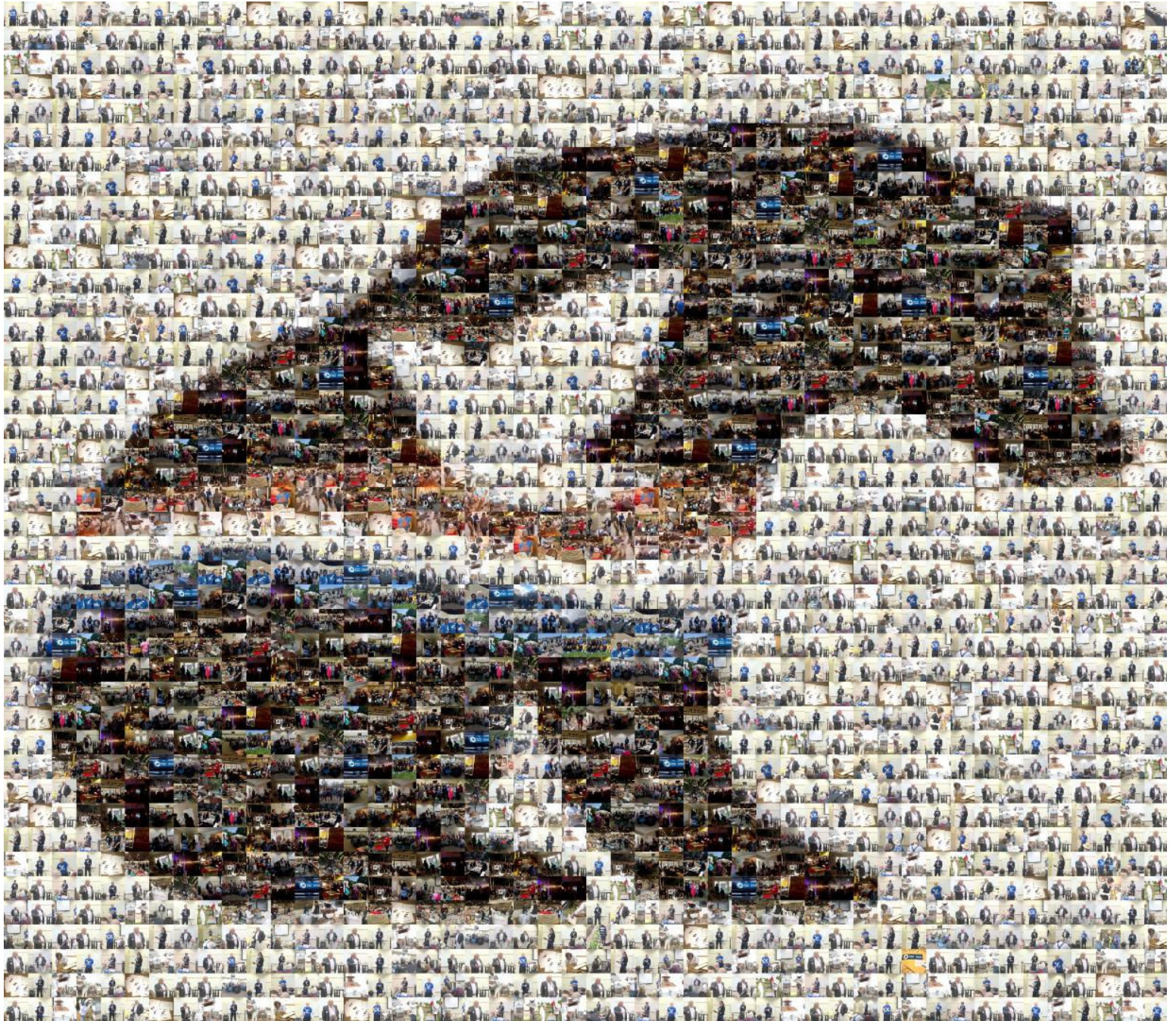


# Northern California **PEACE CORPS** ASSOCIATION



## Letter from the Board



## TAKING CHARGE OF CHANGE

Given the rich history of the Northern California Peace Corps Association, one might think we are running on auto-pilot at this point. And yet, every new year brings new energy, voices, and perspectives to the NorCalPCA Board and the membership we represent. As the Peace Corps community grows and evolves, so will NorCalPCA. We're doing that this year by welcoming on a fresh new board full of passionate leaders and encouraging greater and greater member involvement in driving our activities. NorCalPCA is a collection of amazing people who all have so much to give. Channeling that energy is critical to moving our

organization forward, building on past improvements, and celebrating our successes.

At our kick-off board strategy session in April of 2018, we asked ourselves some big questions: How can we best support NorCalPCA's mission? What makes NorCalPCA successful? What can we, as board members, bring to the table to help achieve that success? How do we ensure we are on track? What makes us stay motivated to be engaged in NorCalPCA and how can we best facilitate the engagement of others? The answers to these questions are ever-evolving, but revisiting them helps keep us grounded and ensures

that our members are always at the forefront of our thinking.

Beyond looking internally at our organization's goals and capacity, it is also important to acknowledge the environment and the times we live in. The RPCV community in Northern California and elsewhere is a diverse group of people who value cross-culture experience and making the world a better place. At last year's Annual General Meeting, NorCalPCA's theme of "Taking Charge of Change" brought to light the role we as individuals and as a community can continue to play in supporting those values through our advocacy work. We were happy to have former Congressman and RPCV Mike Honda join us for that discussion and share his experience from years of turning advocacy work into real policy outcomes.

Our organization is lucky to have grown strong over the years through the efforts of individuals and boards before us. We are grateful to have inherited that precious labor of love and are focused on ensuring that every subsequent board and future member continues to inherit a growing and vibrant association. Your support and participation are critical to ensuring this organization can continue to serve you and our mission. THANK YOU to those members who generously support us beyond our basic-level membership and to those who volunteer your time to organize the events that build our strong community. We look forward to seeing you at our summer picnic, next year's Annual General Meeting, and many other events! 🙌

NorCalPCA Board of Directors

## Leadership

### NorCalPCA Board 2018

**Lila Holzman**, *President*  
Board Director (At Large), Advocacy

**Noah Brod**, *Vice President*  
Board Director (At Large), Volunteering, Membership Committee Liaison

**Terry Vogt**, *Treasurer (Outgoing)*  
Board Director (San Francisco)

**Jeremy Karnowski**, *Treasurer (Incoming)*  
Board Director (At Large)

**Christine Moore**, *Secretary*  
Board Director (San Francisco)

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

**Holly Uber**  
Board Director (At Large), RPCV Support Services

**Nancy Beam**  
Board Director (At Large), Community Service, Grants Committee Liaison

**Jenna Smith**  
Board Director (San Francisco), Major Events

**Sandrena Frischer**  
Board Director (San Francisco), Grants Committee Liaison

**Glenn Anaiscourt**  
Board Director (East Bay)

**Jesse Schofield**  
Board Director (East Bay), Partnerships, Diversity

**Kathleen Campbell**  
Board Director (East Bay), Newsletter/Annual Report

**Michael Hotard**  
Board Director (South Bay), Events, Fundraising

**Jeff Zundel**  
Board Director (South Bay), Collateral, Technology

**Derek Owens**  
Board Director (Santa Cruz/Monterey), Third Goal

**Hilary Jacobsen**  
Outreach Committee Chair

**Jayma Brown**  
Volunteer Coordinator

**Marilyn Hyde**  
Grants Committee Chair

**Pete Johnson**  
Historian, Membership Committee Chair



## 2017-18 Donors

NorCalPCA would like to recognize its members that supported the organization by joining or renewing at the Platinum, Gold, and Silver levels. NorCalPCA is committed to keeping its activities and events available to the entire Northern California RPCV community. Members that give beyond the basic or Bronze level help sustain the organization for the entire community. 🌟

### Platinum

Elizabeth Karplus  
Terry Vogt

### Gold

Connie Bauer  
Janet Espinosa  
Lynn Foden  
Andrew Grimstad  
Alice Impraim  
Peter Johnson  
Lisa Palm  
Jacqueline Sloves  
Beany Wezelman

### Silver

John Riley  
Barnacastle  
Marikay Batina  
Sharon Bettinelli  
Michael Dyett  
Anne Fitzgerald  
Beverly Hansen  
Michael Hotard  
Marilyn Hyde  
Hilary Jacobsen  
Karen Levesque  
Virginia Rue

**NORCALPCA TREASURER  
TERRY VOGT BECAME  
NORCALPCA'S FIRST LIFETIME  
PLATINUM MEMBER IN 2017!**

## Community Service

RPCVs have proven their talent for making the world a better place. Back in the U.S., we continue to serve our communities. In the past year groups of NorCalPCA members have participated in beekeeping and farm tasks at the Alameda Collective farm; home repairs and spring cleaning for a family in Berkeley; Pt. Reyes trail clean up; and Alameda County Food Bank projects. Doing good has never been so much fun!

**Want to help your community while hanging out with other RPCVs?** Check out the Event calendar at [www.NorCalPCA.org/events](http://www.NorCalPCA.org/events), or better yet, organize an activity yourself. Need help? Contact your area representative or Nancy Beam, Community Service Coordinator, at [nancy@NorCalPCA.org](mailto:nancy@NorCalPCA.org). 🌟

## Treasurer's Report

During the period ending May 31, 2018 your Northern California Peace Corps Association has performed financially as expected. Total non-grant revenues for the eight month period were \$6,416 versus total expenditures of \$3,755, for a positive result of \$2,661.

Memberships are the largest portion of revenues, totaling \$4,036. Other non-grant contributions were also received in the amount of \$1,995.

Expenditures during this period were all well within the board approved budget.

During this period, your Grants Committee made two grants in the

aggregate amount of \$4,125. Funds are available to make further grants during our next grant making cycle.

With respect to our funds on hand, we are also in a solid position. We have moved our accounts from Wells Fargo Bank to Beneficial State Bank over the past year. Beneficial is a non-profit commercial bank. We currently have \$27,718 in the bank. In addition, we have investments held at Fidelity Investments for longer range projects. The Fidelity Investment account is currently at \$32,045. We initially invested a total of \$30,000 last September in four separate board approved investments. 🌟



## Recently Returned Volunteers

Three yearly NorCalPCA events are specifically geared towards helping new PCVs and recently returned volunteers get support and build new connections:

- Send off party for departing PCVs
- Recently returned RPCV Picnic (Now in its 25th year!)
- Thanksgiving for recently returned RPCVs

**Need a mentor?** Our mentorship program connects RPCVs with three fellow RPCVs with a wide variety of experience.

**Job hunting?** Peace Corps Career Fairs, networking events, and NorCal career events help each RPCV find the support and connections they're looking for.

**Need advice?** Webinars where individuals will share their career journeys or provide information on how to get involved with volunteer

opportunities throughout the Bay Area are being planned.

If you're looking to get involved with your RPCV community and are interested in helping to support your fellow volunteers, check-in with others at these events. They might be looking to have a conversation, learn more about the area, or maybe searching for advice!

If you have ideas on how to strengthen support for volunteers, build up our NorCal community, or want to get involved, please reach out to Holly Uber or Christine Moore on the RPCV Support Services team. Email [holly@NorCalPCA.org](mailto:holly@NorCalPCA.org) or [christinemoore444@gmail.com](mailto:christinemoore444@gmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you. 🌟

## Advocacy

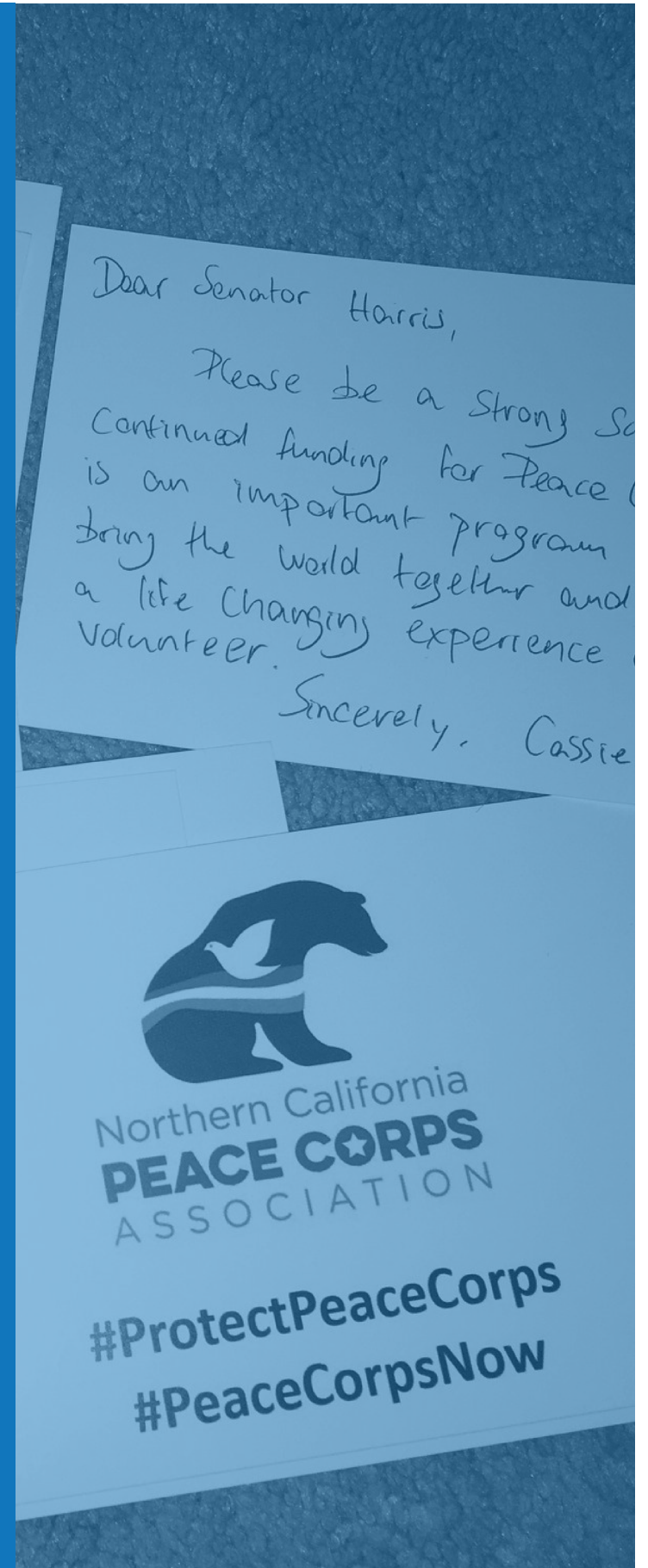
"To advocate for the needs and goals of the Peace Corps and Peace Corps community" is one pillar of NorCalPCA's mission. Advocacy work has recently focused on the Peace Corps' budget and PCV health. This last year, we organized in-person meetings with state representatives, taught an Advocacy 101 session, and supported the National Peace Corps Association's calls to action.

NorCalPCA members showed tremendous energy and effectiveness in getting our representatives to support Peace Corps funding. "Dear Colleague Letters" circulated in both the House and the Senate; written declarations of the Peace Corps' importance and effectiveness. The House letter received a record 180 signatures, including 15 from Northern California. This bi-partisan letter was co-authored by RPCV John Garamendi (California - Davis, Fairfield, Yuba City), RPCV Joe Kennedy (Massachusetts), and Garret Graves (Louisiana). Peace Corps' super-supporter California Senator Dianne Feinstein and Georgia Senator Johnny Isakson co-authored the Senate letter. Californian RPCVs sent approximately 150 emails (by far the highest of any state) and made countless calls to encourage Senator Kamala Harris to sign. Our efforts paid off! Harris signed for the first time just before the final deadline!

Health care legislation progress has been mixed, but noteworthy. NorCal residents Sue & Dave Castle, parents of tragically deceased Nick Castle (China 2012-2013), have moved the Nick Castle Peace Corps Reform Act forward through the Senate. They shared their experience with us at our Advocacy 101 session in February 2018. The House's sister bill, the Sam Farr Peace Corps Enhancement Act, has also moved forward. The next step is reconciling the two acts and negotiating critical volunteer protections.

At our annual general meeting, our keynote speaker, former Congressman and RPCV Mike Honda, shared his experience advocating for important causes throughout his career. This fit well with our AGM theme: "Taking Charge of Change."

If you would like to get more involved in NorCalPCA advocacy efforts, please email [advocacy@NorCalPCA.org](mailto:advocacy@NorCalPCA.org) to stay in the loop! 🌟



## Regional Updates

### North Bay

Happy hours and story-telling events are continuing strong in the North Bay. If you live in North Bay and would be interested in representing your region on the NorCalPCA board, please reach out to [president@NorCalPCA.org](mailto:president@NorCalPCA.org)!

### San Francisco

Since May 2017, the San Francisco RPCV community has been gathering once a month at bars and breweries around the city to build connections and community. Starting in March 2018, these monthly happy hours have been hosted at the West African Oasis Bissap Baobab in the Mission District. These gatherings always claim a diverse crowd, from volunteers who have recently returned, to young professionals looking to build their San Francisco network and make new friends, to RPCVs from generations back with many stories to tell.

On June 23rd, Jesse Schofield (Lesotho, 2010-11; Philippines, 2014) led a group of RPCVs to do some good during Pride and helped set up the Pink Triangle at Twin Peaks. Participants got a t-shirt, coffee, donuts, and a great view of San Francisco!

### Monterey & Santa Cruz

The end of 2017 and beginning of 2018 have been great for the RPCV groups in Monterey and Santa Cruz. The Peace Corps Club at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies hosted two "Story Jam" events, during which RPCVs shared some of their favorite stories from their service. More recently, a cohort of RPCVs from the Monterey Bay area met to discuss ways to rekindle the spirit of social interaction and community service among the local Peace Corps community. Look out for more events aimed at re-establishing our local base of volunteers and rallying around a common cause as we move through the rest of 2018 and into 2019!

### East Bay

Volunteerism, Social Interaction, and Food. That's the foundation of a long tradition of East Bay activities and events. The Book Club and Dinner Group meet monthly to discuss a literary selection and expand the mind's horizons. Our social hangout occurs every other month at the Albatross Pub in Berkeley. Enthusiastic involvement in our support for the Alameda County Food Bank prompted us to increase our commitment to working with them 3 times per year. Members have also greatly enjoyed volunteering with the Rebuilding Together projects that focus on helping families refurbish and improve their homes. We love to be outside. During our beekeeping and farm work day at the Alameda Point Collaborative in May, Board member Noah Brod provided a lesson in beekeeping basics and we built a solar beeswax melting box. Watch for our events and join us!

### South Bay

The South Bay NorCalPCA members make up a strong and ever-growing network of recently returned volunteers, newcomers to the Bay Area, established community members, and experienced retirees. The RPCV community in Silicon Valley is a great space for tech and non-tech to come together and focus on the local and global community from a Peace Corps perspective. In the past year, there have been regular happy hours allowing members to come together each month to make new friends and greet familiar faces. Taking advantage of the local parks around Santa Clara County, members went on a series of hikes last summer and fall. A few events in San Jose brought out members living in the city, and there are more events planned for that area in the upcoming year. We are also planning more volunteer events, dinners, hikes, and family-friendly events.



## Events

Trail clean-ups! Story jams! Book clubs! Films! Nature hikes! Camping trips! Happy hours! Potlucks! In the past year, these NorCalPCA events brought together recently returned volunteers looking for a new community and seasoned RPCVs that remain active in the community.

About half of these events were hosted by a NorCalPCA Board Member, but many were organized by regular members that wanted to bring a group together. The events

were geographically dispersed with about 43 events in the East Bay, 25 events in San Francisco, 20 events in the North Bay, 33 in the South Bay/ Peninsula, and 14 events in other parts of Northern California. With 135 events in the past year, that is about 2.5 events every week that are organized by NorCalPCA members for the RPCV community!

Any member of NorCalPCA can create an event and post it to the event calendar on the website at

[www.NorCalPCA.org/events](http://www.NorCalPCA.org/events). Please reach out to [events@NorCalPCA.org](mailto:events@NorCalPCA.org) if you need assistance with event posting or are interested in requesting additional volunteers, equipment, materials, or financial assistance. Learn about upcoming events by signing up for the Weekly Events Email at [www.NorCalPCA.org](http://www.NorCalPCA.org).

**THIS PAST YEAR,  
NORCALPCA HAD OVER 130  
EVENTS ORGANIZED BY MORE  
THAN 50 DIFFERENT MEMBERS!**

## Grants Program

The NorCal PCA Grants Program, now 37 years young, provides funding to projects led by Peace Corps Volunteers and their counterparts, RPCVs, or host country nationals in developing communities around the world. Preference is given to projects recommended by NorCal members and current Northern California Peace Corps Volunteers. Projects that demonstrate a commitment to sustainability and local leadership are given primary consideration.

An overview and application process can be found at [www.NorCalPCA.org/grants](http://www.NorCalPCA.org/grants). We encourage you to apply for a NorCal Grant and help a community you know. You can forward this information to a community non-profit/NGO, to other RPCVs, and to the Peace Corps office in your host country.

**Where does the Grants money come from?** Grants are funded by donations from NorCal members and friends like you. In 2017, 42 donations were received from individuals, ranging from \$20 to \$1,000. We

appreciate your generosity! Some of you purchased an International Calendar. In total, 200 calendars were sold, and the proceeds went to the Grants Program. Special thanks to NorCal member Susan Neyer for coordinating that effort.

To date in 2018, 26 donations have been received from individuals, including funds in memory of NorCal member Lenore Waters, RPCV Ivory Coast. Thank you to Lenore's family for recommending NorCal to receive memorial funds.

Our next round of Grants will be announced this fall. The more funds available, the more grants we can provide! We encourage you to donate to the Grants Program and have your financial support included in what we have available in 2018.

The Grants Committee will be meeting in September to evaluate applications and recommend 2018 Grants. Please contact Marilyn Hyde, Grants Committee Chair, at [marhyde@cruzio.com](mailto:marhyde@cruzio.com) for details about serving on the Committee or any other information. 🌟



**GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE AUGUST 31, 2018**

## 2017 Grants

As a result of your financial support, the Grants Committee approved two projects in Fall 2017. A big thanks to the hard-working Committee that reviewed all applications and made difficult decisions.

\$2,000 went to SAVE Rivers, an indigenous grassroots organization, to build a replacement pontoon and jetty for the Long Ekang community in Sarawak, Malaysia. The Borneo Project in Berkeley, CA, along with NorCalPCA members Liz Varnhagen and Bruce Moen, recommended this project. The NorCal Grant was used to purchase project materials and the pontoon sections have been constructed on land. As we went to press, the workers were waiting for ideal weather conditions to complete the installation at the river's edge.

\$1,000 was provided as a matching grant for a composting latrines project in Alto Playon, Darien Region, Panama, proposed by NorCal member Moiz Kapadia. With these funds, seven new latrines were just completed in Spring 2018!

We appreciate updates from past projects! Three years ago, Youth 4 Change, a group in Pohnpei, Micronesia, received \$1,500 to purchase a recording system for promoting youth health education and public awareness throughout the islands. The group has now grown from 15 to 60 members and has a board of directors to manage their efforts. Thanks to RPCV Ben Taylor who provided the latest information. Check out their website at [www.pohnpeiy4c.org](http://www.pohnpeiy4c.org). 🌟



Jetty and pontoon damaged by flooding. *Malaysia.*  
Photo courtesy of SAVE Rivers Network



One of seven families receiving a composting latrine funded by NorCalPCA. *Panama.*



## Third Goal Activities

The Third Goal of the Peace Corps asks Returned Peace Corps Volunteers to help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans. Given the current climate in the United States, this goal remains just as vital now as it was when the Peace Corps was founded over fifty years ago. Whenever an RPCV shares a story of their time abroad, encourages someone to reexamine a cultural stereotype, or reminds a friend that the "American" way is just one possible approach to understanding the world, they are working on the Third Goal. Any RPCV who is interested in formally speaking about their experience to schools or non-profits can sign up for the Speakers

Match program at [rpcvportal.peacecorps.gov](http://rpcvportal.peacecorps.gov).

Organizations can also email NorCalPCA directly by reaching out to [speaker@NorCalPCA.org](mailto:speaker@NorCalPCA.org). This past year, NorCalPCA connected local speakers to senior centers and non-profits in order to share their Peace Corps stories. In addition, NorCalPCA members organized their own storytelling events to share their experiences in Santa Rosa and Monterey. In the upcoming year, NorCalPCA will continue to promote RPCV speakers to local schools and groups, help members organize storytelling events, and support our members in all of their Third Goal activities. ★

## www.NorCalPCA.org

Join NorCalPCA online at [www.NorCalPCA.org](http://www.NorCalPCA.org)!

Create your free account now to take full advantage of your member benefits, including:

- **Member only features!** Access to member only features such as posting an event to our online events calendar or connecting with other NorCalPCA members via our online member directory and social groups!
- **Connection with greater Peace Corps Community!** NorCalPCA's website is integrated with the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) and NPCA's 180+ affiliate groups! When you join or renew with NorCalPCA, you can join or renew with NPCA and any other NPCA affiliate group! And when you update your contact, country of service, or other profile information, it will be updated in the databases of all groups you belong to as well!

Have questions or feedback about the website? Email [webmaster@NorCalPCA.org](mailto:webmaster@NorCalPCA.org) ★

Check out some of the pages on our website:

- **Events Calendar** Find and post events!
- **News** Read recent news from your local Peace Corps community!
- **Grants Program** Apply for a grant by August 31, 2018!
- **Advocacy** Take action! Join NorCalPCA's advocacy efforts!
- **Volunteering** Volunteer with other members!
- **Mentoring & Readjustment** Find a mentor! Be a mentor!
- **Speaker's Match** Register to speak or request a speaker!
- **NorCalPCA Store** Buy NorCalPCA branded merchandise!
- **Photos** Browse through 100s of photos from our past events!
- **Jobs Board** Find and post jobs!
- **Members Directory** Connect with other members!
- **History Page** Read about the history of our organization!
- **Leadership** Get to know your Board members!
- And much, much more at [www.NorCalPCA.org](http://www.NorCalPCA.org)!

## 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. See back cover for information on membership tiers, subject to change.

Register online at [www.NorCalPCA.org/join](http://www.NorCalPCA.org/join) or fill out this form and mail to:

**NorCalPCA  
P.O. Box 2547  
San Francisco CA 94126**

Checks should be made payable to 'NorCalPCA' at the same address.

### Tell us about yourself and your service!

Name:	
Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
Email:	
Country of Service:	
Sector/Assignment:	

### Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to NorCalPCA!

General Fund:	\$	Grants Program:	\$
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## DID YOU KNOW?

NORCALPCA'S FIRST PRESIDENT WAS MARILYN HYDE!

BEYOND THE BAY AREA, STOCKTON HAS THE MOST NORCALPCA MEMBERS AT 120 RPCVS AND COUNTING!

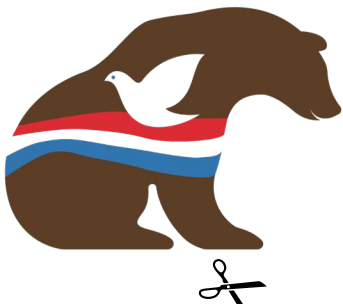
NORCALPCA MEMBERSHIP CHAIR, PETE JOHNSON, AND GRANTS COMMITTEE MEMBER, SUSAN NEYER, MET THROUGH NORCALPCA AND HAVE NOW BEEN MARRIED FOR 25 YEARS!

NORCALPCA WAS FOUNDED IN 1981 AND INCORPORATED IN 1982!

NORCALPCA'S ANNUAL RECENTLY RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER POTLUCK CELEBRATED ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR!

OF ALL OF THE COUNTRIES PCVS HAVE EVER SERVED IN, MAURITIUS IS THE FURTHEST FROM NORTHERN CALIFORNIA! NORCALPCA ONLY HAS ONE MEMBER THAT SERVED THERE!

A NORCALPCA MEMBER SERVED IN ARGENTINA, ONE OF PEACE CORPS' SMALLEST POSTS. ONLY 38 VOLUNTEERS EVER SERVED THERE!



**SUPPORT THE**  
Northern California  
**PEACE CORPS**  
ASSOCIATION



National  
Peace Corps  
Association



**FREE!**

### NorCalPCA Basic Membership

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 newsletter.



**\$125/year**

### NorCalPCA Gold Supporter Membership

With a Gold Membership, you receive all the benefits of 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.



**\$2,500/year**

### NorCalPCA Lifetime Platinum Membership

With a Lifetime Platinum Membership, you receive all the benefits of Platinum Membership for LIFE!

NorCalPCA is an affiliate of the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA). As you join or renew your membership with NorCalPCA, you will have the opportunity to join NPCA and over 180+ other affiliate groups it's quick, easy, and free!



If you'd rather not register online, please fill out the form on p. 15.