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

Bringing the Peace Corps to Western New York

Vol. XIII: No. 8 August 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 and now Instagram

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

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Our new Instagram account is peace_corps_buffalo
Upcoming Events and Save the dates

Social Gathering Friday August 16th from 6:00 pm at the Thin Man, 166 Chandler Street. No need to RSVP. Just show up and enjoy an evening with other RPCVS. FYI Lisa and Ryan Ried will be hosting RPCVS that served with them in Lesotho.
https://thinmanbrewery.com/

Volunteer opportunities:

United Way Day Of Caring
RPCV of Buffalo has been assigned to work at the Museum of disAbility History-People INC. We are hoping to have 10 volunteers for this event.

Date: Wednesday August 21st from
Time: 9:00-noon
Address: 3826 Main Street, Buffalo, NY, Corner of Main St. and Maynard
There is a parking lot.

RSVP: Andy Smith by Monday August 19th via email, text, or phone call. 716-228-9540
Email: buffalorpcv@yahoo.com

Project description: Getting dirty by either painting or working in a garden. Wear sneakers or work boots and bring your own gloves. If you have supplies, it can’t hurt to bring them.

We can go out to lunch as a group. Some suggestions: Amy’s place, Lake Effect Diner, Sato Ramen or Venus

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

- September: to be determined
- October: annual fall fest: to be determined
- Thanksgiving dinner: to be determined
It was a beautiful evening for Italian Night at our annual Bison’s game. Thanks to those who purchased tickets.

Board member Andy began her Peace Corps journey 25 years ago and what an anniversary she had by hosting her Peace Corps host sisters from June 30-July 12th. It was their first visit to the US and she helped with all of the details from getting the visa, booking plane tickets, getting her house ready for 5 guests (2 sisters, 1 spouse and 2 kids), grocery shopping, etc. As their tour guide, translator..... every day was packed with events such as visiting Niagara Falls, Amish Country, Canalside, Naval Park, top of city hall, the zoo, the botanical gardens, the Basilica, Chestnut Ridge and the Eternal Flame, Letchworth Park, the beach, the Bisons Independence Day game, Independence Day bbq, and of course fireworks along lake Erie. Oh and shopping and then some.....They had a lot of firsts such as going through the car wash, experiencing our long summer days with early sun rises and late sunsets, and of course eating all of the WNY food favorites. They enjoyed preparing meals together, hanging out on her porch and helping out around her house. It was an exhilarating time together.
Buffalo, NY has had an unexpected influx of refugees and asylum seekers coming from the war-torn African nation of the Democratic Republic of Congo. At a recent meeting of the Buffalo RPCV Board of Directors, the officers unanimously voted to honor an emergency request for food and material assistance made by RPCV, Anna Ireland Mongo who is the chief program officer at Vive’. To this end, the Buffalo RPCVs will contribute $250 to address the urgent need at Vive’ and request that our members match this total by making a small donation. The Center is located at 50 Wyoming Ave. on the City’s Eastside.

At one point, in the early 2000s, Vive’ was America’s largest refugee resettlement residence. When she was questioned about the unexpected surge of Congolese arrivals, Anna implied that the shelter was simply overwhelmed by the sudden flood of new residents. She said, "We didn't know it was coming," she continued, "We don't know when it's going to end. We don't know if this is just the first of many waves."

Now, Mongo and others at the shelter are trying to figure out how to help them. The shelter is known, virtually around the world, as a prime stop off point for asylum-seekers trying to immigrate into Canada. This group of refugees was processed by U.S. immigration, granted temporary asylum, and allowed to remain in the U.S. Many ended up in San Antonio, TX and Portland, ME, where there is a large Congolese immigrant population. Mongo said, “That means they are all documented and awaiting adjudication in the U.S. court system.” Your Buffalo RPCV officers plan to keep you updated as the crisis at Vive’ resolves.

RPCV of Buffalo will match up to another $250. If interested in donating, click the link below https://www.buffalorpcv.org/cpages/local-partners-buffalo-new-york
and then click on the JERICHO Road logo and kindly let us know that you made a donation by sending an email to: buffalorpcv@yahoo.com.

other related articles

Below is repeated from previous newsletter, just in case you missed it.
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.
RETURNED PEACE 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 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: __________________________________________