

RPCVs NENY Annual Report 2017 - Activities and Accomplishments

The RPCVs of NENY had a very active year. We continued to reach out to RPCVs in our community and have worked to engage our members with a variety of different types of activities. Here are the highlights...

Communications

Sarah Janeski, President of RPCVs NENY, and Maseeh Mukhtar, Vice President of RPCVs of NENY, reached out to new members who joined our group through NPCA, sending each a personalized welcome letter. They have also increased our presence on facebook and continue to update our website.

Group Gatherings and Meetings

Monthly Meetings

Our monthly meetings are always held on the first Tuesday of the month. We had twelve potluck meetings in 2017. Speakers included: Quisqueya Witbeck - Cuba, Meegan Winslow - RPCV Ethiopia, Eliot Cresswell (RPCV Morocco) - PC advocacy efforts, Renee St Jacques - RPCV Cameroon, Teresa Huang - RPCV Malawi, Becky Raymond (RPCV Malawi) - PC Connect Conference, Sarah Janeski (RPCV Kazakhstan) - work in American Samoa, John Winter - Environmental Planning in Dar es Salaam, and Peace Corps Recruiter Douglas Miller.

Annual Summer Picnic - July 8, 2017

Our annual summer picnic was held on July 16th at Bob Crowley's house in Poestenkill. 25-30 people were in attendance, including RPCVs, husbands and wives, and plenty of friends and family. A good time was had by all as we ate, drank, swam, and talked the day away.

Presentations and Educational Events

Many members gave presentations or tabled at events in the community. Some of the highlights from this year are listed below.

Film screening of "Girl Rising" at Sage College - April 11, 2017

The RPCVs of NENY collaborated with Sage College to bring a free film screening of the documentary "Girl Rising" to the public. The event was held April 11, 2017 at 6pm at Sage College's Bush Memorial Hall. Prior to the event we had a panel discussion involving local

organizations involved in promoting the health and welfare of women and girls locally and internationally. The goal of the project was to show those in attendance how they can become involved in these issues here in the community and beyond. Members of the panel included representatives from Peace Corps, The Legal Project, Women's Fund of the Capital Region, YWCA of the Greater Capital Region, and Zonta International. The event was well attended.

Advocacy Efforts

Several of our members met with local Republican Congress members to advocate for funding for Peace Corps in the upcoming federal budget. Eliot Cresswell coordinated a meeting with the staff of Congresswoman Elise Stefanik at her office in Glens Falls and Sue Senecah coordinated a meeting with Congressman John Faso at his office in Kinderhook.

Charitable Contributions

The RPCVs of Northeastern NY contributed to the following organizations/projects in 2017:

Corps Africa - <http://www.corpsafrica.org> - an organization begun by RPCVs that places highly skilled local citizens in high-poverty communities within their own country for a year.

Friends of Akuffo Tom School Complex - <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofakuffotomschool/> - support of a school in Ghana run by our members Harry and Joan Thornhill.

Jajja's Kids - <https://www.jajjaskids.org> - Provides housing and food to former street children in Uganda.

"My Tsogolo Magazine" aka "The Malawi Library Project" - <https://www.facebook.com/pg/mytsogolo/about/> - a project begun by one of our members, Teresa Huang, who just finished her service in Malawi. The goal of the project is to promote literacy in Malawi.

RISSE (Refugee and Immigrant Support Services) - <http://www.risse-albany.org/home/> - Serving over 200 refugee & immigrant families residing throughout the greater Albany area and representing 22+ countries of origin, RISSE is a 501c3 nonprofit offering full time adult and youth programing and a range of supportive services.