



An Affiliate of the National Peace Corps Association

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July 2019 UPCOMING EVENTS

<p><u>Sunday, August 11th</u> Summer Picnic Middle Island</p>	<p><u>Sunday, September 22nd</u> Cow Harbor Parade and Celebration Northport</p>
<p><u>Sunday, November 10th</u> Fall Gathering Eastport</p>	<p><u>Panel Discussions/ Presentations</u> Various Dates/Venues</p>

We hope you can join us for at least one activity. We always welcome your ideas in planning future events (projects, gatherings, dinners etc.)

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ANNUAL REQUEST FOR DUES

There is no longer a yearly membership fees for NPCA (National Peace Corps Association). Any one can now join for free. However, NPCA does encourage contributions which will be used to fund projects. People who send donations to NPCA will be called "Project Partners."

All returned PC volunteers will automatically become members of NPCA. To continue receiving *Worldview* magazine, a person would have to be a Project Partner or have given another type of donation.

They will still process the \$15 membership fee to join the Long Island affiliate if you choose to send your dues through the national organization. Otherwise, you can (please) just send your \$15 check, made out to "RPCVs of Long Island," to **Kathy Williams-Ging**, 2 Prospect Drive South, Huntington Station, NY 11746

Our local dues are used to support projects that are most relevant to our members. Examples include helping to fund, libraries, school construction and playgrounds where Long Island PCVs are currently serving.

Thank you!

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUMMER PICNIC IN MIDDLE ISLAND

Sunday, August 11th, 2 p.m.

Brian and Gina Richardson have offered to host our summer gathering at their home in Middle Island. After discussion with many of you we have decided that it's time for all of us to sit back and enjoy each others' company and conversation without having to prepare or cook food.

On that note, we will be catering this summer's picnic at a cost of **\$15 per person**. We will supply the meal and dessert; you only need to bring what you would like to drink. If you have any dietary restrictions, please let Brian and Gina know and they'll be happy to try to accommodate them.

Please **send your checks to Brian and Gina no later than August 3rd** so the caterers will have adequate time to prepare.

The picnic will start at 2 p.m. at the Richardson's home in the Birchwood at Springlake Condominiums on Middle Country Rd. (Rt. 25) in Middle Island. The address is 829 Spring Lake Drive, Court 20, Middle Island, NY. RSVP to Brian and Gina. Call or text at 631-846-8118 or 516-551-3117. We hope to see you there.

(Since this is a gated community, you will need to show your driver's license to enter. After the gate, make an immediate right, to end, then turn left; Court 20 will be on the left; if there is no room in the parking lot, park on the street)

COW HARBOR PARADE AND CELEBRATION--NORTHPORT

- **Sunday, September 22nd**
- Join us as we march behind our RPCV-LI banner in an old-fashioned Main Street parade, followed by harbor-front activities. We have always received an enthusiastic welcome from the spectators and our fellow marchers
- Families and friends are welcome and encouraged to march with us!
- The staging area is at the Laurel Avenue--William Brosnan School; signs there will direct you to the gathering spot for our group; plan to be there by 11:15 a.m. Leave yourself time to park since there are some street closures
- Directions will be included in the reminder e-mail

2018 Cow Harbor



FALL GATHERING IN EASTPORT

Enjoy the beautiful fall season out East!

- **Sunday, November 10th, 1 p.m.**
- Home of Lou and **Linda Restaino-Merola**, 113 Overture Place, Eastport
- Please R.S.V.P. to Linda at LRM1980@aol.com or call/text 516-242-2041
- If you would like to bring something, suggestions are a dessert, wine or a buffet dish
- Family and friends are welcome!
- Directions will be in the reminder e-mail

FACEBOOK PAGE AND NEW WEB PAGE

FACEBOOK PAGE

Please log onto and like our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LIRPCV>. It contains information about our members and activities. Call or email **Lyn Dobrin** (Kenya '65-'67) if you have questions or items of interest you would like her to post: 516-997-8545; lyndobrin@gmail.com

NEW WEB PAGE

We have been developing a web page, through NPCA and the efforts of Kathy Williams-Ging. We expect the website to launch shortly. Everyone that we have an email for will receive notification when we launch the website. You will have the opportunity to create a password to access the website and set privacy settings. It will be another way to access pictures and news of the group and our activities.

ABOUT US

KENYA EDUCATION FUND (KEF)

Long Island RPCV, **Bradley Broder** (Kenya '99-'01) founded Kenya Education Fund (KEF) together with his host country national counterpart, Dominic Muasya, to help Kenyans become self-reliant and improve their country. Because high school is not free in Kenya, KEF provides about 500 students a year with 4-year boarding scholarships and helps them transition to universities within Kenya and around the world, including Harvard! KEF also provides supplementary programming such as Life Skills Training, Career Coaching and reproductive health education to each scholar.

Since 2001, KEF has served over 2,500 Kenyans who are using their education to launch careers and break the cycle of dependency.

Here's how you can help:

- **Make a donation!** KEF accepts contributions of any amount, including securities and matching gifts. Give online at the address below, or send a check made to Kenya Education Fund to 360 E. 72nd St. C3405 , New York, NY 10021
- **Sponsor a Student for \$750/yr (or \$63/mo)** – when you sponsor a student, 100% of your gift goes to keeping a student in boarding school for 4-years. You will receive emails of scanned letters from your student a may reply if you wish (a pledge of 4-years is required)
- **Attend our events** – KEF's 9th Annual Golf Tournament will take place on Thursday, Sept. 26th at the Muttontown Club.
- **Follow us** on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn

If you are interested in learning more about how you can change someone's world, visit us at www.KenyaEducationFund.org or email Bradley at broder@kenyaeducationfund.org



KENYAN FOLK TALES

Lyn Dobrin published a collection of folk tales from the area where she and **Arthur** served in Kisii, Kenya ('65-'67). The book is still in print these many years later and used in the schools of Kenya and Tanzania. All of the royalties have been used to pay school fees for a few Kenyan students and to help build a house. The impact of Peace Corps Volunteers extends beyond the years of service!

RECENT EVENTS

PEDALS FOR PROGRESS BICYCLE/SEWING MACHINE COLLECTION

On May 4, 2019 we held our 17th bicycle and sewing machine collection for Pedals for Progress and Sewing Peace.

We partnered with the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island Youth Group (for our third time). A big Thank You to the Ethical Society for providing the space, volunteers and a bake sale!

We collected 69 bicycles, 35 sewing machines, and \$1,474 in cash donations .

Thank you to all of the RPCVs of LI, Youth Group members, and family and friends who worked so hard to accomplish this.

RPCVs included **Bette Williams Bass** (Ethiopia '66-'69) and **Kathy Williams Ging**, (Peru '71-'73), who co chaired the collection, and **Lyn Dobrin** (Kenya '65-'67), our Media/Publicity coordinator. The other volunteers from the RPCVs of LI were **Tim Ging**, **Brian Richardson** (South Korea '67-'69) ,**Linda Restaino-Merola** (Philippines '67-69), **Lou Merola**, **Arthur Dobrin** (Kenya '65-'67), **Michael Kreitschman**, **Mary Watros** (Dominican Republic '85-'88), **Laura Lustbader**, **Toby DeSimone** (Malaysia '69-'71), **Christina Lombardi Gasiewski** (Grenada '04-'06), **Chris Gasiewski**, and our youngest volunteers, **Mason Gasiewski** and **Dylan Gasiewski**.

The Ethical Humanist Society volunteers were **Alison Pratt**, who coordinated the Ethical Society volunteers, **Margaret Cullimore**, **Adam Romanelli**, **Deirdre Amukowa**, **Paulina Amukowa**, **Rebecca Amukowa**, **Arti Devjani** and **Ryan Keane**.

If you have not participated in one of our bike/sewing machine collections, please consider joining us next year at our 18th collection. This is our RPCVs of LI yearly service project. We have a lot of fun, meet many interesting people, and contribute to a good cause. (And there are usually brownies or munchkins)



ANNUAL DINNER

Our thanks to **Kathy Williams-Ging** for again arranging our spring dinner which was held on June 25th. This year we gathered at Rincon Criollo Cuban Restaurant in Huntington.





PEACE CORPS THIRD GOAL EVENTS

"Bringing the World Back Home"

"To promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of America"

Throughout the year our members speak to schools, community groups etc. about their experiences. Two recent organized events took place, one at SUNY Stony Brook and the other at the Ethical Humanist Society in Garden City.

"Peace Corps Send-Off"

On April 24th, **Danica Kemins** (Cape Verde '93-'95), the Peace Corps Recruiter at Stony Brook, organized a gathering to support students who have already been accepted as Peace Corps Volunteers, as well as to answers questions to those students interested in applying.

The following RPCVs volunteered to share their experiences: **Linda Restaino-Merola, Bette Williams Bass, Kathy Williams-Ging, Dennis Brennen, Christina Gasiewski**

"Through the Decades with the Peace Corps"

On Sunday, June 30th, five members of our Long Island RPCV group spoke to a receptive audience at The Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island. **Lyn Dobrin** (Kenya '65-'67)) organized the event and asked the speakers to address the following:

--Why did you join the Peace Corp?

--What was your job there?

--What lessons did you learn?

--Did being in the Peace Corps change your life? How?

Speakers represented the:

'60s--**Bette Williams Bass** (Ethiopia '66-'69)

'70s--**Kathy Williams-Ging** (Peru '71-73)

'80s--**Mary Watros** (Dominican Republic '85-'88)

-90s--**Bradley Broder** (Kenya '99-'01)

'00s--**Christina Gasiewski** (Granada '04-'06)

Delicia Kamins, (Cape Verde '93-'95), the Peace Corps Recruiter at Stony Brook University, also spoke about her experiences



Lyn Dobrin, Bette Bass, Kathy Williams-Ging, Bradley Broder, Christina Gasiewski, Delicia Kamins

PROJECT UPDATES

Larry Hohler, an Honorary Member of our Long Island RPCV group, has long raised funds for orphans at a school he co-established in Kenya. He and Kevin Mann, a teacher at Shoreham-Wading River High School, have taken groups of students to Kenya. Following is the impact that it has made on one of those students:

Stevie Michele has joined the Peace Corps!

"Stevie Micheli graduated from SUNYSB in 2018, unsure of the direction her future would take. She contemplated going to graduate school, but felt she needed a different kind of continuing education. While at Shoreham-Wading River High School, she joined the Global Awareness Club, in part because of her respect for Kevin Mann, its sponsor and her social studies teacher. The purpose of the Global Awareness Club was to foster the appreciation and connectedness of the world's people. Mr. Mann had joined forces with Larry Hohler, a recently retired Smithtown CSD social studies teacher who had spent a sabbatical leave teaching in Kenya in the mid-70's. Hohler (a returned Peace Corps adoptee) was supporting a home for AIDS-affected orphans that he founded with Joseph Kirima, one of his former students there. In 2007, Mann began taking Global Awareness Club student groups to visit, along with the Hohlers, to the Jerusha Mwiraria Hope Children's Home in Meru in order to learn about the lives of the children and to work on service projects. Stevie joined the group traveling to Kenya in her junior year. The experience changed her life and broadened her understanding of how most of the world's people live. After graduation, she

spent some time talking to Mr. Mann and his wife Aida about her options. After much thoughtful dialogue, Stevie signed up for the Peace Corps. She has just completed her training in Mazabuka District (Southern Province), 125 Km from Lusaka. She has begun working in the Zambian countryside among subsistence farmers to help them increase their crop yields. In Manyana, the village where she has been assigned, the local tongue is Tonga. Her nickname, Mizinga, was given to her by the village headman. This name was taken from his cousin who recently passed away, and who was known in his community as a hard working farmer. Stevie is the third PC to come to Manyana, but the first female. Stevie's service will surely be appreciated by the people with whom she works. As she continues to learn about life in the developing world, she will also be sharing "First World" ideas and knowledge while spreading good will as a U.S. representative to that emerging nation."



Stevie (on left) in Zambia

We are looking forward to meeting Stevie when she returns to Long Island!

Stevie served on the gala committee for two years before joining the Peace Corps



PEACE CORPS/ RPCV NEWS

RPCVs of LI Advocacy Coordinator:

The National Peace Corps Association's mission is to champion lifelong commitment to Peace Corps Ideals. The goals are to help the Peace Corps be the best that it can be and to empower members and affiliate groups (such as RPCVs of LI) to thrive. To help accomplish this, the NPCA has encouraged affiliate groups to have an Advocacy Coordinator.

Bette Williams Bass (Ethiopia '66-'69) will be our Advocacy Coordinator.

As Advocacy Coordinator for Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Long Island, Bette will act as liaison between NPCA's Advocacy Director and our RPCVs of Long Island so that we can carry out strategies to advance key public policy initiatives, including Peace Corps/international assistance appropriations, addressing health care challenges facing the Peace Corps community and other policies designed to recognize, honor and support the Peace Corps and its alumni.

ADVOCACY NEWS

Periodically Bette will be contacting you to inform you of actions that we can take that will help both the Peace Corps and the Peace corps community.

Recent Actions include:

1) Dear Colleague letters:

Each spring, the Peace Corps community mobilizes to support letters issued in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives urging robust funding for the Peace Corps. As a result of all of our efforts, the House letter received a record number of 181 signatures, and the Senate letter also received a record number of 41 signatures. With such a high number of signatures, it is more likely that Congress will include an increase in Peace Corps's budget for the 2020 Fiscal Year.

Thank You to all RPCVs of LI who took the time to contact their Representatives and Senators.

2) Appropriations Bill:

As the House was getting ready to vote on the State/Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, which includes \$425 million for the Peace Corps, NPCA learned one of the currently proposed amendments to be debated, proposed by Rep. Mark Walker (R-NC), called for cutting \$19.1 billion from the bill by eliminating a number of programs, including the Peace Corps. This would have eliminated all funding for the Peace Corps for fiscal year 2020.

We contacted all of you and asked that you reach out to your Representatives asking that they vote no on the amendment. It was short notice, but a number of us were able to respond. Bette contacted the offices 4 of the L I Representatives, and was able visit Peter King's District Office.

Below is the result, supplied by NPCA:

UPDATE: 81 House Republicans joined 234 House Democrats to defeat the Walker amendment by a vote of 315 to 110. To view how your Representative voted, follow this link: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2019/roll335.xml>

A very gratifying outcome! As we all know, even eliminating Peace Corps funding for one year would result in many years of effort to get programs up and running again-if indeed that were possible! Good work, RPCVs of LI!!

Ongoing Actions:

We are sharing a letter from members of the [#PeaceCorps](#) community urging support for the Respect for Peace Corps Volunteers Act to allow former volunteers and officers and employees to use the seal, emblem, or name of Peace Corps on death announcements and grave stone:

"We write to you as Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and/or former staff who served in the 1960's, 70's, and 80's. As many from our generation of service are growing older, we imagine many share our view that we would like to be able to have our Peace Corps service recognized by allowing the placement of the official Peace Corps seal or emblem at gravesites and in death notices. Unfortunately, the use of the seal or emblem for this purpose is not specified as an allowed use under the Peace Corps Act. Because of this, it is illegal to use the Peace Corps symbol for this purpose. Thankfully, a bill in the House of Representatives – H.R. 1411 – has been introduced in Congress to make a simple fix – change the Peace Corps Act so the seal or emblem can be used at gravesites and in death notices.*The bill has not yet passed – not necessarily because of opposition, but more likely because of limited attention given to it.

We are working with National Peace Corps Association to pass this bill. But we need your help.

Please [follow this link](#) so you can sign a petition to Congress, offer a comment and help us pass this simple, sensible legislation to honor Peace Corps service.

Thank you for your Peace Corps service and your consideration of this request"