year-old Binta Sabaly, a grandmother leader in her community who works as a midwife at the local health center and is a spokesperson for

FLORE DE PRENEUF



Binta Sabaly, Grandmother Leader, and great-grandchild.

discuss how to promote positive cultural values and to catalyze discussion on harmful practices related to women and children, particularly girls. Through a series of participatory communication and problem-solving activities, communication between sexes and age groups is strengthened and communities decide themselves how to address issues related to the education and development of children, especially girls. In all discussions, grandmother leaders play a central role. In all cases where the approach has been used the knowledge and confidence of grandmothers has increased, grandmother leaders have been open to change and they have been empowered to catalyze change related to maternal/child health, education and protection of girls, teenage pregnancy and female genital cutting. None of these changes would have happened without respect for and engagement of the influential grandmothers.

As a Peace Corps Volunteer, what initially drew me to The Grandmother Project was this approach that makes communities feel proud of who they are and what they know. In GMP's approach, relationships with communities are carefully cultivated. These relationships become the foundation for GMP's participatory methodology for promoting change.

Binta Sabaly, enthusiastic about her

long involvement with The Grandmother Project, says, "The Grandmother Project wakes people up, I want other NGOs intervening in Senegal to use the approach of The Grandmother Project."

Grandmother Coumbayel is another community leader who has actively participated in GMP's community activities. Coumbayel describes the dramatic impact of GMP's grandmother-inclusive approach: "In the past we married girls off when they were 13 or 14 years old and we didn't ask them if they agreed with our choice of husband. Since GMP arrived in our area there have been many discussions on this issue between us, the grandmothers, and also with other community members. Through those discussions we came to an agreement that we should change our approach. Now we know that we should let our girls stay in school and complete their studies..."

Coumbayel goes on to say that it is important to understand young girls' opinions in the process of finding a husband. Coumbayel now fiercely affirms, "We should wait until girls are 18 years old. We have decided that the traditional approach is not the best. We need to change our ideas, we need to change with the times."

*You can learn more about The Grandmother Project at <http://www.grandmotherproject.org>.*

**org. WV**

**Kimberly Brown** is a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer who served in Senegal from 2012-2014. Kimberly worked as a community health educator and collaborated with the nongovernmental organization The Grandmother Project in their community developmental work for the benefit of women, children and families.



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# RAINY SEASON RUN

## Narrative on village life

By Lea Schram von Haupt

t was one of those days. My earlier projects of the day had all gone awry, I was feeling useless and grumpy, unexcited by the prospect of throwing on some running clothes and dragging myself up and down a couple of hills for an hour.

I begrudgingly put on my workout pants and t-shirt and wandered over to my *Bambuya's nsaka*, my grandmother's kitchen. I leaned my head in the door. The kids looked up at me and their eyes brightened. "*Muleya mukubutuka?*" they asked. "Are you going running?"

"Yeah!" I said, "You coming?" They

jumped up. "Let's go," I said. "Where are Reuben and Noa?" We decided to swing by their houses and pick them up. "We're going far today. You always say you're not tired after our runs, so we're going to fix that today."

We started off down the path, their giggles and footsteps ringing out behind me. We passed by Reuben's house. "REUBEN! RUNNING! COME ON!" they yelled out. A couple kids came out and yelled out greetings, and before long, a skinny boy came running towards us.

Our caravan continued on. Next house—"NOA! NOA!" No answer. A

neighbor told us he was working in the maize fields. Oh well.

We headed back to the main road and came to the top of a large hill. The children plummeted downhill around me, their bare feet barely touching the gravel. I felt ancient as I picked my way, carefully navigating the sharp rocks. We reached the beer house. "TURN!" I yelled out. We started down a grassy, muddy path, littered with puddles. The kids splashed happily down another hill, across two makeshift bridges, and we started the ascent back towards our village. We came to the fork in the road—one path leading home, another path leading to a loop around another village.

"Which way are we going?" asked the boy in front.

"Are you tired?" I asked.  
"No!" they all sang.



A running trail in the author's village in Zambia.

LEA SCHRAM VON HAUPT



LEA SCHRAM VON HAUPT

Running buddies.

"Alright, we keep going." We were back on the normal path that we usually take for our runs. We padded along. The path smoothed out, and I let go and broke out in a sprint. The kids yelled out in surprise, and it wasn't long until they were sprinting alongside me. We were flying, and I lengthened my strides like I haven't done in a long time.

We stopped in a football pitch, where some other running regulars met up with us. I made them do sprints, lunges, side-running, crab walks, and balance exercises. I threw in some extra sprints to tire them out and we set off again on the final leg of the run.

The path got overtaken by grass, weighed down by the most recent rains. It had grown to eye level, so with hands up, we plunged through the puddles and the wet jungle of grass. As we stumbled out of the grass, and one of the kids looked back at me and exclaimed in surprise. "Ma! Ba Lea! You bathed!"

We turned a corner and I was stopped short by the lake in front of us. Our normal path and footbridge over a small stream were completely flooded. I cried

out. "How are we going to cross?" I heard a laugh ring out from the hills, and I looked over to see a *hamayo*, a woman, watching my reaction, amused, waiting to see what this *mzungu* was going to do.

"Come on Lea! Take off your shoes! We go this way." The kids waded into the water up to their thighs and I followed. The current was strong, but the bottom was smooth, grass and mud squishing between our toes.

We finished the run barefoot. The kids can run barefoot anywhere, but I had to pick my way slowly through the rocks, mud and puddles, marveling at how tough these kids' feet are. At one point, we crossed over a long line of ants. The kids started jumping and shrieking. "HURRY!" they called. I jumped over the path, and we stomped the ants off of our feet.

Shortly following this, they slowed to a crawl, and whispered to me, "Dog!" We crept past a hut, keeping an eye out for this over-protective guardian. No signs this time, but I knew the kids were remembering our last run, when 3 of the kids got cut off from the rest of the group by the barking, growling dog.

Breathless, we rolled into *Bashikulu's*. Grandfather looked up, and there we stood, grinning, barefoot and covered in mud. He just stared for a minute, then broke out in an amused smile. "Ah, you have returned."

And to think I was that close to not even stepping out my front door. **WV**

**Lea Schram von Haupt** is a currently serving Peace Corps Volunteer in the Rural Education Development program in Zambia.



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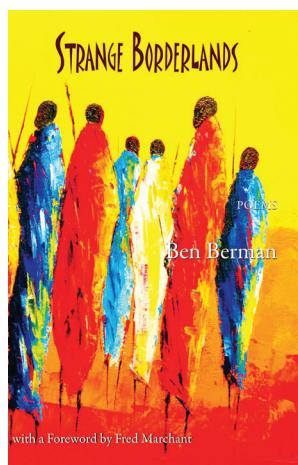
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# STRANGE BORDERLANDS

Poems from time in the Peace Corps, in Zimbabwe

By Ben Berman



**B**en Berman (Zimbabwe 1998–2000) is the author of *Strange Borderlands* (Able Muse Press), which won the 2014 Peace Corps Writers Award for Best Poetry Book and was a finalist for the Massachusetts Book Award. He has received awards from the New England Poetry Club and fellowships from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and Somerville Arts Council. He is the Co-Poetry Editor at Solstice Literary Journal and he teaches in the Boston area where he lives with his wife and two daughters.

From *Strange Borderlands* © Ben Berman, 2014. Used by permission of Able Muse Press.

## Learning Shona

At first, there were the obvious slips of similarly spelled words – *penis* and *pumpkin leaves*, *Sunday* and *foreskin*.

I learned to pray and with ass sound almost exactly the same. And it wasn't just language either, I'd see a man

suffering gum disease and write home about the beautiful toothless smiles. The same day I waved back to a group

of men, not knowing the opposition had claimed the open hand salute, I confused a woman with a room,

announced, excuse me, but I'd like to enter you as I tried to squeeze by. The village idiot was a giant

mute – the one man in a hundred-mile radius that I could outspoke – and even he mocked me, would carve UK

into his forearm and point emphatically. If words are, as Gary Snyder writes, *rock sure-foot trails*, I was learning

to uproot paths for artillery, pelt *iwe's* at the children tugging me for sweets, *futseke wako's* at the urchins high off hot

glue. But *Zimbabwe* means *The House of Stones* and I was getting grittier by the day, gritting my teeth

and studying how to sharpen a knife on a slate, build a ramp and push a car out of the mud. Eventually,

I'd be fluent enough to sling a bird out of a tree, contain a fire, line a grave so water couldn't leak in.

## Moving On

Every six months or so, Edwin writes me a letter, lets me know who's passed on and the latest cost of bread. This time it's Benson, his younger brother Lovewell and sixty-thousand dollars. *I am next to nothing for money*, he writes, and still

without work. But *Brother, the Pentecostal Church has arrived. They're teaching us the right way to pray*. It's biblical – the disconnects and catalogues, destruction juxtaposed next to the austere and casual. Procrastination is the thief of time,

Edwin writes, and it has been high time since you wrote back. *Brother, are you still alive? If so, send money for goats as well as for beer* – the bill of burial rites.

But too often, these days, I think of my past as a currency – rubbery chicken necks

and children named Godknows, boys who die next to you on busses – I spend all my time distancing myself, plundering my past for sibylline truths and forget it's still alive. Edwin's waiting for me to write him back. He needs help paying for Lovewell's

funeral. *Back home, Edwin, all is well. Here is twenty dollars. I'll send more next letter* – it sounds so easy to write. But *time wastes us*, William Matthews writes, *and time saves us and buys us*. All we can do is steal back from what squanders us, swirl the past

into the present, learn to trespass even as we go light. Our rituals grow rote, otherwise, prescribed and stale, the mere expectations of what comes next. Again, it is dawn. Again, it is time to let go and hold on, time to write

back. *Please, Edwin writes, we need help. Lovewell and Benson have passed away. I am next...* Angels, thieves of time, prepare to wrestle.

# RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR COMMUNITY

By Jonathan Pearson

## BENIN

The Academy of Nursing Education, part of the National League for Nursing has chosen **Elizabeth Downes** (1981-83) into its fellowship program. Selected fellows are described as nurse educators who have made sustained and significant



contributions to nursing education. An associate clinical professor at the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing at Emory University, she is also the Coordinator of their new Coverdale Peace Corps Fellows program. Dr. Downes is an international nursing consultant with the Carter Center and has worked for the World Health organization. Her seven years of service in Africa also included work with the both the Ministry of Health and U.S. Embassy in Mozambique.

## BOLIVIA

A writer who focuses on the outdoors, **Shane Townsend** (2003-05) of Austin has authored *Paddling Texas: A Guide to the State's Best Paddling Routes*. Townsend is a senior advisor at The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State University. His writing has been published in *USA Today*, *Hunt & Fish*, *Field & Stream* and other publications.

*The Hill* newspaper has released its 2014 50 Most Beautiful list and RPCV **JJ Singh** (2002-04) was selected to be on the list. Singh is an economic advisor for Senator Chris Coons (D-DE) and serves as the captain of his office softball team. With an undergraduate degree in economics from the University of Virginia, Singh received both his MBA

and MPA from Harvard University following his Peace Corps service.

## COTE D'IVOIRE/MADAGASCAR

**Tony D'Souza** (2000-03) was one of six alumni of Carthage College to receive this year's Carthage Beacon Award. The award is given "to recognize alumni who provide a light to their communities through a specific accomplishment, act of service, professional or personal achievement, event or program." The 1995 graduate was recognized for his literary contributions while attending the college. A highly recognized author, D'Souza released his third novel, *Mule*, in 2011.

## ETHIOPIA

The Bay Area Hospital awarded its highest employee honor, The Gold Star Award, to RPCV **Martha Blochlinger**. A long time women's health activist and mammography technician, she has worked at the hospital for more than 45 years. Blochlinger still works once a week at the women's imaging center where she has devoted patients who ask for her by name. She performed x-rays during her Peace Corps service in Ethiopia in the 60s and since her return she has been a strong volunteer in her community.

Cross country running was the literal experience earlier this year for **Jessica Goldman**. Over a three-month period, Goldman ran from the city hall of San Francisco to the city hall of New York City. There was purpose behind this nearly 3,500-mile endeavor, as Goldman raised more than \$25,000 to support the Brain Injury Association of America.

## THE GAMBIA/PHILIPPINES

Two Returned Peace Corps Volunteers were among those chosen as contributors for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency blogpost ("Greenversations") during the month of June. **Maggie Rudick**, who served in the Gambia, shared her Peace Corps experiences as an environmental and natural resources Volunteer. Philippines RPCV **Gina Bonifacino** contributed a post that shared her work with various communities to address environmental protection initiatives.

## GUATEMALA

Current managing partner of the KKP Group, LLP, **Ken Lehman** (1966-68), has been appointed as board chair of the Futuro Media Group. Lehman received his BA in English Literature from the Johns Hopkins University and his MA in Sociology from Northwestern University. Lehman chaired the board of Chicago Public Media, was an officer of the NPR Foundation, and was a committee chair of Public Radio International.

## JAMAICA

In Virginia, **Byron Bishop** has been named executive director of curriculum and instruction for the New Kent County public school system. Bishop previously served as a teacher, assistant principal and principal in the Williamsburg School System. Bishop earned his Masters in Education at George Washington University, following his service as an environmental Volunteer in Jamaica.

New Mexico State University has announced the appointment of **Lynda Garvin** as the new Sandoval County

Extension agriculture and horticulture agent. Along with Peace Corps service, Garvin has worked with Food for the Hungry and CARE International.

## KENYA

**Robert Scully** (1965-57) was one of the finalists in the 2014 Georgia Author of the Year Awards. Scully was a finalist in the first novel category for his book *The King History Forgot*. Following his Peace Corps service, Scully worked in the fields of international health and university administration prior to retirement. He is a past member of the NPCA Board of Directors.

**Carly Brown** is one of 32 teachers (out of 180 applicants) to receive the 2014 Knowles Science Teaching Foundation Teaching Fellowship. The fellowship is given to outstanding teachers early in their careers who are teaching science, technology, engineering and/

or mathematics. Brown's Peace Corps service included teaching biology, physics and chemistry. Prior to Peace Corps, Brown also served as an Americorps Volunteer.

## LESOTHO

**Matthew Orosoz**, a 2012 MIT graduate, was selected as one of three to receive the D-Lab Scale-Ups Fellowship for 2014. The fellowship program offers one year of support to MIT graduates bringing technology-based, poverty-alleviating products and services to market at scale. A 2012 graduate of MIT, Orosoz is also a founder of STG International, which looks at energy access in sub-Saharan Africa.

## MONGOLIA

Program analyst at the U.S. State Department, **Ariel Wyckoff** (2000-02) is one of ten American officials to participate in the Mike Mansfield

Fellowship Program. Wyckoff is a part of the 19th group of American officials to participate in the program. The group will spend one year in Japan to gain a broader understanding of the nation and its people. Wyckoff and his colleagues began their fellowship in the Ishikawa prefecture for an intensive seven week language program. The remaining ten months of their placement in Japan will be spent in various government and nongovernmental entities.

## MOZAMBIQUE

**Mica Jenkins**, a graduate student at Montana State University in the sustainable food systems program is a recent recipient of a Fulbright scholarship. The scholarship will allow Mica to study how health and nutrition can be improved in Mozambique. While serving in Mozambique, Mica occasionally had the opportunity to promote the health benefits of the orange

# WHERE IN THE WORLD IS WORLDVIEW?

Send us a photo!



**N**zingha O. Uhuru, a Peace Corps Volunteer teacher in Ethiopia, sent this photo from her vacation in Lalibela, about a 7-hour bus ride from her site. Behind her—and her copy of WorldView magazine—is the Church of St. George, carved from solid red volcanic rock in the 12th century. Nzingha closed her service on August 8, 2014.

Got a great photo of yourself with WorldView magazine? Surprise us! Send your submission to news@peacecorpsconnect.org. **WV**

sweet potato, a good source of vitamin A. Mica's research will include surveys, interviews and focus groups with people in different communities to see which varieties of potato they prefer and which are drought tolerant.

## NAMIBIA

**Jason Sears** delivered the keynote address in Boise, Idaho at the 2014 Congressional Award ceremony. Sears is the chief executive officer of the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Southwest Idaho. Thirty individuals received the Congressional Award, the highest honor given to youth by the United States Congress. Idaho Senators Mike Crapo and Jim Risch, and Congressman Raul Labrador were on hand with Sears to honor the recipients.

## NEPAL

Author and photographer **Kevin Bubriski** (1975-78) has had his exposition, "Shadows of Shangri La: Nepal in Photographs" on display at the Peabody Museum at Harvard University throughout the summer of 2014. The exhibit, which closes on September 30th, documented Nepal and its people over four decades, beginning with Bubriski's Peace Corps service as a water engineer. The Peabody Museum Press also published Bubriski's book of 200 featured photos, *Nepal: 1975 – 2011*, to accompany the exhibit.

## NIGER

**Arlene Mitchell** (1974-76) is the new executive director of the Global Child Nutrition Program. Mitchell assumed this leadership position in April, following six years as deputy director for assets and markets in the agriculture development program at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Previously, she served as an executive with the United Nations World Food Program. Along with her service as a Peace Corps

Volunteer, Mitchell worked as Peace Corps staff in Mauritania, Ukraine and the United States.

## PARAGUAY

University of Oregon doctoral student **Leilani Sabzalian** received the Spencer Foundation Dissertation Fellowship for her field study of an urban Native



American education program in Oregon. Sabzalian was one of 30 chosen out of a pool of 400 applicants to receive this prestigious fellowship of \$25,000.

The goal of the fellowship is "to encourage a new generation of scholars to pursue research with a goal of improving education." Sabzalian's program is based on helping Native American students in

Oregon with educational strategies that address their academic and cultural needs.

## SAMOA

Special recognition at commencement ceremonies earlier this year at Fitchburg State University in Massachusetts included the presentation of the Graduate Student Leadership Award to **Nathan Rand**. A social studies teacher at Weymouth High School, Rand conducted research that investigated the need for civic education to promote civic engagement among high school students. His many roles at Weymouth High extend beyond the classroom. Nathan has worked with his students to raise funds to address Haitian earthquake relief, malaria prevention and global hunger. He is also the faculty advisor for the school's Amnesty International Club.

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**SENEGAL**

In Tennessee, **Hailey Johnston** has joined the Chattanooga-based Chestnut Development Partners, a commercial real estate investment firm. A graduate of the University of Tennessee, Johnston will serve as investment services coordinator. Her primary responsibilities will include marketing and investor communication.

**SIERRA LEONE**

**Will Warshauer** (1986-88) has been named the new chief executive officer of TechnoServe. Now in its 45th year, TechnoServe is a nonprofit organization that develops business solutions to poverty by linking people to information, capital and markets. Will is the fourth



person to serve as CEO of TechnoServe. Beginning with the Peace Corps, Will has 25 years experience in international development,

including significant work in the fields of international public health and microfinance. His work has taken him to 40 developing nations around the world.

**SWAZILAND**

**Reed Hastings** (1983-86) recently joined the Billionaire's Club. Hastings is the founder, CEO and Chairman of Netflix. Hastings' online and mailing video service now claims more than 48 million subscribers in 40 countries. The billionaire title came when Netflix's stock jumped to \$400 a share earlier in 2014. Hastings founded Netflix in 1997 with Marc Randolph. The company went public in 2002. Hastings is also a board member at Facebook and previously served on the board at Microsoft.

The Northeast Philadelphia Hall of Fame announced its 2014 inductees. Among them is **Chris Matthews** (1968-70). Along with his Peace Corps service, Matthews—a native of Somerton—was recognized for his work as a journalist, author, television host and chief of staff to former House

Speaker Tip O'Neill. Induction ceremonies are scheduled for October.

**THAILAND**

In Pennsylvania, the Kutztown School District has hired RPCV **Deborah Barnes** as the new principal of Kutztown Elementary School. A graduate of Shippensburg University and Lehigh University, Barnes worked as an Early Intervention Teacher in Philadelphia with the United Cerebral Palsy Association. Prior to her new assignment, she was a teacher, assistant principal and principal in the Allentown School District.

**TURKEY**

After nearly 2,500 cases and more than 150 opinions over the past 21 years, **Sarah Parker** (1964-66) is leaving the North Carolina Supreme Court, having reached the mandatory retirement age of 72. Parker was appointed to the North Carolina Court of Appeals in 1984 and began serving on the Supreme Court in 1992. She served as Chief Justice for eight years. Speaking with the *Charlotte Observer* newspaper, Judge Parker said "It's been a great journey.

I've enjoyed it. It's been rewarding and satisfying and I'm deeply grateful to the people of North Carolina for giving me the honor of being the chief justice. I still pinch myself to believe it's real."

**UKRAINE**

**Abby Fenbert** is the 2014 winner of the Twain Comedy Writing Award at this year's Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. Fenbert received the writing award for her play *Intentions*. Fenbert is a part of the Boston University Master's in Playwriting Program and is currently working on her thesis play, which is based upon Stalin's enforced famine in the 1930s.

*For more Community News go to [www.peacecorpsconnect.org/nPCA/news/community-news](http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/nPCA/news/community-news). WW*

**Correction:** In the previous issue of *WorldView*, an entry pertaining to the naming of Nancy Boyd Park in Martinez, California in honor of the hometown volunteer who died in her service, did not correctly note that Nancy Boyd served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Philippines in 1962. We regret this omission.

**ADVERTISER INDEX**

American University School of International Service **19**

Antioch University **7**

Black Mountain Institute/UNLV **25**

Brandeis University, Heller School **5**

Bryn Mawr, Post Bac/Pre-med **39**

Carnegie Mellon University **15**

Clark University **2**

Columbia University, Mailman School **31**

Columbia University, SIPA **25**

Colorado State University, MBA **27**

Drexel University School of Law **24**

Geico **15**

Goucher College **35**

Johns Hopkins University, School of Nursing **Cover 2, 1**

Monterey Institute of International Studies **21**

Next Step Travel **Cover 4**

SIT Graduate Institute **11**

Texas A&M University, Bush School **40**

Tufts University, Fletcher School **11**

University of Florida, MDP Program **22**

University of Miami School of Law **33**

University of San Francisco **29**

Western Illinois University, Fellows Program **37**

# IN MEMORIAM

We remember those within the Peace Corps community who passed away in the last several months, and thank them for their service to our nation. For a more extensive list of those lost in recent years at [www.peacecorpsconnect.org/remembering-those-lost/](http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/remembering-those-lost/).

We welcome you to send links to additional members of the Peace Corps community by sending a message to [obituary@peacecorpsconnect.org](mailto:obituary@peacecorpsconnect.org)

## PEACE CORPS STAFF

The Rev. William MacNeil  
Baxter, 8/20/14  
Forrest Erlandson, 7/30/14  
Raymond W. Matheny,  
5/19/14  
Bernard Leonard Pollack,  
7/14/14  
Michael David Pybas,  
6/1/14

## MULTIPLE COUNTRIES

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Cote D'Ivoire, Senegal,  
7/23/14  
Michael Bloom, Bolivia,  
Panama, 5/31/14  
Clinton Bolton, Cyprus,  
Sierra Leone, 6/22/14  
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5/19/14  
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Papua New Guinea,  
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Afghanistan, United States,  
6/17/14  
Norma Musar, Belize,  
Jamaica, 8/12/14  
Harry Richard "Rip" Nesch,  
Lesotho, Samoa, 6/3/14  
Jeremiah Parson, Tanzania,  
Kenya, Liberia, 8/10/14

## BANGLADESH

Cynthia Tice, 6/8/14

## BELIZE

Katy Perry, 7/26/14

## BOLIVIA

Douglas LeRoy Langan,  
8/25/14  
Kenneth Gilbert Rustad,  
5/30/14  
Ihor Zujewskyj, 6/6/14

## BOTSWANA

Patricia Bay (Gardner)  
Carlson, 8/18/14  
Michael Lippe, 4/28/14

## CHILE

Russell Rosene, 8/23/14  
Carol U. Young, 7/19/14

## COLOMBIA

Samuel L. Calig, 8/7/14  
Philip W. Liston, 6/30/14  
Peter J. McKay, 6/28/14

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Elizabeth Bret Harte,  
8/25/14  
Jay Heath, 7/28/14  
Kathleen Novak, 6/25/14

## ECUADOR

Jon S. Davis, 7/14/14  
Ernest Paul "Ernie"  
Ekleman Jr., 6/5/14  
Kathryn McEwan, 5/27/14

## EL SALVADOR

Daniel B. Dick, 7/11/14  
James Dean McLaughlin,  
posted 6/1/14

## ETHIOPIA

Marie Barletta, 7/7/14  
Alison M. Wigton, 6/15/14

## FIJI

Gloria Jacobson, 8/31/14  
James Paul Zuanich,  
5/24/14

## GHANA

Stephen D. Bellumori,  
8/14/14  
Joseph Kraut, 7/15/14

## GUATEMALA

Stephen Hugh Sprague,  
5/17/14

## HONDURAS

Joseph J. Arcoleo Jr, 7/18/14  
Robert Lon Shugart, 8/1/14

## INDIA

William R. "Bill" Joslin,  
8/6/14  
Evangeline Van Wallace  
Shuler, 8/17/14  
John L. Wardein, posted  
8/19/14  
William Weaver, 6/30/14

## IRAN

Renee Smith Baird, 6/9/14  
Leonard Rex Bogel,  
10/25/13  
William Cousins, 7/31/13  
Richard Hoch, 6/7/14  
Charlotte Hubert, 5/3/14  
Hugh Jones, 1/18/14  
Willard Louden, 9/2/13  
Roger Stenbak, 6/17/14

## JAMAICA

Horace R. Davis, 5/29/14  
Sean C. Donovan, 7/30/14  
Carl Eugene Freeze, 8/9/14

## KIRIBATI

Kathleen Perkins, 9/2/14

## LESOTHO

Patricia Holden, 7/28/14

## MALAYSIA

Charles R. Backus, 7/12/14  
Larry Engstrom, 6/9/14  
Darlene Ann "Dolly"  
Fellows, 6/13/14  
Sister Laura Ann King,  
7/8/14  
John Davis Schnebly,  
8/15/14  
Kingsley Myers Anderson,  
Posted 6/2/14  
Patrick Malone, 7/22/14

## MICRONESIA

Nancy Klein Killeen, 8/1/14  
Max Morelock, 7/1/14  
Carole Ann Myers, 5/21/14

## NEPAL

Flemming Heegaard,  
6/19/14  
Richard A. Jaeggi, 5/25/14  
Roger Rutledge, 5/20/14

## NICARAGUA

Donald Cather, 8/11/14

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Larry Crumrine, 8/15/14  
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Philip H. Rupel, 7/29/14  
Walter Maxwell Winant,  
5/18/14

## PHILIPPINES

Catherine Johnson, 8/29/14

## POLAND

Ruth Rudzinski, 5/25/14

## SAINT VINCENT AND GRENADINES

Dominic "Domenico"  
Palombo, 6/16/14  
Elizabeth Ann YossemGuy,  
8/1/14

## SAMOA

Marjorie Barbara Phylis,  
7/2/14

## SENEGAL

Barbara Weaver Schoen,  
6/6/14

## SIERRA LEONE

Harriet J. Koning, 8/2/14  
William H. Atkins, 8/13/14

## SOUTH KOREA

Ernesto Butcher, 5/15/14  
Roy Curlee Jr, 6/13/14,  
posted 7/10/14

## TOGO

John J. Baloga, 7/17/14

## THAILAND

Charlotte M. Ansorge,  
7/12/14  
Carole MukaiRose, 8/28/14  
Elaine Marie Somogyi,  
7/1/14

## TONGA

John Joseph Regan,  
5/26/14

## TUNISIA

Celia Matlin, 6/2/14

## TURKEY

Ann Weick, 5/31/14

## UZBEKISTAN

John Smart, 8/10/14

## VENEZUELA

Bertrand Maynard Cooper  
Jr, 7/24/14  
Margaret Ellen Booth  
Dickerson, 6/3/14

Peter Finnegan, 8/13/14  
Marilyn Hammer, 5/16/14  
John Wilhm Jr, 7/12/14

## YEMEN

Frances DeLamater, 7/3/14

## COUNTRY OF SERVICE NOT SPECIFIED

Jeanne Baker, 8/14/14  
Carmen Gamache Brady,  
8/9/14  
Daniel E. Chapman, 6/8/14  
William "Bill" Greuling,  
8/8/14  
Lynn M. Loveland, 5/29/14  
Lois Padwick, 6/2/14  
Barbara A. Phelan, 6/23/14  
Theresa Rockwell, 6/26/14  
Michael P. Wolff, 6/14/14  
Peter D. Zwarg, 8/12/14



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