IN THIS EDITION

- Upcoming events/save the date
- Highlights
- Something of Interest

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

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Gordon Frederick Comstock, MD passed away on October 25, 2019 at the age of 76 from Acute Myeloid Leukemia. Born on January 27, 1943 in Miami, Florida, Gordon was the first child of epidemiologist George Wills Comstock and community activist Margaret (Karr) Comstock. Gordon met his wife and life partner, Ginger (Virginia) Kelly, at Antioch College in Ohio, where he majored in Chemistry and the Maples Volunteer Fire Department. Gordon joined the Peace Corps, teaching math in Ghana for two years before marrying Ginger on July 27, 1968. Gordon studied medicine at Case Western Reserve University and completed his residency at University of Rochester/Highland Hospital Family Medicine Program. From 1980 to 2018, Dr. Comstock practiced family medicine in Arcade, serving the areas youngest to oldest residents with patience and respect.

I first met Gordon when he walked into my classroom at Pioneer HS years ago with a pile of newspapers from Honduras and he asked me where I had learned Spanish. We soon learned that we went to neighboring colleges in Ohio and that we were both Peace Corps volunteers. Our friendship grew from there. It was always a pleasure to get the newspapers and even more so when he came to our numerous activities despite his busy schedule.

Why the newspapers? Since 1989 Gordon has been travelling with the NY/HELP group to Honduras to offer his medical services in a town called La Laguna up in the mountains. In due time, he helped set up a clinic and many times travelled with his family, some of my students, and even a RPCV who served as a nurse in Honduras. Unfortunately, I never made the trip, but I am determined I need to do this sooner than later and learn all about this beautiful place that Gordon so loved.

Some of you may recall when he and Ginger presented to our RPCV group during National PC week about his adventures and the amazing work the group was doing in La Laguna.

Gordon, you will be missed and I sure you are watching over us.
Donations may be sent to Arcade UCC (PO Box 95 Arcade, NY 14009) or NY/HELP Honduras (PO Box 551 Dewitt, NY 13214).

The board has agreed to donate $250.00 to the NY/Honduras Medical Mission in Dr. Comstock’s name.

A few more words that I found in Gordon’s church bulletin about his adventures to Honduras.

“Doctor Gordon,” as he was known in Honduras, was respected and adored by people living in a wide area around La Laguna. When word got around that Doctor Gordon was in the clinic, people would often walk for miles to be seen by him. In addition to treating their existing medical issues, Gordon worked tirelessly to educate people about ways they could make changes in and around their homes to eliminate many respiratory and intestinal problems. He encouraged several of the women to take the training needed to serve their communities with their medical needs when he was not there. As NY/HELP expanded to include an educational component, Gordon actively encouraged young people to pursue a vocational or academic education so they could provide a better life for their families. Over the years, cell towers were built on top of some of the hills around La Laguna, and many people gained access to the internet, in spite of their poverty. Gordon found this to be a useful way to communicate with people in Honduras, to make sure they received medical supplies and other monetary aid to continue the work of NY/HELP. A number of his Honduran friends became his friends on Facebook, and he enjoyed communicating with them. Following his death, Facebook tributes poured in, not only from Americans, but from people in Honduras and Ghana, where he served in the Peace Corps after college.

Submitted by Andy

Upcoming Events and Save the dates

Friends and Family event: Come celebrate with us! We are assisting Anne Tatarsky, our local recruiter, with an event to mingle with prospective PCVS and with those that will be leaving for their service in the new year. We are sharing our experiences, discussing our challenges, answering any questions they might have, and of course the rewards of our service. Your friends and family are invited to join us as well!

It will also be a nice way to kick off the holiday season and reminisce about your holiday season in your host country.

Date: Wednesday December 4, 2019

Time: 6:00 – 9:00 pm.

Where: Expo Market 617 Main St, Buffalo. There is also an entrance from Washington St. This is right in the heart of the theatre district. We have done our best to make sure there are no events at Sheas or Key Bank Center.,
RSVP: to Andy by Monday Dec 2. buffalorpcv@yahoo.com or 716-228-9540. Anne and I would just like to know who is coming in advance.

Cost: Pay a la carte.

The Expo Market has a full bar and 5 restaurants to choose from including ethnic food. 
https://www.expobuffalo.com/

📅 Thursday January 16, 2020: We will support Journey’s End WNY Refugee film festival at 6:00 p.m. for the movie I AM ROHINGYA: A GENOCIDE IN FOUR ACTS

We will have first dibs on individual movie tickets. Details will come in January.


Fundraiser

_bluegreen_Need holiday gifts?_ 2020 Peace Corps Calendars ($13) and note cards ($8)) are now available for purchase. It is only one of two fundraisers so let’s make it a success. They can be acquired at our events or email: Jeri can be reached at jerititus@yahoo.com.

Highlights

Thank you for your monetary donations, decorations and kid activities, salads, and rolls. Thanks for helping with set up, serving, cleaning, and playing with the children.

Our guests are from Rwanda, Senegal, Nigeria, Ghana, Afghanistan, El Salvador, Honduras, and Jamaica. It was an afternoon enjoyed by all. Best of all, we have in invite to return next year.
Something of Interest

Dear RPCVs,

Good Morning! Or, as we say here in northwestern Benin, naa suba!

I am a 2017 SUNY Geneseo grad and current TEFL volunteer in the Atacora region of Benin. My village, Chabi Couma, is in the process of fundraising for a library. See our project here:

https://www.peacecorps.gov/donate/projects/secondary-school-library-pp-19-680-015/?fbclid=IwAR2SbZIw74zaqBHzf57mKQtz_p5UlwU2UPEu8EIXLbLXhfARg1kQOZUBrmQ

I am reaching out to RPCVs of Western NY in the hopes that you could share this project with returned peace corps volunteers, their friends, and family. In order to begin construction, we need to be fully funded. We only have $2,000 to go until that happens!

I cannot stress enough the importance of this library for our high school. Our students are motivated, bright and hard-working. Yet the lack of resources - more specifically, textbooks - gives them an unfortunate disadvantage in their efforts to continue their education. We want to solve that problem.

I'd appreciate any support or guidance in the final stages of fundraising for this project. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with questions, and see some of my students in the photo below!

Thank you for your time.

Emma Bixler
TEFL Volunteer
Chabi Couma
Peace Corps Benin
Hi!
I’m an RPCV (Namibia 2017-2019) and I wanted to inform Buffalo RPCV’s that I am still running a pen pal program called ‘Building Cultural Bridges’ with Namibian schools and schools in the Western New York area. It’s actually been so successful that the nonprofit I now work for (Educators of America) was awarded a New York State Department of Education Grant for three years.

Here is a link to the program page on the Educators of America’s website: [www.educatorsusa.org/our-programs/bcb-program](http://www.educatorsusa.org/our-programs/bcb-program)

And here are a few links to the program in action:

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5qOyyXF_SKc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5qOyyXF_SKc)
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HQLa_6mvNaQ&t=8s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HQLa_6mvNaQ&t=8s)
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dbQrFbXDJB4&t=34s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dbQrFbXDJB4&t=34s)

Please let me know if you’d like some photos or more information about it! I’d be happy to discuss. Thanks!

Best,

Brett Claydon
Director of Business & International Development
Educators of America, Inc
bclaydon@educatorsusa.org
(716) 444-2996

**Updates:**

Let There Be Light International conducted annual Solar Site Visits in Kenya and Uganda and met with hundreds of solar beneficiaries.

We inspected 5 solar-electrified health clinics, visited 16 solar recipient homes, and held 3 community-wide solar celebrations for our innovative *Safe Births + Healthy Homes* project with more than 850 community members, health workers and beneficiaries.

It is illuminating to see how the simple gift of solar lights can brighten lives and keep communities safe and healthy!

The Girls Education Collaborative based here in Buffalo has a new website.

[https://girlsedcollaborative.org/?blm_aid=22137](https://girlsedcollaborative.org/?blm_aid=22137)

Thank you for contacting me to express your opposition to S.2320, the Peace Corps Mission Accountability Act.

The Peace Corps traces its roots and mission to 1961, when then-President John F. Kennedy challenged young Americans to serve their nation in the cause of peace by living and working in developing nations. Since its inception, more than 210,000 Peace Corps volunteers have given their time to further the cause of peace and friendship among nations. The Peace Corps remains a fundamental institution in promoting goodwill among nations and championing American values around the world.

As you are aware, S.2320 was introduced by Senator Rick Scott on July 30, 2019 to remove the Peace Corps’ independent status and instead include it under the Department of State’s jurisdiction. Additionally, this would incorporate the Peace Corps budget into the overall budget of the State Department and authorize the Secretary of State to allocate funds to the Peace Corps. S.2320 is currently being reviewed by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and I will continue to closely monitor its progress as it makes its way through the Senate.

Again, thank you for contacting me. Please keep in touch with your thoughts and opinions.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator
GREETINGS FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER:

Wishing you blessings of health, happiness & success on Thanksgiving & always!

Warmth of joy, glow of prosperity, sparkle of happiness... may you be blessed with all these & more!

Happy Hanukkah!

Family gatherings are usually done this time of the season. Meaningful memories are always done with the ones you love.

Happy Holidays everyone!
Check out our webpage!  www.buffalorpcv.org

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RETURNED PLACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS OF
BUFFALO, NEW YORK
2019 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 Jeni 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: ________________________________ Zip: __________________________
State: _______________________________

Telephone: __________________________  Cell: __________________________
E-Mail: ______________________________

II. Peace Corps Service Information (if applicable):

Country(ies) of Service: ________________________________
Dates of Service: ________________________________
Primary Service Role: ________________________________