

Northern California
PEACE CORPS
ASSOCIATION



Letter from the Board



As an all volunteer Board of Directors representing Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, we all understand what it means to be a volunteer. It means giving freely of your time and energy because of your belief in the value of the work itself. It means prioritizing the needs and wants of those around you. It means picking up the slack when others are not able. It means contributing as an individual to a collective goal. It also means having fun, sharing experiences, bonding, stretching beyond your comfort zone, and getting that warm fuzzy feeling when you know you've helped.

Year after year, the Northern California Peace Corps Association continues to grow its volunteer community in a way that enables us to accomplish our mission through an impressive array of activities and events--from writing to our congressional representatives in support of Peace Corps funding to organizing beach

clean-ups to running a grants committee to holding cross-cultural dance lessons. This past year we hosted more than 150 events in total and funded 7 Peace Corps projects around the world through our Grants Program (details on p. 6). While Board Directors volunteer to take the lead on the planning and organizational support needed to serve our community, our community members themselves are volunteering their own skills and efforts to build the community. You join committees, organize events, bring food to potlucks, and stay late after events to help clean-up. You meet RPCVs at events and become fast friends. You make a point of hiring, referring, and recruiting from this network. Our association is greater than the sum of its many parts because of individual members choosing to engage in it and taking the initiative to support one another.

The 2019 NorCalPCA Board looks for-

ward to continuing to build a vibrant community of volunteers serving our own community and beyond. We are exceptionally grateful to all our members for participating in our events and for the efforts of those who have supported the association's activities this year. We are also grateful to those members who are able to donate, choose paid memberships, and financially support the continued growth and vibrancy of one of the nation's largest RPCV associations. Thank you.

Here's to another year of volunteering and building community! 🐾

NorCalPCA Board of Directors

Leadership

NorCalPCA Board 2019-2020

Lila Holzman, President
Board Director (Executive Committee), Advocacy

Noah Brod, Vice President
Board Director (Executive Committee), Communications, Partnerships

Jeremy Karnowski, Treasurer
Board Director (Executive Committee), Events

Holly Uber, Secretary
Board Director (Executive Committee), Careers

Nancy Beam
Board Director (At Large), Grants, Collateral

Jesse Schofield
Board Director (East Bay), Diversity

Kathleen Campbell
Board Director (East Bay), Annual General Meeting, Annual Newsletter

John Schilder
Board Director (San Francisco), Annual Picnic, Third Goal

Brianna Maltez
Board Director (San Francisco), Third Goal

Madeline Radkey Kellner
Board Director (North Bay)

Jennifer Woltz Nurani
Board Director (South Bay)

Antonia (Toni) Gale
Board Director (South Bay), Fundraising

John Bost
Board Director (Santa Cruz/Monterey)

Marilyn Hyde
Grants Committee Chair

Pete Johnson
Historian, Membership Committee Chair

The Mission of the Northern California Peace Corps Association



To support Returned Peace Corps Volunteers residing in Northern California



To promote a better understanding of the people of countries in which our RPCVs have served, the Third Goal of the Peace Corps



To continue making the world a better place through community service and offering small grants for community development projects



To advocate for the needs and goals of the Peace Corps and Peace Corps community

On the cover, top: NorCalPCA members and their families join together for food and fun at the NorCalPCA Annual Picnic. The 2018 event was held in September on Angel Island.

On the cover, bottom: NorCalPCA members and their families volunteer in a Yosemite Beautification Service Project in July 2018.

Opposite: The NorCalPCA Board of Directors (plus John Schilder's dog), after the 2018 Board Strategy Session in San Francisco.

Events

With over 100 events every year, your membership in NorCalPCA is a fabulous way to create community, get involved, and meet new people who share a connection to Peace Corps. Whether you served in what feels like a lifetime ago, or you've recently returned, you'll find events to connect with others through many interests. And if you don't find an event that intrigues you, go ahead and create your own! About half of the events every year are hosted by a NorCalPCA Board Member, but many are organized by members wanting to bring a group together or initiate an activity. Every member of NorCalPCA is invited to create an event and post it to the website events calendar.

Start by going to NorCalPCA.org/events and don't forget to post your event on the NorCalPCA Facebook group.

Please email 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 NorCalPCA.org.

PCV Care Package Program

This year the NorCalPCA board funded and is organizing care packages for currently serving California PCVs throughout the world. In addition to supporting PCVs through our Grants Program, we also wanted to let PCVs know that there's a community back at home supporting their work and thinking of them. Twelve boxes containing treats, notes, and letters of support will be packed at our summer picnic this year and sent out to posts.

Additionally, NorCalPCA is also sending a set of backpacks that had been donated to us by local backpacking company, Tortuga Backpacks, to six posts, with the intention that they serve as replacement packs for volunteers with damaged or moldy bags.



RPCVs Chris Donahue, Denise Zachariah, Melissa Weaver and Kathleen Campbell volunteering with Rebuilding Together at a home in Emeryville, April 13, 2019.



NorCalPCA Member Kevin Kneafsey and crew representing Peace Corps in the Mill Valley Memorial Day Parade.



Come join us at the summer picnic in the Marin Headlands and help assemble the care packages for California PCVs!

2018-19 Donors

To build community and support Northern California RPCVs at every stage following their service, NorCalPCA is committed to keeping the benefits of membership available to everyone. We thank these members who have chosen to join or renew at the Platinum, Diamond, Gold or Silver level. Members that give beyond the Bronze level help sustain the organization for everyone.

Lifetime Platinum Membership

Elizabeth Karplus
Terry Vogt

Diamond Membership

Pete Johnson
Nancy Beam
John Thoeleck
Shirley Li

Gold Membership

Bosco So
Samuel Abbey
John Bost
Joseph Lurie
Beany Wezelman
Nancy Lewis
Jill C. Schiager
Patricia Phillips
Holly Uber
Janet Espinosa
Lynn Foden
Alice Impraim
Madeline Kellner
Jeremy Karnowski
Jesse Schofield

Silver Membership

Christiaan Adams
Michele Penson Tsuchiya
Vincent Anthony Lauter, Jr.
Doris Dodge
Patricia Payne
Chris Carlisle
Virginia Smyly
John Barnacastle
Gloria Haars
Beverly Hansen
Robert Cornwell
Marilyn Hyde
Joshua Litwin
Erin Hughes

Treasurer's Report

For the last two years, your Northern California Peace Corps Association has performed well financially.

Our funds sit in two accounts. Our Beneficial bank account, used for operating expenses and grants, grew by \$6,501.64 over the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 Fiscal Years. We now have \$25,228.93 in the bank. Our Fidelity investment account, used for long term projects, has grown to \$32,871.21 since our initial \$30,000 investment two years ago.

For our general operations over the last two fiscal years, we took in \$5,361 (\$3,131 in FY17-18 and \$2,510 so far in FY18-19) in memberships and \$8,594.23 (\$4,647.54 in FY17-18 and \$3,946.69 so far in FY18-19) in donations to our general fund. With a few additional funding streams, we had \$14,922.78 come into NorCalPCA (\$8,129.95 in FY17-18 and \$6,792.83 so far in FY18-19). These funds support our general operations such as volunteer work, our newsletter, major events (AGM and Summer Picnic), regional events, and other operational overhead. During the last two fiscal years, we spent about \$10,000. This means we had a surplus of just under \$5,000 to be used to drive additional events to further our mission.

For our Grants Program over the last two years, the purchase of calendars and funding of approved grants used \$17,608.98 but we took in \$19,186.84. This greater-than-normal level of donations allowed us to fund an incredible number of grants that benefit our community. Read more about the Grants Program on p. 6 to learn more about the impact of your generosity.

The other large financial projects we've done in the last year include adjusting budget categories to be more actionable for the board and our community. We also updated automated financial processes behind the scenes to better support this as well. Finally, we performed an extensive financial audit of the previous fiscal year and we are currently establishing additional monthly financial oversight from the board.

We look forward to serving you, our growing community, and value your continued financial support.

Grants Program

Through the generosity of member donations, NorCalPCA Grants provided funding to seven outstanding projects in 2018. NorCalPCA members Nancy Beam, Kathleen Campbell, Andrea Crider, Brandon Kitagawa, Lydia McCloskey, and Maria Robinson recommended these projects.

The NorCalPCA Grants Program continues to support community projects around the world with your help. Last year, we dispersed \$11,250 to organizations in Belize, Honduras,

Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, the U.S., and our first Middle East recipients in Jordan.

The Grants Program is a benefit available to all NorCalPCA members. You can take advantage of this opportunity to support the community where you served or to help a program or development project that you admire. Visit www.NorCalPCA.org/grants for an outline of the grant criteria and simple application process.

More than 40 individuals contribut-

ed funds for the 2018 Grants Program. We recognize the generous support in memorial contributions from friends and family of long-time NorCalPCA member Lenore Waters. Substantial funds also came from the proceeds of the 2018 International Calendar sale. All funds raised go directly to grant disbursements thanks to the efforts of our all-volunteer grants committee and board. 🌟

Do you know an organization doing great community development work?

Learn how to nominate an organization for a 2019 Grant by visiting www.NorCalPCA.org/grants. The next deadline is **August 31, 2019**.



\$1,250 to Comixlenl Coffee Cooperative in La Union, Lempira, Honduras. The livelihood of La Union is dependent on coffee production. Coffee rust disease--attributed as a problem of global climate change--is impacting coffee production. NorCalPCA funds went toward the purchase of equipment and fungicide necessary to combat the disease.



\$1,000 to Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) in Jordan. AVP plans mini workshops designed to introduce their concepts to ten Jordanian organizations. NorCalPCA funded the Arabic translation and printing of materials and manuals. This project represented NorCalPCA's first ever grant to the Middle East.



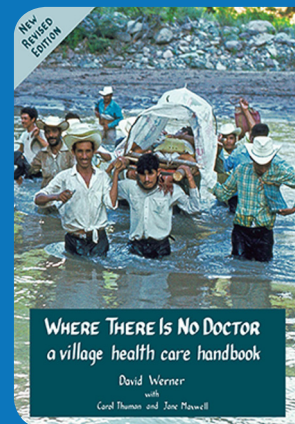
\$1,000 to Full Basket Belize which requested funding to enhance their small grants program. NorCalPCA funds repaired a dilapidated nursing aid clinic in the village of Frank's Eddy, where 160 families can now receive basic health services and education. Our support provided an opportunity to cooperate with another RPCV organization with similar goals.



\$2,000 to Health Access Connect in Kampala, Uganda. NorCalPCA funds purchased two motorcycle trailers for their program, Ambulances for All.



\$2,000 to Davila Children's Home in Bomet, Kenya. The Home cares for 30 orphans and vulnerable children. NorCalPCA funds purchased a maize grinder for the home and the local community.



\$2,000 to Hesperian Health Guides in Berkeley. *Where There Is No Doctor* and other publications are widely used throughout the Peace Corps world. The NorCalPCA Grant is providing free publications to current Northern California PCVs. We hope that PCVs will leave the publications in country for others to use.

Grants Spotlight

Ethiopian Students Attend School in New 5th Grade Classroom

Common River is a US based 501(c)3 founded in 2007, the same year that Peace Corps returned to Ethiopia after a long hiatus. The non-profit requested their first PC volunteer for placement in Aleta Wondo, a town in the coffee growing Sidama region where they started their work, and have received numerous volunteers since. Nancy Beam, current NorCalPCA board member, conducted her PhD research at Common River in Aleta Wondo, visiting twice and staying for a few months in 2015. In 2016 and 2017, groups of Peace Corps Volunteers led week-long Youth Empowerment Workshops for classes of 10 girls at the organization's eco-lodge.

One of the goals Common River has pursued every year is to open a new classroom for the next advancing grade of students. In 2018, the organization submitted a grant proposal for a school expansion project in Aleta Wondo. Because of generous donations earlier in the year to the grants program, **NorCalPCA was able to provide a \$2,000 grant.** These funds made it possible for Common River to open a 5th grade class this school year and 28 students enrolled fully equipped with new books, uniforms, a blackboard, notebooks and teaching supplies. The photograph below shows your donations in action!

Donna Sillan, Co-founder and Program Manager for the non-profit, sent this update. "Thank you so much for making it possible to open 5th grade this school year. I am at Common River now along with 4 medical doctors, a RN, a dentist, a Dr. of Public Health and 12 medical students from the University of Texas. They are serving our students, faculty and staff. Last year we had a terrible chigger infestation. Through behavioral change and thanks to shoes and food washing, we've been able to totally flip the rate from 99 percent chiggers among our students, to only 1 percent now! This week the medical students are working on public health and will be starting up Community Health Clubs to spread preventive health behavior messages regarding water and sanitation practices. And we have a Peace Corps volunteer in our town now who will join our training and continue to help to facilitate the clubs!"

To learn more, visit www.commonriver.org.



Regional Updates

North Bay

NorCalPCA members in the North Bay are spreading the word and educating a wide variety of audiences about the Peace Corps. NorCalPCA Member Kevin Kneafsey and crew represented Peace Corps in this year's Mill Valley Memorial Day Parade (see photo on p. 4). After meeting many RPCVs along the route, Kevin wrote, "Next year we will for sure be doing it again!"

In the meantime, Madeline and Clint Kellner (Guatemala, 2016-2018) have made seven presentations in recent months to organizations such as Rotary, the Women's Political Caucus, the transit district, and at the public library with a focus on country of service, lessons learned, and recruiting the over 50 crowd. Their next panel will be in collaboration with PC recruiter Kerry Carmichael at the Marin Civic Center Library, featuring RPCVs who served mid to late career. The Novato Proud program recognized them as Hometown Heroes for their service, featuring them in the 4th of July parade.

Finally, watch for upcoming North Bay happy hour and story slam announcements on the NorCalPCA Events Calendar and Facebook page.

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. Unfortunately, Bissap Baobab—our West African bar of choice and Happy Hour home—closed its doors for the last time. As a result, our monthly meet-ups have been in a state of flux while we looked for a new spot. We are so excited to announce now that, starting in June 2019, we began having not one, BUT TWO, monthly happy hours! They happen the first Thursday of the month, and the third Tuesday of the month at Standard Deviant Brewing and Ivy's Place hostel bar located at HI San Francisco City Center, respectively. 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.

East Bay

The East Bay members continue their long tradition of activities and events involving Community Service, Food, and Social Connections. Enthusiastic support for the Alameda County Community Food Bank continues with volunteer work days now held three times a year. NorCalPCA has been volunteering at the Food Bank since 1993 and this is one of NorCalPCA's longest running volunteer events. Members also enjoy volunteering for the Rebuilding Together projects (see photo on p. 4) that focus on helping families refurbish and improve their homes. The Book Club and Dinner Group meet monthly to discuss a literary selection focusing on Peace Corps authors and international topics. Our social get-togethers normally occur every other month at The Albatross Pub in Berkeley, attracting the recently returned as well as those who served in decades past. New ideas and events are always welcome!

South Bay

Over the past year, RPCVs in the South Bay and Peninsula areas have been meeting regularly at monthly happy hours for lively conversation and comradery. A BBQ potluck brought members together to celebrate summer at a local park. On January 20th, many Peace Corps members attended a joint event of the Peace Corps and several Rotary Club chapters, hosted in San Carlos. We learned about several global projects through stories, pictures, and displays at this well-attended event. We are planning more events including hikes in the beautiful parks of this region, coffee get-togethers, ethnic dinners, and—of course—happy hours. Come join the fun!

Monterey & Santa Cruz

On February 28th, the Middlebury Institute of International Studies Peace Corps Club and local RPCVs gathered on the campus to celebrate Peace Corps Week and watch a screening of the winners of the 2018 Peace Corps Week video challenge. All videos were made by currently serving PCVs (as of February 2018) and were selected as winners by their colleagues and peers. We look forward to more events and opportunities for collaboration with the Peace Corps Club at Middlebury Institute of International Studies. Watch the calendar for events both in Monterey and Santa Cruz!

Advocacy

Over the last year, NorCalPCA's advocacy work supported two significant accomplishments and faced some challenges as well. We are thrilled to report that last fall, years of effort spearheaded by NorCalPCA residents Sue and Dave Castle, parents of tragically deceased Nick Castle (China 2012-2013), resulted in the Sam Farr and Nick Castle Peace Corps Reform Act of 2018 being passed by Congress and signed into law. This act improves critical access to medical care for Peace Corps volunteers in-country.

Budget advocacy efforts successfully resulted in maintaining level funding for

the Peace Corps for FY2019, despite deep cuts proposed by the Trump Administration. For FY2020, we are pushing for an increase to align with the times and inflation. While *Dear Colleague* letters pressing for such an increase were supported by many California Members of Congress including letter authors Representative John Garamendi and Senator Dianne Feinstein, not all of our representatives signed on. We will continue to engage our representatives so they know how important and valuable the Peace Corps is and begin or continue to actively support it. 🇺🇸



Sue and Dave Castle work with NorCalPCA members on tips for effective advocacy.

Third Goal Activities

If becoming a Peace Corps Volunteer is about choosing to leave your comfort zone to make new connections and friendships that offer a different perspective of the world and of ourselves, then the Third Goal of Peace Corps is an invitation to step back into that space that challenges us, to remember what it was that stretched us, and to share what we learned, even when it isn't always comfortable. By sharing stories from our service, we can perhaps lead someone who hasn't had the opportunity to consider that other places, other cultures, and other ways can be exciting, enriching, and educational.

NorCalPCA members hosted official Third Goal Activities this year that included the famous, standing room only, semiannual Monterey area Peace Corps Story Jam, Volunteer Welcome Back and

Send-Off Parties in San Jose and San Francisco, and a presentation on serving in Guatemala at the Community Media Center of Marin. Partner events such as The Black College Expo in Oakland, Pride events in Santa Cruz and San Francisco, and community parades in Danville and Marin also provided opportunities for RPCVs to share their Peace Corps stories and connect with individuals who might be interested in serving.

NorCalPCA resources are available to support Third Goal events. Any RPCV interested in formally speaking about their experience to schools or non-profits can sign up for the Speakers Match program at rpcvportal.peacecorps.gov. Organizations can also reach out to NorCalPCA directly by emailing speaker@NorCalPCA.org. 🇺🇸

www.NorCalPCA.org

Join NorCalPCA online at 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

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, 2019!
- **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!
- **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!

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 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: \$ _____

NorCalPCA
P.O. Box 2547
San Francisco CA 94126

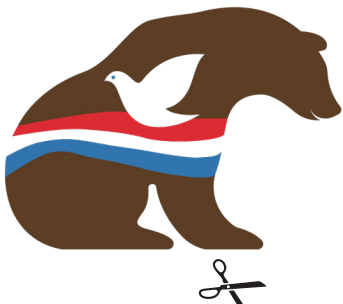
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Which membership tier are you signing up for?



FREE! NorCalPCA Basic Membership

With a Basic Membership, you have access to everything NorCalPCA has to offer!



\$20/year NorCalPCA Bronze Membership

With a Bronze Membership, you receive a Peace Corps bumper sticker and a special invitation to NorCalPCA's Supporter Appreciation Event.



\$50/year NorCalPCA Silver Membership

With a Silver Membership, you receive all of the benefits of Bronze Membership benefits as well as the option to have your name published in the NorCalPCA Annual Newsletter.



\$100/year NorCalPCA Gold Membership

With a Gold Membership, you receive all the benefits of Silver Membership in addition to a free "thank you" NorCalPCA t-shirt.



\$250/year NorCalPCA Diamond Membership

With a Diamond Membership, you receive all the benefits of Gold Membership in addition to funding a care package for a currently serving NorCalPCA Peace Corps Volunteer.



\$500/year NorCalPCA Platinum Membership

With a Platinum Membership, you receive all the benefits of Diamond Membership in addition to receiving an award presented at the NorCalPCA Annual General Meeting.

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. 11.