

Northern California **PEACE CORPS** ASSOCIATION

Connecting Northern California RPCVs since 1982.

ANNUAL ISSUE: 2017



“Peace requires the simple but powerful recognition that what we have in common as human beings is more important and crucial than what divides us.” - Sargeant Shriver



Letter from the Board

IDENTITY

We started last year acknowledging that our members should define our identity. We surveyed the membership through interviews, social events, a Young Professionals focus group, and a “Who is the NorCalPCA?” online survey. The results were overwhelmingly clear: we are volunteers at heart, and members feel all should be welcome to support the mission of NorCalPCA, regardless of personal financial position. We are thrilled to report that we have successfully transitioned to a tiered membership model and now count nearly 5,000 NorCalPCA members across

the world.

We have also made changes to help members meet each other, communicate, and promote events. Our new website’s Events Calendar now allows any member to post an event and be featured in our weekly emails. Social groups and regional mailing lists have also moved to the website. Host and post your event on our website today!

Finally, financial sustainability of the organization has been a recurring theme in member feedback. In the last two years we have balanced our budget, set aside two years of operating expenses in long-term investments, and in January our members voted to enshrine a “rainy day” fund in our bylaws. See the Treasurer’s Report for more. Email us at Info@NorCalPCA.org with your feedback!

We would like to sincerely thank our members for allowing us to serve you and we extend an extra special THANK YOU to those that support us financially above the no-cost Basic Membership level. We look forward to seeing all of you at our summer BBQ and next year’s Annual General Meeting!

-NorCalPCA Board of Directors



LEADERSHIP

NorCalPCA Board 2017

Lie Njie
President, Board Director (At Large)
Technology

Glenn Anaiscourt
Vice President, Board Director
(East Bay), Major Events

Terry Vogt
Treasurer,
Board Director (San Francisco)

Kristen Borash
Board Director (At Large), Fundraising

Elizabeth (Ella) Dowell
Board Director (At Large),
Webmaster, Communications

Lila Holzman
Board Director (At Large), Advocacy

Holly Uber
Board Director (At Large),
Member Support

Noah Brod
Board Director (East Bay), Volunteering

Anthony Toney
Board Director (East Bay), Diversity

Michael Hotard
Board Director (South Bay),
Speakers Match

Jeff Zundel
Board Director (South Bay), Collateral

Sandrena Frischer
Board Director (North Bay),
Grants Committee Liason

Jayma Brown
Volunteer Coordinator

Marilyn Hyde
Grants Program Chair

Pete Johnson
Historian, Membership Chair

NorCalPCA Gold Members

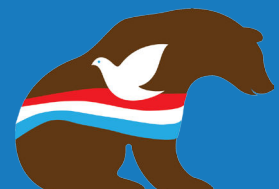
Keith Beck, Kristen Borash, Jay Davidson,
Deborah Crippern, Sheldon Gen,
Nancy Lewis, Peter Johnson, Terry Vogt,
Meredith Miller-Vostreis

NorCalPCA Silver Members

Marikay Batrina, Noah Brod, Peter Bryla,
Glenn Bumhorst, Hannah Clauson, Matt Derby,
Dorrie Dodge, Rita Hays, Beverly Hansen,
Barbara Jue, Roy Kornbluh,
Meghan C. Murphy, Jessica Neff, Susan Neye,
Lisa Palm, Bosco So, Vina Verman,
Lucy Weiger, Kevin Wheeler

Newsletter

Content Curator and Copy Editor:
Kristen Borash, RPCV Madagascar 2013 - 15
Layout and Design:
Tiffani Jarnigan, RPCV Dominican
Republic 2012 - 14



ANNUAL PICNIC

Sunday, August 20, 2017
2PM - 4PM
Shakespeare Theater
Orinda, California

Please join us for the afternoon of Sunday, August 20th for our annual NorCalPCA picnic! Our location is the California Shakespeare theater in Orinda, which is accessible by public transportation. There is also parking for those who wish to drive. We will hold our picnic at the tables in the Upper Grove at 2 p.m. with the option to attend the show afterward at 4 p.m. NorCalPCA has secured a block of tickets so get in touch with your friendly local board representative to purchase at a discounted price of \$20. Children under 4 years of age are not permitted in the park. Please bring a dish to share or take advantage of the Cal Shakes cafe. See you there this summer!

THE MISSION OF THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA PEACE CORPS ASSOCIATION IS:

To support, promote, and develop Returned Peace Corps Volunteers residing in Northern California through advocacy, volunteering, grants and third goal programming.



ADVOCACY

Advocacy is about making sure future, current, and Returned Peace Corps Volunteers have the support they need to serve their communities. As early versions of the current administration's FY 2018 budget proposal showed alarming cuts to International Affairs programs like the Peace Corps, the NorCalPCA Advocacy team successfully mobilized to raise awareness and request active support from our representatives. Fourteen Northern California Members of Congress signed this year's House Peace Corps Funding Dear Colleague Letter, contributing to a record-breaking 175 signatures nationally. We encourage you to contact your representatives (by phone, email, postcards, and in-person meetings), post social media outreach, and submit Letters to the Editor or Op-Eds to local news outlets and stay tuned for Advocacy updates on our website for ways to get involved!

VOLUNTEERING

The Peace Corps community is composed of individuals who are united by the ideals that motivated their service. From member-wide events such as our Annual General Meeting & Festival of Cultures to regional events such as local happy hours and story jams; from volunteering events at Point Reyes and Alameda County Foodbank to member-hosted events including camping, hikes, and motorcycle rides, programs that NorCalPCA supports are 100% volunteer driven. This year we've improved our volunteer intake process so that if you're interested in any of the programs listed above you can easily let us know. Sign up as a volunteer at www.NorCalPCA.org/volunteer. Thanks again to the thousands of Northern California RPCVs for your support, time, and efforts in building a healthy, vibrant, and loving community.



Over 1000 NorCalPCA members have served in the Philippines, Ecuador, Honduras, Kenya, Morocco, Guatemala, Ghana, and Thailand combined.



Did you know!
For over 20 years, NorCalPCA has been volunteering with the Trails Crew at Point Reyes.





TREASURER'S REPORT

NorCalPCA made two major changes during our fiscal year ending September 30, 2016. First, we radically changed the way we account for and charge our membership. Second, the board made the decision to terminate the Global Presenters program, which was operating at a significant financial loss, and have instead joined forces with the Peace Corps' 'Speakers Match' program.

As of the end of May 2017, NorCalPCA has \$43,683 in cash and investments.

Our new rainy day fund totals \$30,000 and is being invested in a long-term portfolio. In the future the Board will decide when to dip into the rainy funds -- we anticipate using earnings rather than principal. Last year we made grants to Peace Corps projects around the world totaling \$8,600, leaving \$2,174 in grants restricted funds carrying over into this year. This fiscal year we have generated \$6,591 in membership and donations. We currently have \$11,509

for general use by NorCalPCA. We will need to raise over \$25,000 over the next year to continue our excellent programs to support the Bay Area community, our RPCVs, and our world. Our infrastructure and programs cost money year after year, and NorCalPCA would not have survived these 35 years without your financial support. If you can contribute please do so at <http://www.NorCalPCA.org/campaigns>. Thank you for your support!!!



THIRD GOAL PROGRAMS

The Third Goal of the Peace Corps allows members to promote a better understanding of other cultures for Americans. NorCalPCA is dedicated to focusing on diversity in various aspects, not just race. We have partnered with the National Peace Corps Association Speakers Match program to facilitate local and national speaking opportunities. Imagine speaking to a high school class who never dreamed of leaving the country. RPCVs can create an account on the portal (<https://rpcvportal.peacecorps.gov>) and sign up to receive information about upcoming speaking opportunities in their area. Groups or schools that are interested in having an RPCV speaker are able to request a speaker through the Peace Corps Portal as well (<https://www.peacecorps.gov/educators/speakers-match/request-speaker/>). We all have powerful stories to tell. Inspire the next generation to make a difference by signing up for the Speakers Match program.



GRANTS

Since 1981, the NorCalPCA Grants Program has provided over \$200,000 in funding towards projects lead by Peace Corps Volunteers and their counterparts, RPCVs, and host country nationals who have worked with Peace Corps. This past year the grants committee voted to support five community development projects, totaling \$7,350 awarded to projects in Kenya, Mali, Burma, Madagascar and Malawi. Successful grant applications have funded projects requesting books, gardening equipment, or construction materials. Projects that demonstrate a commitment to sustainability and local ownership are given primary consideration. For more information and how to apply for the 2017 grant cycle, please contact Grants@NorCalPCA.org. Grants are funded by donations from the NorCal RPCV community; 100% of every dollar donated goes directly to the winning grant applications. To donate, visit www.NorCalPCA.org/grants.

NorCalPCA Members have served in 129 countries from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe.



MEMBER SUPPORT

Looking for a flexible way to help fellow RPCVs? Sign-up to be a Mentor! Commit one hour to meet with an RPCV. Are you an RPCV looking to learn more about the Bay Area? Need support readjusting? Want advice as you are shifting careers? Fill out the form to request a mentor and you will be connected through email to three different Mentors. RPCVs and Mentors will share expertise, networks and ideas. Over 80% of jobs are secured through networking so let's leverage our connections! Visit <http://www.NorCalPCA.org/readjustment> readjustment to sign up! In addition to 4-6 Networking mixers throughout the year at different companies around the Bay Area and one annual career conference, we'll also be offering regular webinars where RPCVs present on topics or careers. Email Info@NorCalPCA.org to volunteer and check the event calendar for details!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



MARTHA RYAN

Keynote Speaker at NorCalPCA's Festival of Cultures

Martha Ryan has lived the question, "How do I bring the Peace Corps experience back home?" She traced the contours of her journey as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ethiopia and as an RPCV working in African refugee camps, to her current position as Executive Director of the Homeless Prenatal Program (HPP) in San Francisco.

A number of us often wonder how we as RPCVs can translate our Peace Corps experience to social needs here at home, whether we are recently returned or looking for ways to give back later in life. Martha shared how her Peace Corps experience informed how she built HPP in 1989 to address an unmet local public health need – prenatal care for women who were pregnant and homeless. Still going strong today under Martha's leadership, HPP is a comprehensive family resource center with 80 staff

members serving 4,000 clients annually – a full six percent of all San Francisco families.

Martha has been featured in People magazine and been named a CNN Hero. She has received a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition from former Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, and an honorary resolution from the California Legislature Assembly. The San Francisco Board of Supervisors has declared "Martha Ryan Day" in San Francisco. NorCalPCA was honored to have Martha as our keynote speaker at our Annual General Meeting and Festival of Cultures. To learn more about HPP, visit:

www.homelessprenatal.org.

We're looking for more RPCVs doing fantastic work! Email Webmaster@NorCalPCA.org to be interviewed for a feature on our Member Spotlights Blog.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Poultry Farming at the Davila Children's Home in Kenya

In 2016, NorCalPCA funded \$1,200 towards a poultry farming initiative at the Davila Children's Home for orphans in Kenya. Applicant, Adriana Alminiana, RPCA Kenya 2013-2014 said the project has been a wild success! More than 300 chickens have been raised into adulthood in a newly constructed coop, orphanage staff has been trained on chicken rearing and poultry production, and the chicken manure is now utilized as compost in the home's garden. The home has also shared the practical skills of poultry production with local farmers. The success of this project will allow the home to open its doors to an additional five children, with school fees, clothing, food, and all other essential expenses covered.

In Adriana's words: "I cannot thank you enough for helping us make this happen. I was committed to this project with Davila as a Peace Corps volunteer, and I am thrilled that through the support of our networks (people like you!), organizations like the Northern California Peace Corps Association and Waterlines NGO, and Davila's steadfast leadership and dedication, our collective efforts have paid off. Thank you for joining us in our effort to provide high-quality care to orphans in our corner of the world."

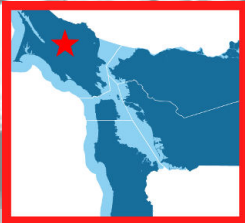




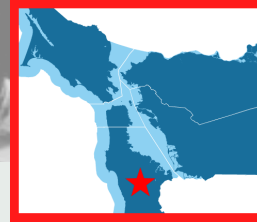
REGIONAL UPDATES



News from our member groups.



North Bay Update



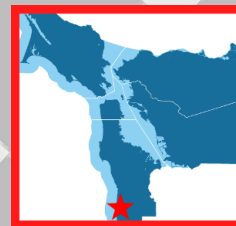
South Bay Update

The North Bay region continues to be a vibrant collection of RPCVs that span multiple generations. Outside of our monthly potlucks, the North Bay hosted a successful Story Jam at Lagunitas Brewery. This sold-out event included multiple dynamic storytellers who told tales of “The Unknown.” Cat Cvengros, Frank Price and Nichole Clark collaborated to create this inspiring and fun event and we’re planning our next Story Jam for fall of 2017. Bi-annually, the North Bay Region helps with trail work at Pt. Reyes National Seashore. This year, Tracy Neal coordinated volunteers for two projects and a potluck BBQ. Thank you to all who participated!

This year the South Bay region has been engaged in community building, advocacy and social action. Monthly happy hours and ethnic dinners have brought old and new friends together; two career and networking mixers, hosted by local tech companies, bridged RPCVs with Silicon Valley opportunities; and volunteer events included habitat restoration in the Baylands and holiday outreach. Most recently, our group partnered with Stanford to coordinate an event called “Refugee Response, a Call to Action” to raise awareness about the refugee situation and identify opportunities for people to get involved. We look forward to more gatherings and a stronger South Bay community in 2017!



East Bay & San Francisco Update



Santa Cruz & Monterey Update

The East Bay and San Francisco community has been incredibly active this year. RPCVs have independently organized dozens of events including happy hours, board game nights, hikes, french speaker get-togethers, and dancing. Additionally, East Bay RPCVs have been busy connecting to social causes by volunteering their time at the Alameda Food bank, hosting events to recruit volunteers in support of refugees and non-violent conflict resolution, and participating in climate-change awareness marches and movements. Sign up with us at <http://www.NorCalPCA.org/groups>.

The year 2016 was a banner year for the Peace Corps people of Santa Cruz and surrounding areas! Throughout the year we had four potlucks, volunteered with the Second Harvest Food Bank in Watsonville, marched in the Santa Cruz Pride Parade, and celebrated the 2nd Annual Holiday Hoopla. So far, one of our more notable 2017 events was celebrating Peace Corps week with a photo exhibit at First Friday.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

This year we formed a group for NorCal RPCVs, specifically those who are in their 20s and 30s. This group is more than just another subscription service for millennials - this is the NorCalPCA Young Professionals Group. The purpose of this group is to build community around recently returned PCVs who are either new or returning to the Bay Area. Whether you're looking for housing or networking opportunities, the NorCal YoPros gather once every couple of months at a different beer garden or restaurant for happy hours. Our events are posted to the NorCalPCA Members facebook group and on the website. Email Jacqueline Sloves at YoPros@NorCalPCA.org to learn more.



EVENTS

We welcome you to share your events on NorCalPCA's online events calendar at www.NorCalPCA.org/events!

NorCalPCA wants to support your events! Email Events@NorCalPCA.org to request volunteers, equipment, materials, collateral, or financial assistance for your event!

Never miss an event or announcement! Subscribe to our Weekly Events Email (every Thursday) at <http://www.NorCalPCA.org>



The newest country of service for NorCalPCA is the **Comoros**.



Only 1 member has served there!



Over 160 NorCalPCA members have served in the **Philippines**, making it the largest country of service for our NorCalPCA RPCVs.



/NEW WEBSITE/

We have a new site:
www.NorCalPCA.org!

Create your free account now to take full advantage of your member benefits! Already have an account? Update your profile information! Don't forget to select a Member Group. NorCalPCA has 14 regional Member Groups, determined by the region where you prefer to attend NorCalPCA events. Get access to our website's many features today!

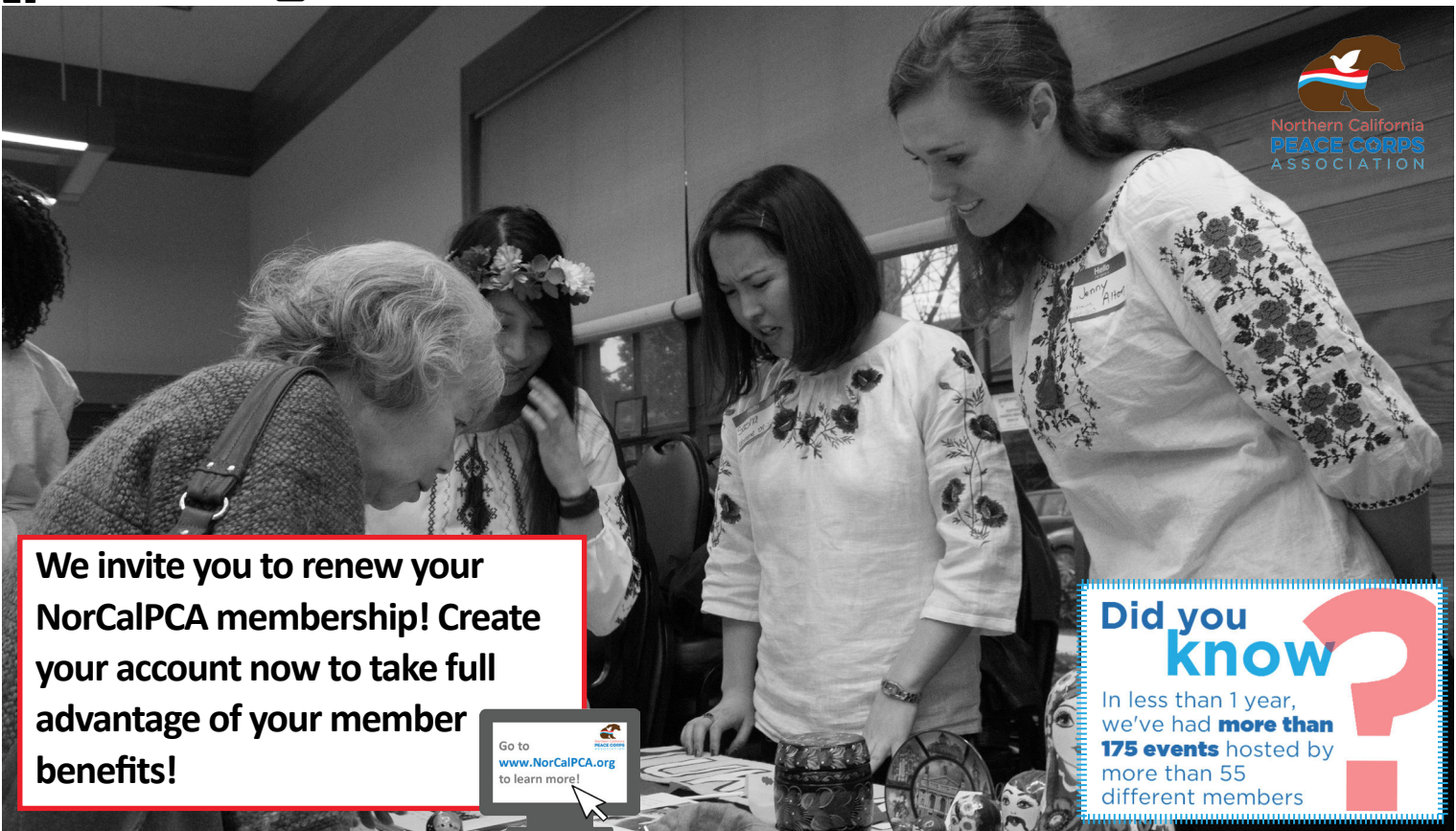
Check out some of the pages on our website:

- **Events Calendar:** Find and post events!
- **News Page:** Read recent news from your local Peace Corps community!
- **Social Groups:** Network with other members!
- **Jobs Board:** Find and post jobs!
- **Members Directory:** Connect with other members!
- **Advocacy Page:** Take action! Join NorCalPCA's advocacy efforts!
- **Volunteering Page:** Volunteer with other members!
- **Speaker's Match Page:** Register to speak or request a speaker!
- **Grants Program Page:** Apply by August 31st, 2017!
- **History Page:** Read about the history of our organization!
- **Member Spotlight Blog:** Get to know some of our extraordinary members!
- **Leadership Page:** Get to know your Board members!



Have questions or feedback about the website? Email us at Webmaster@NorCalPCA.org

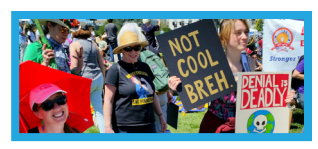




We invite you to renew your NorCalPCA membership! Create your account now to take full advantage of your member benefits!

Go to www.NorCalPCA.org to learn more!

Did you know?
 In less than 1 year, we've had **more than 175 events** hosted by more than 55 different members



SUPPORT THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA PEACE CORPS ASSOCIATION



Become a member or make a donation to support our mission. Membership is open to ALL. NorCalPCA is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Membership dues and other contributions are tax deductible to the extent of the law.

Log onto www.NorCalPCA.org to register with NPCA!

NorCalPCA is an affiliate of the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA). To become a member of NorCalPCA, you will first need to sign up for a membership with NPCA - it's quick, easy and free!

If you'd rather not register online, please send this form filled out to:
 (Checks payable to same address)

NorCalPCA
PO Box 2547
San Francisco, CA 94126

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Email: _____

TELL US ABOUT YOUR SERVICE!

Country and Dates of Service: _____
 Sector/Assignment: _____

- Basic Membership Is FREE!**
 With a Basic Membership, you have access to everything NorCalPCA has to offer!
- \$20/year - NorCalPCA Bronze Supporter Membership**
 With a Bronze Membership, you have access to exclusive member discounts.
- \$50/year - NorCalPCA Silver Supporter Membership**
 With a Silver Membership, events are free! You also have the optional benefit of having your name listed in the annual paper newsletter.
- \$125/year - NorCalPCA Gold Supporter Membership**
 With a Gold Membership, you receive all the benefits of the Silver Membership in addition to a free "thank you" NorCalPCA t-shirt.
- \$500/year - NorCalPCA Platinum Supporter Membership**
 With a Platinum Membership, you receive all the benefits of Gold Membership in addition to an exclusive invitation to our special annual Platinum Supporter dinner.
- \$2500 - NorCalPCA Lifetime Platinum Membership**
 With a Lifetime Platinum Membership, you receive all the benefits of Platinum Membership - for LIFE!