

BUFFALO RPCV

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

Bringing the Peace Corps
to Western New York



Vol. VI: No. 6

October 2012

IN THIS EDITION

- **Save the Date**
- **Upcoming Events!**
- **Fundraiser**
- **Recaps: Waterfront & Fall Volunteer Event- Habitat for Humanity**
- **Some Things of Interest...**
- **RPCV Buffalo Spotlight**

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.

Join Us on Facebook!

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

RPCV / BUFFALO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairperson-

Alexandra 'Andy' Smith
(Costa Rica)

Treasurer - Mac McCabe (Haiti)

Secretary – Jo Hagerty
(Senegal)

Public Relations & Newsletter

Editor – Elizabeth Oddy
(Uganda)

Webmaster-

Al Glosser (Chile)

Program - Victoria Orton-Joya
(Peru)

Membership - Tim Hartigan
(Thailand)

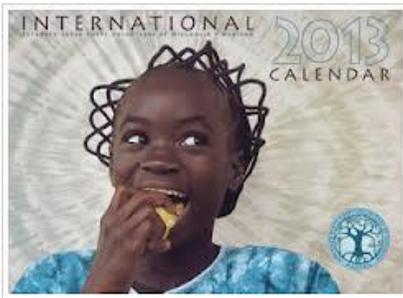
At Large Members

Audrey Seidel (Colombia)
Ginna Coon (Ethiopia)

Save the Date:

- **Friday, October 19th** – 7 PM. “THIRD FRIDAY” EVENT – Annual Fall Kickoff
- **Sunday, November 18th** – 4PM. 2nd FALL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY- Vive La Casa

Fundraiser:



Only thirty 2013 Peace Corps Calendars remain at this time! Please consider buying ~5 to share with family and friends as Holiday gifts, etc. It is our only fundraiser for the year, so let's make it a success! They are available from Mac AT OUR EVENTS or email him macmccabe@roadrunner.com for more details. \$10 each.

Upcoming Events:

Third Friday Event -

Join us for our annual fall event for the Allentown Haunted History Tour. The tour is about 90 minutes and you will walk about a mile at a slow pace. Normally the tour is given by Mason Winfield but this evening we will have two special guests, Joel Dombrowski and Amy Scott Daughtry.

What: Annual Fall Kickoff

When: Friday, October 19th at 7PM (please give yourself at least 15 minutes to park/walk)

Where: The tour begins at Allen Street Hardware Café, 245 Allen Street, Buffalo, 14201

How: Bring \$10 per person payable at the start of the tour. Please email Andy-buffalorpcv@yahoo.com so we can give the guides an idea of how many people will be attending.

BRING: walking shoes and dress for the weather

*** If you wish, come early and have a drink at *Allen St. Hardware Cafe* with your fellow RPCVs. AND if you feel like having a late dinner or a snack, nearby is the newly opened Ethiopian restaurant, *Gatur's*.



2nd Fall Volunteer Opportunity –

Vive, Inc. is the largest refugee shelter in the United States. At Vive you will meet some of the “bravest people in the world” as they come, seeking freedom and safety!

Come be part of the Vive Community for a day!



What: Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

When: Sunday, November 18th, 4 PM - ~6:30PM. Please arrive at 4PM to set up for 5PM dinner.

Where: Vive La Casa, 50 Wyoming Ave, Buffalo, NY 14215

How: Please contact Audrey Seidel 716-632-6435 or amseidel@verizon.net. Be sure to leave name, phone number, and how many will be attending with your reservation.

****BRING:** a green salad and one pie for serving. Vive is also asking for donations of sweatshirts, sweatpants, socks & underwear, flip-flops and toiletries

A Great Evening on the Waterfront!

Several RPCVs enjoyed a lovely morning on the water with the Queen City Buffalo River Historical Tour and learned about Buffalo's history as well as the influential grain elevators.

A Good Days Work At Our Fall Volunteer Event!

Thanks to the 10 Buffalo RPCVs who came out to help on Fox Street in Buffalo with Habitat for Humanity! As always, it was a fulfilling day!

Some things of Interest...

Freedom Bowl. 12 – 3 PM on Sunday, October 20 at Vive La Casa- an ethnic food festival and you get to bring home a handcrafted bowl! \$40 adults, \$20 students, children under 5 free, special rates for families. http://events.wgrz.com/The_Vive_Inc_Freedom_Bowl/200230173.html

Buffalo Without Borders 5:30-8:30 PM on Thursday, October 25 at Asbury Hall, 341 Delaware Ave at Tupper. \$35 Ethiopian, Burmese and other new Buffalo food, and treats from Buffalo's newest Italian bakery, B Ferrante. Entertainment from the Burmese, Bhutanese and Middle Eastern communities. Crafts from West Side Bazaar, henna tattoos from First Choice Brows, and more!!! <http://www.iibuff.org/index.php?src=events&srctype=detail&category=Featured&refno=139>

Third Goal Volunteer Opportunity. City Honors Art Teacher Cheryl St. George-Calleri, RPCV Paraguay, wants to host an event for her Multicultural Club as a Third Goal Event. We will need a few people. Please contact Elizabeth elizabethoddy@gmail.com if interested in participating.

The West Side Bazaar (Submitted by: Kathy Taylor)

Since 1997 Westminster Presbyterian Church has concentrated its mission outreach on the West Side of Buffalo. The initial effort included adopting Ferguson Avenue, a small street one block from the corner of Grant St. and West Ferry St. Westminster partnered with Habitat for Humanity to improve the housing stock on the street and worked with residents to improve security and reduce criminal activity. Westminster also started its ENERGY after school tutoring program for the children of Ferguson Avenue.

In 2007, the church formalized its vision and established Westminster Economic Development Initiative (WEDI). The relationship with Ferguson Avenue continued as did the tutoring program. WEDI also created a micro loan guarantee fund and offered a volunteer business mentoring program to individuals who wished to start or expand a business on the West Side. To date there are 6 free standing businesses operating thanks to WEDI's economic development efforts. After two years of discussion and collaboration with various agencies, organizations and government officials, the concept of an international bazaar was born.

The West Side Bazaar, with six vendors from countries in Africa, Southeast Asia and South America, opened in March 2011 at 242 Grant Street (near Guercio's). The new entrepreneurs were eager to bring a part of their home country culture to Buffalo and the bazaar is a popular place to purchase gifts, clothing, jewelry, textiles and artifacts found nowhere else in the area. But, most importantly, each shopper can interact with a variety of vendors, learn directly about the products and grow in understanding of the world community.

In the spring of 2012, the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo's 21st Century Fund members awarded WEDI a generous grant that allows the Bazaar to relocate, grow and include a commercial kitchen and food vendors. The "new and improved" West Side Bazaar will open in November 2012 at 25 Grant Street (near West Ferry). It will include four food vendors from various countries and up to eighteen merchandise vendors.

The vendors, board members, the Westminster community and countless volunteers worked to make this dream a reality and look forward to a successful bazaar and the increased opportunities it will bring to its West Side neighborhood.

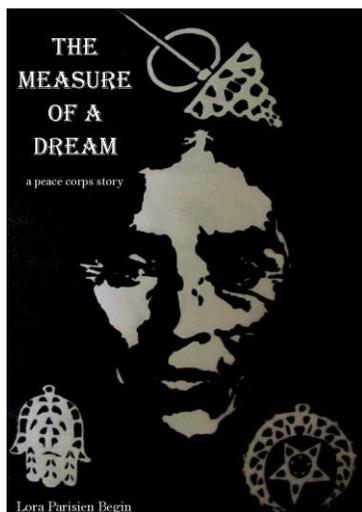
Phil Stevens, Jr. to be named honorary chief

Phillips Stevens Jr., Associate Professor of Anthropology at UB, will be honored in Esie, Nigeria on Dec. 1 when the traditional ruler of the town, HRM Oba Yakubu Babalola, bestows upon him the Yoruba chieftaincy title “The Erewumi of Esie Kingdom.” (“I get along well with the images”). It recognizes and honors Stevens’ work to preserve and celebrate the stone images of Esie, Africa’s largest and most mysterious collection of stone statuary.

http://www.buffalo.edu/ubreporter/2012_09_20/stevens_chieftaincy

RPCV Spotlight: Tim Hartigan ***RPCV Thailand '89-'91***

Board member Tim Hartigan is pictured here along with 30 other Thailand RPCVs in a photograph with HRH Princess Sinintorn at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bangkok in July, 2012. The princess spoke about the good things the volunteers have brought to Thailand in an address to over 400 former volunteers, Peace Corps staff and Thai government workers. The event was followed by an open house at the office of Peace Corps Thailand.



Tim also recently edited a novel that is out in publication- “A Measure Of A Dream; a Peace Corps story” by Lora Parisien Begin, RPCV Tunisia. Lora is a friend of Pam Kefi, who just happened to be featured in our last Buffalo RPCV newsletter! For more information on the book and author, see <http://lorabegin.wordpress.com/2012/03/06/the-measure-of-a-dream-come-true/>. If you read it, let us know what you think!