**BUFFALO RPCV**

NEWS OF THE RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS
OF BUFFALO, NEW YORK

*Bringing the Peace Corps to Western New York*

Vol. XIII: No. 7

July 2019

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Do you have an announcement or item of interest to RPCVs? All area RPCV’s/Peace Corps supporters/interested persons are invited to submit event announcements, news items or other items which may be of interest to the Western New York RPCV community. You may request for the information to be placed in the newsletter or as a separate email. Items submitted may be subject to editing and/or editorial discretion. Submit to: buffalorpcv@yahoo.com

Check out our webpage!  www.buffalorpcv.org

Join Us on Facebook!

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**RPCV / BUFFALO BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Chairperson- Andy Smith  *(Costa Rica)*

Treasurer  Jeri Titus *(Morocco)*

Secretary  Tony Agnello  *(Afghanistan)*

Communications  Jo Hegarty *(Senegal)* and Andy Smith

Membership  George Deshaies  *(Afghanistan)*

Programming  Ginna Coon *(Ethiopia)*

Audrey Seidel *(Colombia)*

At Large Member  Ted Farrar *(Kenya)*

Mac McCabe *(Haiti)*

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http://www.facebook.com/groups/45930918164/
Upcoming Events and Save the dates

Buffalo Bisons:
Please join Buffalo RPCVs, their friends and family on Thursday July 18th for a game against the Charlotte Knights.

Where: Sahlen Field
Time: pick up your ticket at 6:30, game time is 7:05
Why: this event serves as a fundraiser for events we do with local refugees
Cost: $5 dollars per ticket (pay inside so we are not suspected of anything illegal)
Meeting place: On Washington street in front of the entrance gate for Seneca street. Look for Peace Corps gear.
Other info: it is Italian night at the ball park and there will be fireworks inside the ball park as well. The tickets are in between home plate and first base and close to the field. If you RSVP, you are responsible for the cost of the ticket
RSVP: email Andy Smith at buffalorpcv@yahoo.com or Call or text 716-228-9540 by July 16th with your name, number of tickets needed and phone number. Actually, the sooner the better. If we sellout, more will be available but we may not all be in the same section.

Volunteer opportunities:

United Way Day Of Caring
RPCV of Buffalo is registered to participate but are still waiting for our assignment. Please save the date for Wednesday August 21st from 9-noon. We are hoping to have 10 volunteers for this event.

Other important dates to save with details coming closer to the date of the event:

- August: United Way Day of Caring August 21st
- August: social event: to be determined
- September: to be determined
- October: annual fall fest: to be determined
- Thanksgiving dinner: to be determined
**Highlights**

Mandy Manning gave a wonderful presentation at Medaille College on June 10th. Her focus was how her Peace Corps days shaped her future and the National Teacher of the Year she is today.

A special thanks to board member Tony Agnello for spearheading the project and to former board member, Tim Hartigan for securing the venue.

Our Annual Meeting followed the event. Thanks to all who attended. We welcome Lisa Ried to the board. Annual report is on the last day of the newsletter.

Many RPCVS came out to help out with the Let There Be Light International Solar Light Celebration Buffalo at Silo City. The setting was incredible with amazing food, dance, and music. On display were many of the solar lanterns that the organization gives out to people in Uganda. RPCV Elizabeth Oddy gave a speech about her PC experiences in Uganda and having to use kerosene lamps and how solar lights would have been ideal during her time. She explained how Peace Corps and Let There be Light have similar goals.

From Sarah:
Solar Celebration 2019 was a brilliant success!

To all who joined us to SUPPORT, EAT, DRINK, DANCE and SHINE
THANK YOU!
We shared a perfect evening filled with light, laughter and generosity!

Together we raised: $25,000

$25,000 sends 1,600 safe solar lights to vulnerable families
$25,000 lights 9,000 lives
$25,000 lights 7 clinics, improving healthcare access and delivery for more than 120,000 people

Your generous donations make our vital solar work possible as we combat Global Climate Change and Energy Poverty in off-grid Africa.

Elizabeth              Sarah Baird (Executive Director of LTBLI)

Just a few of the RPCVs volunteers and many more who came to help or support the event.
RPCV Website: more news:

We hope that you are enjoying the new Buffalo Returned Peace Corps Volunteer website. In order to keep you better updated on items of interest, we are implementing the use of mass mailings through our website.

This means that Andy will no longer be sending letters through the List-Serve, as she has done in the past. With all of our data located in one location (our website), the implementation of doing a mass mailing through the website will make it easier for us to send, and for you (the over 250 Buffalo RPCVs) to receive, the most current information available.

You do not have to become a member to view our website or to receive a mailing from us, but we hope that you will elect to join the Buffalo RPCV organization. Membership dues are only $15/year and that fee gives you member status in the Buffalo RPCV organization, which connects to over 240,000 RPCVs around the country through the National Peace Corps Association (an association created specifically for RPCVs to promote Peace Corps values).

[For more information on how you can join, go to: www.buffalorpcv.org]

We not only wish to increase our membership, but we also wish to engage all those who might be interested in helping the Buffalo RPCV organization expand. If there is a way that you think you might be able to help a growing organization like ours, please contact us through our website.

Thank you for your service to our country as a Peace Corps Volunteer, and we hope you actively continue your association with us, through the Buffalo RPCV organization.

Sincerely,

Your Buffalo RPCV Board Members:

Please click here to create a password to log in for the first time, update your information, and join and/or renew with our group!

This new website will provide valuable information about who we are. The new site will provide you with instant access to updated information on events happening locally, as well as nationally with the National Peace Corps Association links.

There are over 240,000 RPCVs as of 2019 and this is the first time that NPCA is bringing them together under one umbrella site, of which we are a part. This is an opportune time to join your local affiliate (the Buffalo RPCVs) and meet others who continue to be connected to the mission of the National Peace Corps Association.

We are excited by the launching of our new website and are even more excited by the renewed RPCV friendships that we hope to rekindle.

Something of Interest

WORLD REFUGEE DAY IN WNY
LaSalle Park Soccer Fields
Buffalo, NY 14202
Free! All are welcome!
June 29, 2019
Soccer & Volleyball Tournament
June 30, 2019
Cultural Performances & Ethnic Food
Youth, Woman & Family activities
Soccer Finals
Donation, volunteering and other inquiries:
email: wrdwny@gmail.com
Facebook: World Refugee Day in Western New York, Inc.
I would like to thank the board members for their assistance and continued support: Tony Agnello, Ginna Coon, George Deshaies, Jo Hegarty, Ted Farrar, Audrey Seidel, and Jeri Titus

PEACE CORPS EVENTS:
1. Recruiting and promoting Peace Corps: Recruiter, Anne Tatarsky has sent out requests for RPCVs to help out at job fairs and other events around town.
2. Peace Corps Connect: Many board members attended the conference in August in PA.
3. Advocating for the Peace Corps budget: Many board members visited politicians’ offices in Buffalo and DC. Main talking points included maintaining the current budget of $410, signing the Peace Corps Safety and Health Legislation. (March)
4. National Peace Corps Week: Guest speaker Sarah Baird from Let There be Light International (March)
5. PC send off/welcome home party: area RPCVs met with current invitees, those interested in becoming PC volunteers, and recently returned volunteers at Chestnut Ridge. About 30 were in attendance. (May)
6. Board members met in July, September, October, December, January, February, April, and communicated often via email or phone.

COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENTS:

1. **Let There be Light International**: RPCVs helped volunteer with the first Solar Light Celebration Fundraiser in Buffalo at Silo City. (Jun)
2. **United Way Day of Caring**: RPCVs participated in the United Way Day of caring’s summer event weeding the outdoor gardens in front of the Botanical Gardens. (Aug)
3. **Thanksgiving dinner** with the residents of VIVE
4. **Martin Luther King National Day of Volunteer Service**: RPCVs participated in social media blitz for Let There Light International to spread the word about Energy Poverty and the need for safe, renewable lighting inputs for vulnerable families living in off-grid communities (Jan)
5. **Tim Hartigan, former board member, running for Buffalo School Board**: RPCVs helped with his campaign which focused on refugee and immigrant students. (April, May)

SOCIAL EVENTS:

1. **Summer Buffalo Bison** baseball game
2. **Annual fall kickoff event**: autumn potluck meal and make your own apple cider at Ted and Sharon Farrar’s farm
3. **Social events**: RPCVs have met at various establishments around WNY throughout the year. Many had fun curling at the Buffalo curling club in February.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Smith, Chair of RPCV of Buffalo, Bringing Peace Corps to WNY
Treasury Report

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Buffalo

Treasurer’s Report June 2019

Submitted By Jeri Titus, Treasurer

Financial Report

June 1, 2018 – June 1, 2019

Balance of June 1, 2018

$2337.34

Deposits

+ 2148.00

Total

4485.34

Disbursements

-2493.68

Balance as of June 1, 2019

1991.96