



An Affiliate of the National Peace Corps Association

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## July 2020

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### FACEBOOK PAGE /PEACE CORPS CONNECT PAGE

Please log onto and like our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LIRPCV>. It contains information about our members, photos and activities, as well as NPCA and Peace Corps news. 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](mailto:lyndobrin@gmail.com)  
Also please view our Peace Corps Connect page:  
<https://rpcvsoflongisland.peacecorpsconnect.org>

Unfortunately, we did not or will not participate in the following events in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We hope we can resume all activities in 2021:

- Pedals for Progress/Sewing for Peace
- Spring Dinner
- Summer Picnic
- Northport Cow Harbor Day Parade
- Fall Annual Gathering in Eastport

**Kathy Williams -Ging** (Peru '71-'73) who, along with **Bette Williams Bass** (Ethiopia '66-'69) coordinates our Pedals collection writes:

"Our annual collection for Pedals for Progress, originally scheduled for May, was cancelled because of Covid 19 restrictions. We are hoping that we will be able to safely reschedule for May 2021. Kathy and her husband, Tim, have continued to accept donations from people who do not want to wait that long." They presently have 15 bicycles and 13 sewing machines stored to start off the next collection.

Also from Kathy:

We would like to thank all of our members who have sent in their \$15 dues to renew their membership. When you renew through NPCA, Kathy Williams-Ging is notified and updates your membership status on the website. If you send Kathy a check, she does the same. If you have any questions about your membership status, you may always call or email Kathy (631-549-4873, [ktsging@optonline.net](mailto:ktsging@optonline.net)).

## **Kenya Education Fund/Femme Forces Nonprofit Organization**

The Kenya Education Fund (KEF) was founded by former Peace Corps Volunteer, **Bradley Broder** in 2006. KEF is an international nonprofit organization that provides academic scholarships, as well as life-skills and career mentoring workshops, to bright Kenyan students in both Primary and Secondary school who cannot afford to fund their education.

**Arthur and Lyn Dobrin** (Kenya '65-'67), and **Brad** (Kenya '99-'01) have been working closely with two New Hyde Park students who are setting up this new program. Their plan is to start by doing something internationally, thus the Kenya Education Fund and also something locally perhaps applying sanitary napkins to a women's shelter. They are hoping that RPCVs will help support their efforts.

"COVID-19 has presented many barriers in regards to accessibility for Kenyan students who are now subjected to repeat the 2020 School Year as a result of the virus. For many young women that indicates a severed connection to a proper hygienic well being. In this project we are striving to fundraise enough money for a year's (or more) worth of supply in sanitary products and feminine self-care. \$1 will provide a 1 months supply, \$3 will provide 3 months of supply, and of course \$12 will be a whole year! This way, we can help these bright young women reallocate their energy into self growth and not the lack of self-care. Please feel free to follow our Social Medias and check out our website to learn more about us , our mission and our ambition!"

Even a small donation could help Rafia Ahmed and Gauri Shyamnath reach their fundraising goal. And if you can't make a donation, it would be great if you could share the fundraiser to help spread the word. Thanks for taking a look!

Their GoFundMe site:

<https://gf.me/u/ypijxf> (CTRL click)

## **Update on Hope Children's Home in Meru, Kenya**

The Jerusha Mwararia Hope Children's Home in Meru, Kenya is struggling with the same virus concerns faced by Long Islanders. The nearly 100 children and staff at the Home are trying to follow the same protocols that we are encouraged to use. Joseph Kirima Rwito, the founder of the Home, died early this year and left a void in leadership that has been filled by Joe's widow Veronica, and Betty Gakii, a young woman who grew up at the Home and returned to assist Joseph after she graduated from College. Kelvin Koome, another alumni of the Home (He was one of the original 18 orphans taken off the streets when we opened in 2005) now works as a Physician's Assistant. He came back to the Home last month, to give a talk on the need to follow the anti-virus protocols. Our kids now wash their hands several times a day, wear masks, and put up cloth dividers between beds in the dormitory. Outside visitors are strictly prohibited. The Home is located on a hill two miles from Meru town. Meru County has identified a relatively small number of people who have so far tested positive for the virus. The children spend their time studying, playing games, doing chores, and helping out at the farm. They look forward to returning to school. HCF is tentatively planning to hold its 15th Annual Bi-Continental Walk/Run at the Port Jefferson Greenway on October 18th. We will be having our "Passion for Education" Gala fundraiser at the East Wind Inn and Spa in Wading River on January 9, 2021. We are scrambling to cover the increased expenses related to the virus.

**Larry Hohler**

## Member Profile

(Since we are not currently reporting on activities, I thought it would be interesting to highlight a member each issue. Our first profile is Arthur Dobrin, our co-leader. If you would like to be profiled in the next issue or would like to profile another of our members, please let me know!)

From Lyn Dobrin:

"Linda Merola asked me to write something about Arthur Dobrin retiring from teaching at Hofstra and his many accomplishments such as writing and advocacy. She asked me because I write about stuff and since Arthur is my favorite stuff, she thought I could do a good job. The fact that he is my husband of 57 years she thinks is irrelevant. She instructed me not to be too modest on his behalf. As a PR person, modesty is not my middle name. I also thought, "Ooooh, maybe we can sell some books.

Then I had to inform her that contrary to the most recent message, Arthur is scheduled to teach another class next semester. A professor is taking a sabbatical and they offered one of his classes to Arthur. Yipee! That gets him out of the house a few days a week, or at least zooming on his computer.

Her spin on that was just say how they can't do without him due to popular demand. I think Linda could have a new career in PR.

So here goes:

Arthur is a person who is never bored. He always has an idea for a book or a project. Right after our marriage we went to Kenya where he worked in the Office of Cooperative Development. He translated the cooperative by-laws into Swahili. Seeing the level of corruption in the coops he anonymously wrote an expose that was published in the East African Journal and subsequently was invited to present a paper at an international conference on economic development held in Nairobi. The fact that nobody in the Peace Corps Office or Cooperative Development Office connected the dots is a miracle.

Returning home he became the leader of the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island—basically a humanist clergyman and continued as a community activist, ultimately getting a Masters in Human Relations from NYU, a certificate in family therapy from The Ackerman Family Institute and a Doctorate in Social Welfare from Adelphi University.

He has implemented many projects that include the LI Alliance for a Common Future, Amnesty International USA Group 74 and Police and Communities Talk.

He also began teaching at Hofstra where he has taught 20 different courses over the decades. My favorite was "The Mind of the Fanatic."





Also, Arthur is leading a discussion of his novel, Kwamboka's Inquiry. The book is set in Kenya.

A comment from a reader: "When I read Kwamboka's Inquiry, what struck me most was the accuracy of the lives of the people in rural Kenya. I write this having lived in such a setting myself. The idyllic life, with all its struggles and the hope of a better tomorrow is well expressed in this book. This precise crisscrossing of the country as he takes us into the lives of his characters is superb."

We will meet the first and second Tuesday of September at 7:00 (9/1 and 9/8) via Zoom. The book is available online and is also available on Kindle.

If anyone is interested in joining the discussion, contact Arthur at: [arthurdobrin@gmail.com](mailto:arthurdobrin@gmail.com)

## **ADVOCACY NEWS:**

**Bette Williams Bass** (Ethiopia '66-'69) is our Advocacy Coordinator

1. The Fiscal Year 2021 budget out of the House (H.R. 224- 189) includes flat funding of \$410.5 million for the Peace Corps. This is encouraging, since there are no programs active at this time. Part of the Peace Corps portion of the bill includes the proviso that the Peace Corps will begin redeployment when it is safe to do so. It is a requirement that when PC closes out a country program, the House must be formally informed. This was not done when China was closed. The House bill includes language that none of the Peace Corps funds being allocated to PC can be used to close out China until this is done.

2. Regarding the Menstrual Equity in the Peace Corps Bill: the House will ask the Peace Corps Director to determine how to make menstrual products affordable and accessible to Volunteers, either by a stipend or directly providing supplies, depending on the program.

3. Virtual District Meetings with Congressional Representatives. We are hoping to set up some meetings this fall. Please see the next article.

## **CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MEETINGS:**

**Bette** will be trying to set up virtual District meetings with Long Island Representatives, and if there's interest, with our Senators. These meetings will probably not be with the Representatives themselves, but with their Foreign Affairs staff (meetings with staff are just as productive). For those seats up for election,

we're hoping to set up a meeting with the candidates to express both our interest in and to see their views on the Peace Corps.

The NPCA Advocacy Director, Jonathan Pearson (Micronesia '87-'89) will be sending some talking points to help with the discussion. They will include funding, as well as evacuation and redeployment issues.

Hopefully NPCA can help with setting up a ZOOM account for these meetings.

If you are interested in participating in a virtual meeting, please email: [bettembass@gmail.com](mailto:bettembass@gmail.com)

## **Bilingual (Spanish) Administrative Assistant Opportunity on the South Shore of Long Island**

**Teckla Persons**, the New York area Peace Corps recruiter, just forwarded the following regarding an employment opportunity:

De: **Susie Krewer** <[susie@scionstaffing.com](mailto:susie@scionstaffing.com)>

Date: lun., 10 de ago. de 2020 a la(s) 15:08

Subject: Bilingual Administrative Assistant Opportunity | Let's Network!

...

**Thank you in advance for any opportunity to share the following with your network:** We currently have a Bilingual Administrative Assistant (Spanish) role open on the southern shore of Long Island, New York. This position is with a wonderful client of ours in the small business space!

We are seeking candidates who are highly organized, professional and positive! Experience working in a fully bilingual (Spanish/English) setting is a must; experience in an administrative setting is preferred but not required.

### **The perks of this position are great!**

- In-office 5 hours a day, immediate employment with the ability to turn into a full-time role if you are the right fit!
- A competitive pay rate of up to \$20.00 per hour DOE along with health, dental, and retirement benefits while on assignment!
- Fantastic team with an amazing company culture!

I have included the position description below. **Please let me know if you know anyone who would be interested in learning more.** I would love to speak with any interested candidates about the role and amazing organization!

### **How to Apply**

For immediate consideration, please visit the full job description here: <https://www.scionstaffing.com/job/6738> and apply directly or submit a resume via email to [laparse@scionstaffing.com](mailto:laparse@scionstaffing.com).

Thank you so much for any opportunity to share this with your network! We look forward to considering the backgrounds of all interested candidates!

Kindly,

Susie Cummings (Krewer)

Senior Recruiter and Staffing Manager

[susie@scionstaffing.com](mailto:susie@scionstaffing.com)

**Scion Staffing Inc.**

[scionstaffing.com](http://scionstaffing.com) | [scionexecutivesearch.com](http://scionexecutivesearch.com)

[sciontechnical.com](http://sciontechnical.com) | [scionnonprofitstaffing.com](http://scionnonprofitstaffing.com)

914.703.7089

[katdbowser@gmail.com](mailto:katdbowser@gmail.com)

## **PEACE CORPS NEWS**

Additional Peace Corps and National Peace Corps Association news can be found on out Facebook and Peace Corps Connect sites. However, we are reproducing the front cover of the recent World View magazine, the publication of the NPCA:

**"The unprecedented news came on March 15, 2020: Every Peace Corps Volunteer on the planet was being evacuated. Ripped from their communities, they came home to a country being hit by a global pandemic and a collapsing economy. Then the killing of George Floyd by police, and protests against racial injustice filled the streets. Now is a time of reckoning: for the country and for the Peace Corps community--here at home and around the world."**

**WE HOPE OUR MARCH NEWSLETTER WILL BE FILLED WITH PLANS FOR OUR USUAL EVENTS. MEANWHILE, STAY WELL AND BE OPTIMISTIC!!**