



SOJOURNERS



Philadelphia Area Peace Corps

***KICKS OFF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR!
TIME TO CELEBRATE, CONNECT, & GET
INVOLVED!***

Happy Birthday, Peace Corps!

In recognition of March 1st, 1961, the day that the Peace Corps was established through an Executive Order, house parties all over our country celebrated a global birthday party with participants in the 139 countries where the Peace Corps has been and individuals in all 50 states. Many people in the Philadelphia area and surrounding environs hosted parties and were a smashing success! Flip the pages of this issue to see some great photographs and catch the unmistakable energy of returned volunteers networking, relating, and bringing more of the world into our very own homes! Salut! Zivjeli! Cheers!

Inside this Issue:

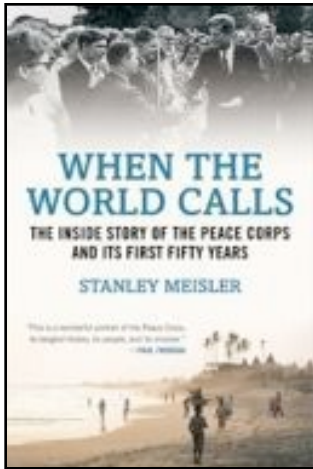
Peace Corps in the News:
WHYY Radio Times
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Upcoming Events
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SHOUT OUTS! If you or someone you know in the Peace Corps has been in the news, please let us know so that we may share it with others! (Editor email addresses are on the last page.)



FIFTEEN MINUTES OF FAME: PEACE CORPS IN THE NEWS



We are happy to report that Returned Peace Corps Volunteers from the local area have been receiving way MORE than the “industry standard” of fifteen moments of recognition! To say that we are honored is quite an understatement.

we proudly assert the extreme generosity of our country hosts; our service acts as a prototype for the daily commitment to cultural sharing that applies even to our own American volunteer group!

Making Peace With the World - check out Richard Sitler's photographic exposes on Peace Corps service worldwide! Link below.

Many of us are eager to share our lessons and experiences that we feel are applicable to modern living today. As confidence in our economy continues to plummet, we can teach resourcefulness, resilience and survival with less; as international conflict persists,



WHYY Radio Times host **Marty Moss-Coane** interviews deputy director of Peace Corps' Office of Evaluation and Research in its early years and author **Stanley Meisler** on his new book, *When the World Calls: The Inside Story of the Peace Corps & Its First Fifty Years*. A link to the interview and book are provided below. Read & listen! Want to discuss his book?

Email him at stanley.meisler@gmail.com!

THE VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE, SHARED! CHECK OUT THE FOLLOWING LINKS!

Philly.Com interviews & video clips of local RPCVs: http://www.philly.com/philly/hot_topics/118858859.html



Stanley Meisler's interview on WHYY Radio Times: <http://whyy.org/cms/radiotimes/2011/02/23/peace-corps-50th-anniversary-pt-1-stan-meislers->

Hear tales from **Sally Jordan, Chris Nunez & Brenna Synnestvedt, John Riggan, Roland Johnson, Nadira Branch & Kelly Hinkler**. Board members **Jane Behnke** and **Sandra Voge** are also featured! A must see/read!

RPCV Bernard Blanche's book *Iracema's Footprint* now available online: <http://www.amazon.com/Iracemas-Footprint-Bernard-F-Blanche/sim/1609111958/2>

Making Peace With the World - photographs worldwide of PCVs: <http://www.otherplacespublishing.com/mpwtw.html>



CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE!

* FOURTH OF JULY * PARADE MARCH WITH PAPCA!

Help us celebrate the 50th anniversary of Peace Corps and support the third goal by marching in the **Welcome America Parade** on **July 4th, 2011**. You, your family and friends are invited to march with us - to celebrate along with the birthplace of our nation, the past, present and future of Peace Corps!

We need to purchase flags from various countries of service to be carried in the parade; to do this, we need your **SUPPORT**. Marchers are encouraged to sponsor their own flag and t-shirt. **Even if you can't march that day, you can sponsor a flag for another person to carry!**

3 Levels of sponsorship: (Each level of sponsorship includes a flag, pole & t-shirt)

Country: \$40

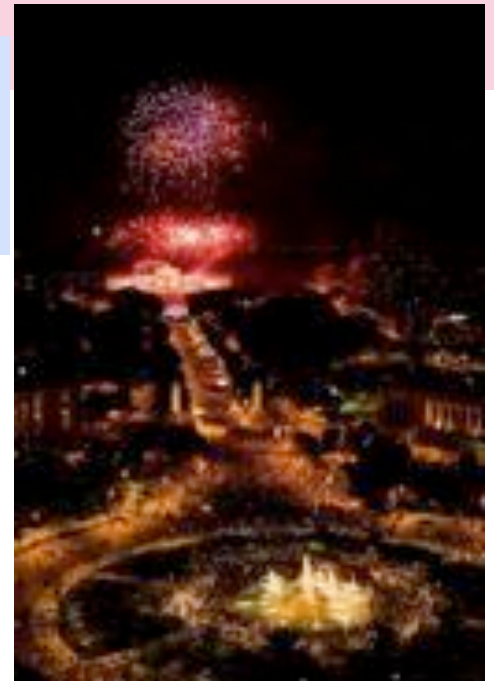
Region: \$50 (plus 1-yr membership to Papca)

Continent: \$60 & up (plus 1-yr membership to Papca, & beautiful international calendar from Wisconsin RPCVs)

We would like as many countries represented as possible. Please allow us to buy one from another country if your country has already been purchased. **JOIN US FOR THE FUN!**

Click below to be a part of the 2011 Welcome America Parade with PAPCA!

http://www.phillyrpcv.com/uploads/Parade_Flyer_for_50th_Anniversary.pdf



HOW TO JOIN US FOR THE PARADE:



Contact **Kimiko** for more details, to ask questions and to sponsor a flag - 215-873-9996 or kimikodoherty@yahoo.com.



INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR

2011 Reach out and celebrate 50 YEARS of PEACE CORPS SERVICE!

The **2011 edition** features the first 13 countries to host Peace Corps Volunteers. We hope the gallery-quality photos will inspire you to learn more about the world.

Created, produced, and marketed by volunteers, more than \$900,000 in proceeds from calendar sales have been donated to educational and development projects at home and abroad. **Get one at the April 16th Service Day or the April 29th send-off event for \$10 each!**





You are invited to a SERVICE EVENT:
PHILADELPHIA Love Your Park DAY

Calling all **hands** & **hearts!**



When: April 16th, 9am - 12pm

Where: Lemon Hill Mansion, Fairmount Park

Why: To **HELP OUT** and **GO GREEN!**

What: Lemon Hill Mansion (the park on the hill above and overlooking boathouse row, with ample parking on site) is the place where we will join other volunteers going **GREEN** in celebration of Earth Day! On Love Your Park day one hundred projects will take place at parks and recreation centers throughout the city, from the Northeast to South Philadelphia - and everywhere in between. The event provides cleaning and greening in one hundred parks and recreation centers.

Contact George O'Shea at 484-802-6926 or geordax@hotmail.com to participate with us!

**Philadelphia never
looked so good! Come
on out, have fun and
let's get a little 'dirty'!**





Ardmore



Newark



Reading

**TIME TO SING HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
MARCH 1ST, 2011
RPCVs GATHER TO CELEBRATE**



TIME TO SING HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

MARCH 1ST, 2011

RPCVs GATHER TO CELEBRATE

Philadelphia



Cherry Hill



Lancaster video link:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p5d8697AsZQ&feature=channel_video_title





Time to GET BUSY: Upcoming Events

April 16th- Philadelphia "Love Your Park Day" at 9am-12pm

Lemon Hill Mansion, Fairmount Park

RSVP to George O'Shea at 484-802-6926 (geordax@hotmail.com)**April 29th- Peace Corps Send Off 6pm- 8pm**

3701 Chestnut Street, 2nd Floor

University of Pennsylvania, International House, South American Room

RSVP to Rebi Wong at rwong@peacecorps.gov by April 21st**May 14th- Pattaya (Thailand) at 6:30pm**

4006 Chestnut St

RSVP to Jane at 856-628-4246, (jbehnker@comcast.net)**May 22nd- Peace Corps Expo (hosted by NPCA and PC) in Philadelphia (12 to 3pm)**

National Constitution Center - 525 Arch Street, Independence Mall

An event with speakers, workshops, & exhibits to highlight 50 years of worldwide service!

June 12th (Sunday) Annual Summer PAPCA Picnic at 1pm (rain or shine)

All are welcome- current PC parents, interested applicants, families, children, and dogs!

Please bring a dish from your country to share and meat to grill of your choice.

East Fairmount Park, Sedgeley and Lemon Hill Drives, Philadelphia, PA 19130

RSVP to Paula Larson at 215-238-0395, (paulalarson@juno.com)**July 4th- PAPCA Participation in Philadelphia Fourth of July Parade-**[click here for more information to represent your country and march in the parade](#)**July 9th- Jamaican Jerk Hut* (Jamaica) at 6:30pm**

1436 South St.

RSVP to Stuart Jablon at 904-614-8611, (sjablon12@juno.com)**August 13th- Tierra Colombiana (Colombia) at 6:30pm**4535 N. 5th St.RSVP to Kimiko Doherty at 215-873-9996, (kimikodoherty@yahoo.com)**September 10th- Chaikhana* (Uzbekistan) at 6:30pm**

12012 Bustleton Ave.

RSVP to Lisa Gauslow at (lliisa@verizon.net)**October 8th- Kabobeesh (Pakistani) at 6:30pm**

4201 Chestnut St.

RSVP to Alicia DiMarco (ademarco3@gmail.com)**November 12th- Dahlak (Ethiopian) at 6:30pm**

4708 Baltimore Ave.

RSVP to Sandy Voge at 610-696-1447, (svoge@ccil.org)



PAPCA PREPARES FOR THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY



As you read on page 3, PAPCA has organized a delegation to march in **Philadelphia's annual Welcome America Parade this July 4th!** The executive director of the parade has been extremely supportive and looking forward to seeing a sea of international flags march down Chestnut and Market Street near Independence Hall. Let's bring the world back home in the

birthplace of our nation! To reiterate, please contact Kimiko Doherty at kimikodoherty@yahoo.com with your parade interest!

For 50th Anniversary updates, please check out PAPCA's website for all the goings-on for this MOMENTOUS year in Peace Corps history! www.phillyrpcv.com and click on Peace Corps 50th!



*** GLOBAL EXPO at the National Constitution Center ***

May 22, 2011 from 12 to 3pm

Highlighting 50 years of Peace Corps Service with:

Speakers & Panelists, Workshops & "Around the World" Exhibits

Workshops: Bringing the World Back Home through Global Education

Peace Corps Recruiter Chat

The Peace Corps Experience: Shaping Lives and Careers

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to be inspired!

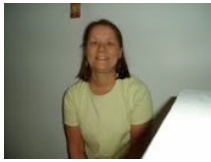
Feedback Desired!

NPCA President Kevin Quigley recently sent out a survey to RPCVs to ascertain how you view your experience. Participation is voluntary and confidential. If you have not received this link from Kevin, feel free to access it here & provide your valuable thoughts:

<http://www.4feedback.net/cgi-bin/ns/0374/input.cgi?CMID=12827589>



Meet the PAPCA Board of Directors for 2011 - 2012



Paula Larson
President
Thailand '83-'85
Medical
Technology



Alicia De Marco
Vice President &
Newsletter
Hungary '95 - '97
TEFL



Sandy Voge
Treasurer &
Membership
Nepal '90-'92
Nursing &
Education



Kimiko Doherty
Secretary &
Newsletter
Honduras '03-'05
Municipal
Development



Nino DeProphetis
Speaker's Bureau
Fiji '68 - '70



George O'Shea
Service
Niger '74 - '76
Agriculture



Stuart Jablon
Member at Large
Jamaica '83 - '85
Fishing
Cooperative



Jane Behnke
Member at Large
Afghanistan '70-'72
TEFL



Jessica Mc Atamney
List-Serve
Guatemala '97 - '99
Agriculture



Ari Weiner
Member at Large
Moldova '05 -'07
Business &
Agriculture



Greyhound Dog Walking Day
September 19th, 2010
Philadelphia
Board Members Stuart
Jablon and Paula Larson
enjoy a quick respite with
some good canine friends.



ACTION! ACTION! ACTION! Get Involved!!

PAPCA is a volunteer-based organization and we rely on members LIKE YOU to help plan and coordinate different activities. There are MULTIPLE ways you can get involved! Here's how:

COME OUT & BE NOTICED! We have monthly dinners every second Saturday at great international restaurants (please be sure to RSVP so we know you're coming!). This year we have practically two events scheduled each month. While we know many PAPCA members live outside of Philadelphia, we hope by announcing our activities months in advance you can plan a trip into the city and join us at one of our service events, the annual summer picnic and the big 4th of July parade. Check out our full calendar of upcoming activities in this newsletter.

BRIMMING WITH IDEAS FOR AN EVENT?- While we think we organize great events for PAPCA members, there are many more to be had! You may have a great idea that other RPCVs will enjoy, and we just haven't had the capacity to organize it. Email Paula Larson (paulalarson@juno.com) or Alicia deMarco (ademarco3@gmail.com) if you have an idea and are willing to organize it, and we'll help publicize it!

WANT TO BE HEARD?- We regularly get requests for RPCVs to speak at different events. RPCVs are regularly invited to speak in university classes or career panels, and with Girl Scout Troops. Nino DeProphetis is our dedicated liaison between inquiring groups and RPCVs willing to speak. Contact him at kensingtonino@gmail.com and let him know you're interested in being a future speaker.

CONTRIBUTE TO SOJOURNERS! - We always looking to for interesting, relevant articles and information to include in this newsletter. Send us your poem, short story, summary of your novel, etc., that you think other RPCVs will enjoy and we'll include it in the next newsletter. Contact Alicia (ademarco3@gmail.com) or Kimiko (kimikodoherty@yahoo.com).



BOOK REVIEW by Kimiko

I seldom read a book where I can relate so closely with the narrator's experience - and by closely, I mean that-happened-to-me-too kind of closely. I've also never read a memoir of a person I actually know. Both occurred in the same book for me - RPCV Barbara Joe's award winning book, Triumph & Hope: Golden Years with the Peace Corps in Honduras. The book is a great read for anyone who has served in the Peace Corps, anyone thinking about serving in the Peace Corps (or working abroad), and just about anyone who enjoys reading about, well, triumph and hope.

Full disclosure: Barbara Joe is a friend of mine, and we met when we were Peace Corps Volunteers in Honduras. We overlapped just a few months in Honduras and reconnected when I returned to Washington, D.C., after completing my service. Perhaps I'm a slightly biased in reviewing this book - but trust me on this, it really is a great book!

The book starts with a short description of Barbara's personal history of her pre-Peace Corps life - family, travels, marriage, career, her children. Without even joining the Peace Corps yet, in just a few pages you're already in awe of this remarkable woman. As we all know, life sometimes takes unexpected twists and turns, and we find ourselves finding in us a strength we never knew we had (you'll have to read the book to know what I'm talking about!)....and then Barbara Joe joins the Peace Corps, at age 62.

This is not a run-of-the-mill Peace Corps story of glorified volunteer life. Sure, there are good days; but there are bad days too, and days that are worse than the bad days. Barbara tells you about them in vivid detail, yet in an inviting, approachable manner. The candidness of Barbara's writing allows you to relate with her experiences as a Volunteer, while often leading you to reflect on your own experiences (about life in general and as a Volunteer). The book is very honest in portraying the highs and lows of a Volunteer experience; and, that we are all capable to persevere through life's ups and downs, and true to the book's title, with triumph and hope.

What I enjoyed most about the book was that I found I easily reflected on my own Peace Corps experience various times. There were experiences and emotions that Barbara describes that I felt like I was right there with her and I just wanted to shout, "That totally was me too!!!!!!"; and other descriptions where I was sure glad that THAT didn't happen to me. All-in-all, the book was a pleasure to read.

The book is available on Amazon.com and sales of the book help fund Barbara's annual February medical brigades trip in Honduras. In addition, Barbara is helping Neris, the young girl on the photo (who is now 17), go to nursing school.



Triumph & Hope: Golden Years with the Peace Corps in Honduras

Best New Non-Fiction Finalist,
National Indie Excellence Awards
Finalist, Best New Non-Fiction,
National Best Books
Best Peace Corps Memoir of 2009,
Peace Corps Writers
blog: [http://
honduraspeacecorps.blogspot.com](http://honduraspeacecorps.blogspot.com)

[http://www.womansday.com/
Articles/Lifestyle/Achieving-Your-
Dreams-Over-40.html](http://www.womansday.com/Articles/Lifestyle/Achieving-Your-Dreams-Over-40.html)

**Check out Barbara's
experiences described in her
new book in this video link
here:** [http://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=nc_i84jrfQs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nc_i84jrfQs)

**(available at amazon.com and
on Kindle)**

PAPCA always
supports literature that
enriches
and broadens
our understanding
of the world.



TO JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NPCA & PAPCA

A membership in the National Peace Corps Association entitles you to...

- (1) - membership with your local affiliate group (PAPCA-Philadelphia Area Peace Corps Association)
 - (2) - a subscription to World View Magazine
 - (3) - a subscription to the Peace Corps alumni newsletter 3/1/61
 - (4) - discounts on travel and merchandise
 - (5) - access to a number of members-only benefits such as NPCA's online directory.
- Your membership also supports legislative advocacy, global education, and more.

BY MAIL:

_____ NPCA and PAPCA (\$50.00) Make check out to NPCA.

Be sure to choose the Philadelphia Area Peace Corps Association as your affiliate group. Additional affiliate groups can be added on for \$15.00 per group.

_____ *PAPCA only membership (\$15.00).

MAIL TO:

SANDRA VOGÉ
1939 E Zabenko Drive,
Wilmington, DE 19808.
She will forward to NPCA as needed.

Make check out to PAPCA.
Please include: your address, phone number, email, country and years of service!

ONLINE:

peacecorpsconnect.org

Click "Support" in the green bar, then "Join/Renew Membership." They have a form at the site which you can print and mail to them, or complete the form online and pay electronically.

OR, for checks sent directly to NPCA:

National Peace Corps Association Group Affiliation
1900 L Street NW
Suite 404
Washington DC
20036



Calendar at a Glance 2011

April 16 - Love Your Park Day

April 29 - Annual Send-Off

May 14 - 2nd Saturday Supper

May 22 - Peace Corps Global Expo

June 12 - Annual Summer Picnic

July 4 - Welcome America Parade

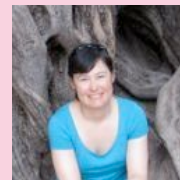
Please check page 8 of this newsletter or our website for further details:

www.phillyrpcv.com



**Please join us for a monthly dinner or a day of service!
We hope to see you very soon!**

Contributors:



KIMIKO DOHERTY



ALICIA DE MARCO

We would both like to thank all Board Members and surrounding RPCVs for their continued contributions and support! Think Global, Act Local!