



Northern California **PEACE CORPS** ASSOCIATION

Connecting Bay Area RPCVs since 1982



2022 Newsletter

Letter from the Board President

Dear NorCal Peace Corps Community,



I'm so happy to write to you this year to update you on the work of your Peace Corps community. We've accomplished a lot, and it's been so great to see the hard work of our RPCVs pay off in big ways.

First, we've finally returned to our in-person signature events; it was great to reconnect with many of you this year at those events. We all enjoyed some great international food and fellowship at our Annual General Meeting in Mountain View, then had our annual summer picnic in Martinez in June. This special event also served as a rededication of the globe statue in honor of Nancy Boyd, who lost her life during her Peace Corps service in the Philippines. Thanks to the hard work of

Board Director Andrea Crider, the statue was repainted by a local artist and will now inspire future visitors to Nancy Boyd Park.

Our Peace Corps community had extra opportunities to get together this year at several other large-scale events, including a beautiful camping weekend in Big Sur organized by your Monterey/Santa Cruz Board Directors John Bost and Kristina Cabrera. We also held two large fundraising events which benefited important international causes: Our Ukrainian Sunflower Festival supported a non-profit located in our Treasurer Toni Gale's Peace Corps site, and a *Notes from the Peace Corps* concert by the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band (organized by RPCV Jesse Schofield) raised funds for the Afghan refugee family we supported this spring. All of these events took place alongside our usual hikes, happy hours, service activities, advocacy work, book club, and the work of the grants committee. What a year!

Your membership helps us organize all of these fantastic activities, so please join us as members or donate to NorCalPCA this holiday season. We managed to accomplish so much due to a financial surplus created by two years of shutdown during the pandemic, but if we want to continue at this pace into the future, we really need your support. Please consider joining at the Appreciator, Supporter, or Volunt'Hero level, or making a donation to our general fund. You can find ways to join our community or make a donation on our website at www.norcalpca.org.

This fall, I relocated to the Washington, DC area for professional reasons. Your Board of Directors has graciously allowed me to finish my term remotely, and I thank them for their trust in me. I have been so lucky to serve these two years alongside such an active, good natured, and collaborative group of volunteers and I'll miss them greatly. I can't wait to see what this group accomplishes next year - you can bet I'll be coming back to visit!

Until we see each other again,

Danice Guzmán
NorCal PCA Board President
Morocco '07-'09

Cover Photo: NorCalPCA's Fall Picnic, October 2022 in Dolores Park

LEADERSHIP 2021 –2022 NorCalPCA Board of Directors

Executive Committee
Danice Guzmán, President
Frank Price, Vice President
Toni Gale, Treasurer
Tai Le, Secretary

At Large
Kristina Cabrera
Andrea Crider
Jovanna Gonzalez
Chibo Shinagawa

Santa Cruz/Monterey
John Bost

San Francisco
Ashley Burke
Tim Frahme

East Bay
Kathleen Campbell
Moana Fogg

North Bay
Madeline Radkey Kellner

South Bay
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Board Alternates
Carri Edgar

Extraordinary Committee Chairs
Nancy Beam, Grants Committee Chair
Marilyn Hyde, Grants Committee Chair (*Emeritus*)
Pete Johnson, Historian/Membership Chair



NORCALPCA VALUES STATEMENT

The Northern California Peace Corps Association is committed to bettering our communities at home and abroad. Our actions are driven by communication, active listening, transparency, and collaboration. We recognize that RPCVs have all had varying experiences and that we all bring different ideas, goals, opinions, values, and purposes to our actions. We are honest and curious with open hearts and minds. We believe in progress and embrace opportunities for growth. Our diversity unites us and helps us bring about meaningful change.

Treasurer's Report

For the last year, 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 \$13,276.68 since our last newsletter, for a current total of \$68,107.44. Our Fidelity investment account, used for long-term projects, now totals \$42,302.92.

In fiscal year 2022, we took in \$3,528.85 in membership dues and \$1591.15 in general donations. Thanks to a financial surplus from two years of shutdown during the pandemic, we were able to spend \$9,600 during the last fiscal year to jump start in-person events and memberships, including our Annual General Meeting in Mountain View and summer picnic and globe rededication in Martinez.

Funding of approved grants this year was \$15,600, and we took in just under \$29,200 (which included another generous \$10,000 donation!) for a current total of \$40,914 (including calendar sales) to push additional grant efforts forward.

Finally, we had two very successful campaigns: our Afghan Refugee Resettlement Fund that collected \$6,081, and Our Ukrainian Sunflower Festival Fundraiser that brought in \$9,800.

We look forward to serving you, our growing community, and value your continued financial support. We hope to see you at a NorCalPCA event soon!

2021-2022 Donors

These members and friends have made a donation to NorCalPCA in the last year. Their generosity supports all Northern California RPCVs and the communities we continue to engage with following our service through the wide variety of programs organized and sponsored by NorCalPCA. Please join us in thanking them.

Lifetime Platinum Membership Elizabeth Karplus Terry Vogt	Elena Russell Bonnie Tank Janet Thibault John Thoelecke Gwyn Waters James Waters	Gregory Currey Ellen Davis-Zapata Kathy Day Monica DiGrado Nalini Elkins Austin Ellis Janet Espinosa JoAnn Fogg Moana Fogg Tim Frahme Lawrence Frank Maxine Gere David Golick Pamelynn Y Greenwood Danice Guzmán Gloria Haars Ann Heinlen Lila Holzman Marilyn Hyde Hilary Jacobsen Jan Jedkins Pete Johnson Barbara Jue Richard King Glenn Krauskopf Gordon Linden Toby Marion Tina Martin Meredith Miller Vostrejs Chuck Morganson Denis Nolan Taj Noori Paul Odegard Vern Phillips Helen Pu Brett Russon Aakash Sarang Timothy Schilling	Gretchen Schuessler Michael John Sears Rebekah Shapiro Rita Sklar Sheri Stonier-Montoya Carol Tady Carol Van Sant William Whitson Moira Wilmes Stephen Wingert	Rita Sklar Jon Souleles Janet Thibault Liz Varnhagen	Janet Espinosa Crystal Eubanks John Gleazer Lila Holzman Marilyn Hyde Rick Kaye Vincent Anthony Lauter Jr. Gayle McCallum-Spalaris James Munroe-Davidson Linda Munroe-Davidson Isaac Pearlman Karl Pierce Jessica Beth Romm Virginia Rue Sheri Stonier-Montoya Peter Szydowski Penelope (Penny) Taylor Michele Tsuchiya Liz Varnhagen Chris Wilmoth
In Honor of Marilyn Hyde Madeline Kellner	In Memory of Lenore Walters Marge Burston Lani Chin Laura Clifford Suzanne and Lewis D'Azzara Joan Krzeminski Ruth Owades Marie Phelps Nancy Scott Janis Wasserman Gwyn Waters	Our Ukrainian Sunflower Festival Tom Blackburn Shellie Branco Danice Guzmán Judith Halstead Tara Hamm Bev Manzano Stephanie Newland Serhii Shysheliuk	NorCalPCA Volunt'Hero Samuel Abbey Johnny Alexander Mary Heare Amodio Marikay Batina Nancy Beam Keith Beck Noah Brod Ashley Burke Kathleen Campbell Sue Castle Jay Davidson Lynn Foden Patricia Garcia de Nixon Thinh Hoang Pete Johnson	Grants & General Fund Nancy Beam Janet Espinosa Tim Frahme Andrew Grimstad Karen Hagewood Marilyn Hyde Sharon Keld Sandy Leon Cal Mann William (Dick) Miller Richard Morten Patricia Phillips Adrienne Pierce John Richers Jesse Schofield	NorCalPCA Supporter Jon Anderson Marietta Bartoletti Adrienne Borgia Jayma Brown Chris Carlisle Kathy Day Beth Duff

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, and

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

Our Ukrainian Sunflower Festival

Update: Afghan Refugee Resettlement Fund

Following the fall of Kabul to the Taliban in August 2021, 80,000 Afghans fled their country and arrived in the U.S. or at U.S. military bases around the world. NorCalPCA members turned to our organization in search of a way to support and ease the transition of Afghan families who were resettling in the Bay Area and, after several meetings with local resettlement agencies, we officially applied with Jewish Family & Community Services of the East Bay to form a Community Welcome Team (CWT). The Leadership Committee was composed of Noah Brod, Kathleen Campbell, Nalini Elkins, Danice Guzman, and Jessica Wolff. Eight NorCalPCA members completed background checks and went through JFCS's formal orientation in the spring and were assigned to a family of 8 (6 children ages 3 to 13 and their parents) who had recently relocated to Concord.

Over the course of three months, members of the CWT visited the family ~30 times, around twice a week. These visits were ostensibly to provide ESL tutoring, but usually also involved one-on-one time to discuss the family's needs or any issues they were having. RPCV members of the CWT provided transportation to medical and other scheduled appointments and to a family Eid al-Fitr celebration hosted by JFCS in a local park, and helped get a donated vehicle repaired, registered, and insured to give the family more mobility and independence. The CWT also supported the father of the family in his job search efforts and researched and connected the family with a wide variety of community support providers, including three months of rent support at \$2,500/month, school enrollment for the children, and legal aid.

The CWT included a separate fundraising team, led by Nalini Elkins, which allowed individuals who did not live near the family to be significantly involved. The team raised over \$6,000 in support of our assigned family and of JFCS's general refugee resettlement efforts, and ran a very successful fundraising campaign, including planning and executing a virtual movie screening of the film *Flee*, coordinating with the San Francisco Lesbian Gay Freedom Band on a benefit concert (thanks to NorCalPCA member Jesse Schofield for making this concert possible!), and having JFCS attend our Annual General Meeting to give more information to our members.

Our engagement with our assigned family wrapped up in August. While this was new territory for us and included a lot of opportunities for learning and growth, we are proud of the way that NorCalPCA and the CWT stepped up to meet an urgent need in our local community, and the family expressed their deep appreciation. Thank you to everyone who volunteered and supported this effort!

NorCalPCA's Big Sur Camping Weekend!

During the first weekend in June, nearly 80 NorCal RPCVs, friends, and families gathered in Big Sur for an amazing weekend of camping, food, bonfires, and camaraderie at Point 16, the property of RPCV and former local Congressperson Sam Farr. Most people stayed the whole weekend, some arrived Saturday morning, and a few came just for Sunday, but a great time was had by all. Thanks to our talented bunch of RPCVs, we had delicious communal meals throughout the weekend as well as a variety of fun activities to participate in including wine tasting, honey tasting, tours of nearby New Camaldoli Hermitage and Point Sur Lighthouse Station, and a lively jam session. The outdoor hot tubs overlooking the water were a nice bonus as well! We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Sam Farr for making this incredible weekend possible, and to everyone who was able to join us. We hope to do it again in 2023 - stay tuned for more details!



On Saturday July 30, 2022, we welcomed over 80 guests to Our Ukrainian Sunflower Festival in Cupertino where we enjoyed an evening full of Ukrainian food, music, dancing, and culture in support of the Ukrainian people. Together, we raised over \$9,800 for The Goodness Shop, a Ukrainian non-profit organization that is currently supporting internally displaced people in their country. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who attended, donated, and helped make this event a success, to all of our Ukrainian singers and dancers, to The Odd Fellows Cupertino 70 Lodge for generously donating the use of their space, and to NorCalPCA's own Toni Gale for spearheading this incredible Third Goal event.

Toni recently traveled to Ukraine to personally deliver the funds to The Goodness Shop, which is located in Drohobych in western Ukraine - the same town where Toni served as a Peace Corps Volunteer. There, she met with Oleh Dukas, Yuriy Drohobitski, and the founder of The Goodness Shop, Yuriy Tsykhivsky. She toured the building where our funds are helping to furnish and supply kitchen and bathroom necessities to 200 refugees and internally displaced people. The building will eventually include a recognition plaque when completed with NorCalPCA's name listed as a donor. We are thrilled to have had the opportunity to support this important effort!



"We sincerely thank Toni, the Northern California Peace Corps Association, and all benefactors for helping Ukrainians affected by the war. We feel your boundless support and it gives us the strength to hold on and go on working for the victory!"

-The Goodness Shop

*Above left: Festival attendees enjoy traditional performances
Above right: Volunteers serve traditional Ukrainian bread and salt
Left: Oleh Dukas (left) and Yuriy Drohobitski (right) of The Goodness Shop with NorCalPCA Treasurer Toni Gale in Drohobych, Ukraine*

Meet Our 2022 Grant Recipients

NorCalPCA approved funding for six projects totaling \$24,605 in fiscal year 2022. Funds for this year's Grants Program were contributed by more than 45 donors, including memorial contributions from friends and family of beloved NorCalPCA members Lenore Waters, Susan Neyer, and Meg Carter, as well as from the proceeds of International Calendar sales. Please visit norcalpca.org/grants for more information on our grantees, how to nominate an organization for a grant, and how to get involved with the grants committee.

Nigeria: \$5890 to Bishop McGettrick Girls Secondary School in the Afikpo North Local Government Area for equipment and lighting for their computer lab and library, including funding for solar electricity due to erratic power supply in the area. Bishop McGettrick Girls Secondary School serves 176 girls of various religious backgrounds in a secure boarding school setting in an area where educational opportunities for girls are few, public education has collapsed, poverty is on the rise, and security is difficult.

Ukraine: \$4865 to Golden Key Kindergarten in Kalush, Western Ukraine for the purchase of beds and mattresses for 60 internally displaced people (IDPs) currently residing in the school's nursery-Kindergarten facility. When the war began in Ukraine, Golden Key was compelled to redirect its program and mission to support IDPs and convert two of its school buildings into living facilities for families who have lost their homes and/or who cannot return home due to ongoing hostilities. As winter approaches, beds are their most urgently needed item for these 60 families who are currently sleeping on the floor of the building.

Jamaica: \$3500 to The Jamaican Conservation and Development Trust for backpacking and safety equipment for the Blue Mountains Jamaica trail project in Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park. By promoting eco-tourism, the goal of the overall project is to foster development of poor, isolated Maroon communities adjacent to the park. "Maroons" are the descendants of escaped slaves and anti-colonial fighters from the 1600s and 1700s, the culture of whom is a large part of the rationale behind the park's UNESCO World Heritage Site status (in addition to its natural cloud and rain forests).

Honduras: \$2,500 to Berkshire Amistad to fund maritime shipping expenses for medical equipment such as wheelchairs, crutches, and walkers from the U.S. to Honduras.

Mozambique: \$5000 to Associação Moyo Utsitsi (ASMU) to complete an unfinished community center (including doors, windows, electrical wiring, and finishing of walls and floors) and restart a microloan program. ASMU's mission is to serve, advocate, and promote the well-being of orphans and vulnerable children and their families impacted by poverty and the HIV/AIDS epidemic. They operate a 10-hectare plot of land in Vanduzi that is used for agriculture, horticulture, fish farms, sharecropping programs, and community gatherings for over 900 members and 1500 individuals living in the vicinity. When completed, the community center will have three small offices and a large community space for education, meetings, and health programs. This grant will also provide seed money to restart a microloan program that originally began in 2017 to teach basic finance and income-making skills to 30 women.

Philippines: \$2850 to Glory Reborn in Cebu to support *Taking Care of Mom: Maternal Mental Health for Marginalized Women in the Philippines*, a project that seeks to prevent, screen, and treat maternal mental health disorders in patients at Glory Reborn's maternity clinic. Glory Reborn is an NGO that serves marginalized mothers and their babies in Cebu with a vision to build community through care, education, and relationships with each individual, client, and employee. This grant will cover expenses for the project's social media program and other materials, including six mental health informational videos.

Annual Picnic & Globe Rededication Ceremony

This year's Annual Picnic was held at Nancy Boyd Park in Martinez on June 26th, 2022. Nancy Boyd was a Martinez local and Peace Corps Volunteer who died tragically in 1963 in a plane accident in the Philippines where she was serving. Her death had a profound impact on how the Peace Corps as a national organization came to support volunteers around the world. The park in Martinez was named in Nancy's honor in 1965, and the globe statue there was dedicated to Peace Corps volunteers around the world.

In addition to a great turnout of Bay Area RPCVs, the mayor of Martinez, Rob Schroder, and several members of the city council were in attendance and gave remarks. Friends and family of Nancy Boyd also attended, and spoke and read letters from volunteers with whom Nancy had served before her death. As the "grand finale" of the program for the day, we unveiled the refurbished globe statue, a project that NorCalPCA funded and worked with a local artist to complete. Thank you to everyone who joined us for this wonderful event, and special thanks to NorCalPCA Board member Andrea Crider for proposing the idea and coordinating with the City of Martinez to make it possible.



NorCalPCA Board Member and organizer of the picnic, Andrea Crider



Refurbished globe statue at Nancy Boyd Park in Martinez



Martinez Mayor Rob Schroder



Regional Updates

North Bay

Organized by RPCV Bob Casey, our North Bay group continues to meet every month at Whipper Snapper Caribbean Restaurant in San Rafael for good food, good drinks, and good company. A lovely potluck was also organized in Santa Rosa over the summer.

In August, we bid our North Bay rep Madeleine Kellner a very fond farewell as she and husband Clint returned to finish their Peace Corps Response service in Peru. As a result, we currently do not have an official representative for the North Bay but would love to get one on board! If you are interested, please reach out to us at board@norcalpca.org.

East Bay

East Bay NorCalPCA members mixed it up in 2022 thanks to the initiative of our newest board rep, Moana Fogg (St. Lucia 2017 - 2019) and RPCV Christopher Colwell (Panama 2010- 2012). Chris organized happy hours at Westbrae Biergarten and Brazil Café on Gilman Street in Berkeley as an every-other-month alternative to our regular gathering spot at Comal near the Berkeley BART station. Over the summer, Moana also offered us a dose of culture by organizing a group to attend the Oakland Symphony's Summer Stage concert in downtown Oakland.

In June, East Bay Board Rep Andrea Crider (Kenya 2011 - 2013) organized NorCal's Annual Picnic at Nancy Boyd Park in Martinez; read more about the picnic and Nancy Boyd Park on the preceding page. Look for all of our events at norcalpca.org/events - hope to see you at one in the East Bay soon!

Peninsula/South Bay

Gatherings in the South Bay included a few happy hours early in the year, as well as an art walk through the galleries along South 1st Street over the summer at South First Fridays. We also hosted a lively happy hour at San Pedro Square to bid our Board President Danice a fond farewell before she moved east to Washington DC. We currently do not have a representative for the South Bay but would love to get one on board and restart regular get-togethers! If you are interested, please reach out to us at board@norcalpca.org.

San Francisco

Over the past year we have been able to return to regular monthly meet-ups in San Francisco, and we could not be happier! Each month we explore a new SF neighborhood and cuisine and offer the opportunity for RPCVs to gather for happy hour followed by dinner at an international restaurant. Highlights from the past year include Aziza Moroccan restaurant in the Outer Richmond, New Eritrea Eritrean restaurant in the Inner Sunset, La Taqueria Mexican restaurant in the Mission, and many more.

We also went on several amazing group hikes throughout the Bay Area this year, despite a temporary hiatus when SF Rep & hiking guru Tim broke his arm.

Finally, over 50 RPCVs, friends, and family attended our Fall Picnic at Dolores Park on October 1. It was a delight to reconnect with so many old friends, and to meet tons of new ones as well. We hope you will join us at an upcoming SF event soon, and if you have any ideas or suggestions on hikes, local bars/restaurants, or volunteer opportunities, please let us know!

Santa Cruz & Monterey

The Santa Cruz-Monterey group had a busy year full of fun activities! In March, 25 of us gathered for a hike in Pinnacles National Park that was co-led by RPCV Peter Szydlowski, and in May we had a dozen people join us for weeding and clean-up along Struve Slough with local non-profit Watsonville Wetlands Watch followed by lunch at El Michoacano Restaurant. To round out our nature activities, we had the pleasure of touring Moss Landing Marine Laboratories in August with Lab Director Dr. Ivano Aiello. Big thanks to local RPCV Marlene Martin for helping to connect and coordinate this event!

Our biggest event of the year was an incredible weekend camping trip at the Big Sur compound of RPCV and former Congressman Sam Farr, which you can read more about at the beginning of the newsletter.

We encourage any local RPCVs to host an event, whether it's a happy hour, hike, or service activity; please reach out to us if you need ideas. Big thanks to RPCVs Thinh Hoang, Sherry Sybertz, and Nalini Elkins for organizing our first regional happy hour since the pandemic at Juice n' Java in Pacific Grove. We hope to see all of you at an event soon!

Follow us on social media @norcalpca, check out our events calendar at norcalpca.org/events, and/or email us at board@norcalpca.org if you are interested in attending or hosting NorCalPCA events in your area!

Membership



Above: NorCalPCA Service Trip to Yosemite National Park



Far left: "Happy Trails!" happy hour for NorCalPCA President Danice Guzmán at San Pedro Square in San Jose

Near left: NorCalPCA hike in Pacifica

Help us do more in 2023! 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:	Years of Service:
Sector/Assignment:	

Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to NorCalPCA!

General Fund: \$	Grants Program: \$
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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 the back of this page.