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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!

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

Advocacy Locally with Congressman Higgins and Senator Gillibrand: Monday March 11, 2019 in the Larkin Building at 4:00 p.m.

TBD: an event with Teacher of the year Mandy Manning
May: annual send off and welcome home event
June: annual meeting, Let There Be Light Fundraiser
July: Bison Baseball game
August: United Way Day of Caring

Highlights

Thanks to all who joined us for a day of curling. It was enjoyed by all. The idea to go curling came from board member Mac, who was unable to attend our event. However, he made it to a “learn to curl” session with Andy. The board hopes to do the event again in the future.
On Sunday March 3rd we celebrated the Peace Corps’ 58th birthday at the Fuze Asian Grill. The food was delicious and our presentation by Sarah Baird, from Let There be Light International was very informational and extremely interesting.

Sarah asked that we spread the word, Luci Lights (see above photos) have a promo code for the Peace Corps. The code is: PEACECORPSVOLUNTEER30

https://mpowerd.com/collections/shop?gclid=CjwKCAiA2tjjBRAjEiwAuewS_aMLuOdXARiajXl hsvDbYv16Q41-6StG b6W5gVrQiak14Cq3scXCvh oChM UQAvD_BwE

She also looks forward to having RPCV volunteers again at LTBLI’s Solar Celebration on June 18th at Silo City!

**Something of Interest:**

**Peace Corps Advocacy:**

[Write Your Members of Congress During NPCA’s National Days of Action](https://advocacy.peacecorpsconnect.org/email-congress#/43)

Each year during Peace Corps Week, National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) urges you to share your Peace Corps experience with Senators and Representatives who make decisions on Peace Corps funding and policy. Please take five minutes to write your lawmakers and then ask five others you know to do the same! We encourage you to personalize your message and reference your Peace Corps service.

[https://advocacy.peacecorpsconnect.org/email-congress#/43](https://advocacy.peacecorpsconnect.org/email-congress#/43)
From our very own:

John Rex wrote another piece for the My View section of the Buffalo News.

In the summer of 1962, I was one of more than 300 recruits who arrived at Georgetown University for a summer program of training to be Peace Corps volunteers in the first group to be sent to Ethiopia. As we arrived, singly or in groups, we were greeted by the man who was to be our country director, Harris Wofford.

Those were hectic days, really chaotic, as the Peace Corps tried to figure out how to prepare to send so many people to a distant land. Occasionally, we were inspired by personal contacts with Peace Corps director Sargent Shriver, and regularly by Harris, who made a point of getting to know each trainee and staying with the program.

One aspect of training in those days was the “deselection” process. Over the course of weeks, we were observed, had background checks and met with psychologists. Toward the end of training some people were cut, and in our busy routine, they simply disappeared. It appeared that LGBTQ people were among those not welcome in the Peace Corps at that time. It was only years later I learned how many of us volunteers had been in the closet in those early years. Wofford contributed a great deal to our overseas experience, visiting our site and sending written accounts of what was going on elsewhere. I learned then some of his extraordinary history of being the person who suggested that John F. Kennedy call Coretta King when her husband was in jail, an action that may have contributed to Kennedy’s narrow victory in the presidential race.

Occasionally, we volunteers were invited to the Wofford home in Addis Ababa. I remember meeting Sargent Shriver there, and having a long conversation with Bill Moyers. And playing bridge with Mrs. Wofford, Clare, as my partner.

After I finished my two years in Ethiopia, Harris Wofford provided a recommendation when I applied to teach in Akron, N.Y. He kept in contact with many of us and attended many reunions of returned volunteers.

Wofford had an exceptional and varied career. After being one of the first white students to graduate from historically black Howard University in Washington, he marched with Dr. King in Selma and later became President Kennedy’s special assistant for civil rights. After playing a critical role in establishing the Peace Corps, he served as president of SUNY Old Westbury on Long Island for five years and president of Bryn Mawr for eight years. After
serving as Pennsylvania’s secretary of industry, he became a U.S. senator from that state until he was defeated by Rick Santorum. After that he served as chief executive of the Corporation for National and Community Service, the agency that administers AmeriCorps.

In 2011, the National Peace Corps Association established the Harris Wofford Global Citizen Award to recognize annually an outstanding global leader whose life was influenced by the Peace Corps and who grew up and continues to live in a country where Peace Corps volunteers serve.

In 2016, Harris, then a widower, published an essay in The New York Times in which he announced that he was in a relationship with a younger man. He married Matthew Charlton, “the second love of his life,” later that year. Harris died on Jan. 21, 2019. I feel fortunate to have known such an extraordinary person.

SAVE THE DATE: Taste of Tanzania 2019
GEC is proud to announce Taste of Tanzania 2019
Monday, May 13, 2019
6-8:30pm
Westminster Presbyterian Church
724 Delaware Ave, Buffalo, NY
We hope you will join us for a night of fun, food and African culture. Chef Louise will be preparing a menu with Tanzanian favorites, including her famous samosas and mandazi.
Ticket sales will be announced soon.
Sponsorship opportunities are going fast!!!
If you are interested in being a featured sponsor, contact Erin Klass: erinklass.gec@gmail.com or (716) 710-8105

It is membership renewal time and if you haven’t officially joined our local group, please consider joining.
Registration on the next page
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: ____________________________