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

Bringing the Peace Corps
to Western New York

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March 2020

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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

Please look at it on a regular basis as we are really trying to focus on the web page as a main source of information about current events.

Join Us on Facebook and now Instagram

http://www.facebook.com/groups/45930918164/

Our new Instagram account is peace_corps_buffalo

RPCV / BUFFALO
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairperson
Andy Smith (Costa Rica)

Treasurer  Jeri Titus (Morocco)

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Social Media Coordinator  Lisa Ried (Lesotho)

Membership  George Deshaies (Afghanistan)

Programming  Ginna Coon (Ethiopia)
Audrey Seidel (Colombia)

At Large Member
Jo Hegarty (Senegal)
Ted Farrar (Kenya)
The Story of the Peace Corps
“A Towering Task”

From the agency’s founding under JFK, through tough times and then a surprising revival during the Reagan administration, to today’s existence at the forefront of some of the pressing themes facing the global community, A Towering Task takes viewers on a journey of what it means to be a global citizen.

The Buffalo RPCV board is delighted to share with you that we are hosting this film on April 18th and 19th at the North Park Theatre.

Doors open at 11:00 a.m. and show begins at 11:30 a.m.

Cost is $8.50

Tickets can be purchased online at https://ticketing.useast.veezi.com/sessions/9azqedb8634rh3y4a5rzc1z2km
Click on the show and the times for the tickets to come up.

Tickets can also be purchased the day of the show.

The poster/flyer of the movie will be attached with the newsletter. The board is asking that you share it with friends, family, colleagues and anyone you know that has ever shown an interest in the Peace Corps. We all have friends who say, “I wanted to join, or I wish I had done it but…” well here is their chance to experience the PC world.

Following the show we will have a social gathering across the street at Mac’s on Hertel Restaurant.

Highlights

Buffalo RPCV members and guests gathered at the Al Sultan Restaurant in Lackawanna, NY to kick off the celebration of Peace Corps Week 2020. Attendees shared old Peace Corps stories and discussed future activities while enjoying spiced Yemeni tea and sumptuous Arabian foods. Starting the afternoon event, Membership Officer, George Deshaies informed the assembly about our upcoming sponsorship of the Peace Corps Documentary film, A Towering Task. George outlined our correspondence with Producer/Director RPCV, Alana DeJoseph, and Ray Barker, program manager at the iconic North Park Theater, where the film will be shown. (See film details above and on attachments.) Following George’s introductory comments, RPCVs Pam Kefi and Tim Hartigan thanked the Buffalo RPCV Board for their
dedication and effort in keeping the WNY-RPCV community updated and engaged in Third Goal activities.

Board Secretary, Tony Agnello made a PowerPoint presentation, which recapped our 2019 collaboration events with Rotary, NYSUT, and numerous community groups, which included co-sponsoring a visit by Mandy Manning, the National Teacher of the Year and volunteering at Silo City for Let There Be Light International's solar lighting fundraiser. Our project coordination with the Buffalo Peace House, Journey's End Refugee Center and Jewish Family Services, a HIAS affiliated community agency, were also cited, as were our numerous social events and our Annual Welcome Home and Sendoff gatherings at Chestnut Ridge Park. In addition to the urgently important publicity and committee work and college outreach that will be required; the need for publicity, advertising, and marketing of A Towering Task, was emphasized.

Also mentioned as a top Peace Corps - Rotary Partnership Project was the RYLAR - Youth Leadership and Democracy conference to be held in Lviv, Ukraine, this summer from the 20th to the 25th of July. The 2020 - Ukrainian - RYLA Conference is being directed by WNY & Southern Ontario Rotary District #7090 Peace Fellow, Shannon Carter. Shannon is currently serving in Ukraine as a Peace Corps Volunteer. Wrap up discussion centered on advocacy day events in Buffalo and in DC and on our upcoming March 11th RPCV Board meeting.

Something of Interest

Did you know that JFS has a new Volunteer Coordinator, and lots of new and exciting volunteer opportunities?

Sierra Johnston is the newest member of the JFS team, and she is here to support your volunteer experience. Sierra brings years of experience and a passion for volunteering into her new role at JFS. As the Vice President of the Volunteer Administrators of WNY and a member of the WNY Service Learning Coalition Steering Committee, Sierra knows that good volunteers are integral to our agency’s success.

Whether you feel passionate about refugee resettlement, Jewish values, or mental health, JFS has an opportunity for you! Some of our current volunteer opportunities include: Refugee Home Set-Up projects, Refugee Services Volunteer, Refugee Public Transportation Mentorship, Parenting Group Volunteer, and Jewish Community Care Volunteer.

To learn more, contact Sierra at sjohnston@jfsbuffalo.org! Also see the attachments in the email!
My name is Isabella Moo and I am the organization representative of SUNY Buffalo State College Student Political Society. We are hoping to request a returned peace corps volunteer to come speak at a general interest meeting at the college to share their experience in the peace corps, the process, the benefits serving as a volunteer and more information. We are hoping a RPCV could come on March 17th from 12:15-1:30pm. Of course, time and date can be negotiated. We hope to hear from you soon.

Best regards,
Isabella Moo  spseboard@gmail.com or mooi01@mail.buffalostate.edu or 315-723-2896

Please reach out to Isabella if you are willing to share.

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Dear WNY Refugee Film Festival Goers:

We have added an extra special film for those who are interested! Perfect for educators, high school students, refugee-curious, and cinephiles alike!

**Details:**

What: Screening of "Day One," a moving, heart-warming documentary on refugee kids and the educators who inspire them, by award-winning Hollywood producer Lori Miller

Where: Flickinger Performing Arts Center at Nichols School, 1250 Amherst Street, Buffalo, NY 14216.

When: Thursday, March 12 at 5:30pm (FREE PIZZA & fellowship at 5pm!)

Tickets ($15) and Trailer: [https://tinyurl.com/DayOneFilm](https://tinyurl.com/DayOneFilm)

“This is a truly inspiring film, with lessons for all of us - not only about what kind of society we can be but also about how we can and should guide and instruct students. It is a story of resilience and hope, told with warmth and compassion.” - David J. Harris, Managing Director, Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice, Harvard Law School

The screening will be followed by a Q&A session. All proceeds fund the education and other programs of Journey's End Refugee Services. For more information, email: kspillman@jersbuffalo.org

Attend the WNY Refugee Film Festival and help support the many programs of Journey's End! Visit: [www.wnyrff.org](http://www.wnyrff.org)

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**Buffalo Business First Feature**

GEC Executive Director, Anne Wadsworth, was recently featured in Buffalo Business First highlighting the incredible things she and GEC has accomplished. Congratulations Anne and GEC!  [Read the article](https://www.bizjournals.com/buffalo/news/2020/01/29/meet-anne-wadsworth-helping-expand-educational.html?b=1580312913%5E21611329&blm_aid=21059)
Check out our webpage!  www.buffalorpcv.org

Please look at it on a regular basis as we are really trying to focus on the web page as a main source of information about current events.

It is membership renewal time and if you haven’t officially joined our local group, please consider joining. You may also do on our webpage.  https://www.buffalorpcv.org/cpages/join

RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS OF BUFFALO, NEW YORK
2020 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

RPCV/Buffalo membership is open to all returned Peace Corps Volunteers, active and friends of Peace Corps. Please complete the following and return with your membership dues (15.00 annually) payable to RPCV/Buffalo:

RPCV/Buffalo
c/o Jeri Titus
P.O.Box 650
Buffalo, NY 14205

Please check

Renewing Member ______  New Member ______

Are you a member of the National Peace Corps Association?  Yes _____  No _____

I.  Personal Information:

Name: (first) ____________________________  (last) _________________________________
Address: ________________________________________________________________  (apt) _______
City:__________________________________________________________________________
State: __________________________________________  Zip: _________________________
Telephone: ___________________________  Cell: _________________________________
E-Mail: ______________________________

II.  Peace Corps Service Information (if applicable):

Country(ies) of Service: __________________________________________________________
Dates of Service: ________________________________________________________________
Primary Service Role: ______________________________________________________________