

Hi fellow RPCVs,

I look forward to seeing everyone at the March 6 meeting. Thank you for your support during the January meeting/social! We had a great turnout, delicious food, and exciting elections. The incoming officers have already met and are getting to know their roles and responsibilities. I have been grateful for the sensible leadership of the outgoing President, Stephanie, and I am comforted to know I have such a capable group of officers to lead us into the next year. I hope to support the group in its service work and attract more local RPCVs to participate.

Information in this month's newsletter about upcoming events include the Fourth Avenue Street Fair (March 19 – 21) for which Elva De La Torre will be coordinating at the March meeting, ongoing Peace Corps Week 2010 activities, and more information about the service trip to Puerto Peñasco/Rocky Point. See you all in March.

Peace,

Robin Southern

President, Desert Doves – Southern Arizona RPCV Group

Hello southern Arizona RPCVs,

With the January general meeting behind us, the 2009 officers' terms have ended. Much applause and thanks goes to my fellow officers who served us faithfully in 2009: Carrie Presnall (Vice President), Kara Jones (Treasurer), Debbie Curley (Peace Corps Partnership), Rich Roth and Mary Ann Ahrens (Social Chairs), Aaron Banas (Community Service Coordinator), and Gwen Woods (Community Advocacy Coordinator). I know I speak for the group when I say we look forward to supporting the new leadership team in 2010.

You can read about the election results and other news in this February issue of the Desert Doves newsletter. As usual, the newsletter is packed with information. Remember to bookmark our Web site at www.desertdoves.org and visit it frequently for updates on important events. Also, if you are interested in web-based social networking, consider joining our Peace Corps Connect group or our Facebook group.

Best,

Stephanie Springer

Outgoing President, Desert Doves – Southern Arizona RPCV Group

www.desertdoves.org

Desert Doves Newsletter

March 2010

In this issue:

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The Desert Doves Newsletter is distributed to members of the Southern Arizona RPCV group. The newsletter provides Peace Corps-related news and also allows RPCVs to share information with others in the local RPCV community. The newsletter is published six times a year during the even months (February, April, June, etc.) Contributions are encouraged: e-mail them to rpcvtucson@yahoo.com by the 20th of the odd months (January, March, May, etc.) for inclusion in the next month's newsletter.

If you would like to receive this newsletter and other communications from the Desert Doves, please send an email to rpcvtucson@yahoo.com. To unsubscribe from the email list, send your request to the same address.

Mark your calendars: upcoming Desert Dove meetings

General RPCV Meeting Information – Saturday, March 6

We will be meeting at Phil and Pam Lopes' home Saturday, March 6, at 6 p.m. for our next general meeting. Bring your family, friends, and a dish of food to share to 1421 N. Camino de Juan. To get there, drive west on Speedway, until you pass Greasewood. Then, just as the road merges into one lane, you will come to Camino de Juan. Take a right and the Lopes' house is the last on the left side. Meetings are part business, part potluck socials. Please note that on the agenda are officer elections – look below for a description of all officer positions and the election process. Watch for a full agenda for the evening's business to come out the week before the meeting.

##

RPCV Community Service: Peace Corps Week 2010: Tucson and the World

Film Screening

The film "The Devil Came on Horseback" will be played on Wednesday, February 24th, beginning at 7 pm in the Gallagher Theater of the UA Student Union Memorial Center (1303 E. University Blvd, Tucson). The film is about the tragedy taking place in Darfur, Sudan as seen through the eyes of former U.S. Marine Captain Brian Steidle who was sent to Darfur to monitor the ceasefire. The film screening will include a discussion with Sudanese refugees living in Tucson and humanitarian aid workers in Sudan via skype.

Peace Corps Fair

This year's Peace Corps Week Fair will be held on Tuesday, March 2nd from 4-7 pm in the North Ballroom of the UA Student Union Memorial Center (1303 E. University Blvd, Tucson). RPCVs are invited to set up small display tables (photos, memorabilia, clothing, etc.) and share their experience with students, other RPCVs, and community members. Do not let this task intimidate you – the event will be fun and the display does not have to be fancy! If you are interested and have not yet registered please RSVP to Debbie Curley at dcurley@email.arizona.edu.

School and Community Presentations

There will have many opportunities for giving short presentations in schools as a part of Peace Corps Week. School and community presentations are great, fun ways to get the word out about Peace Corps Week as well as to get your display ready in advance for the Peace Corps Week Fair. If you are available for a one-hour school or community presentation, please follow this link to add your name and dates/times that you are available: <http://doodle.com/9wrpffr7whd3dv3d>. Otherwise, please feel free to send your general availability to Valerie Selden at vselden@email.arizona.edu.

##

RPCV Community Service: Puerto Peñasco/Rocky Point weekend trip – April 9-11

The service project will take place at The Intercultural Center for the Studies of Deserts and Oceans (CEDO), which is a field research station and education center located just east of Puerto Peñasco, Sonora, Mexico. The dates of the trip are April 9th to the 11th. Projects are numerous and still not 100% defined, however a beach cleanup has been identified as a primary activity that the Doves and PC Fellows can take part in.

Accommodations:

The main research facility has an open courtyard and deck overlooking the Sea of Cortez. This residential facility can accommodate up to 65 people overnight, dormitory-style. Residents may also sleep on our deck and have access to a bathhouse with separate men’s and women’s facilities with hot showers. Groups can bring food and cook in the kitchen.

Who’s going and how?

Currently there are 35 people. We will be renting a few university vehicles, while others may choose to drive (leave early/come and go as they please).

Cost?

The cost is 10\$ per night for sleeping accommodations, 15\$ per person will cover the university rental vehicles, plus your individual food costs and expenses for a total of around 60-75\$.

You can drive yourself, find your own accommodations, and participate as well.

Contact Aaron B at ronban1@hotmail.com for more information.

Join us for some great service!!

##

Thoughts from your Desert Doves officers

January General Meeting Recap

The January 23rd general meeting was well attended and involved great discussion. Thanks to the 40+ RPCVs who came and participated in the socializing and business meeting.

Here’s a recap on the meeting: After the social potluck, those in attendance introduced themselves. Officer announcements included the following: V.President - thank you to the 40+ volunteers who worked the Street Fair, we raised over \$1000 with these efforts; Treasurer - all 2010 international PC calendars were sold, thanks to everyone who purchased a calendar or sold them to friends, special recognition to Georgia Ehlers for selling 100+ calendars; Community Service Coordinator- the community service activity in Rocky Point is planned for April 9-11, please email ronban1@hotmail.com if you are interested in participating; Peace Corps Partnership - a thank-you letter was read from a PCV who received funding through a Peace Corps Partnership grant; Social Chairs - we had many no-shows to the December Ethnic Dinner, an apology note will be written and delivered to the restaurant owner by the president and social chairs, in lieu of a February ethnic dinner, a collection was taken and \$320 will be donated to Haiti relief efforts; Community Advocacy Coordinator - the national Peace Corps budget was approved by Pres. Obama; Peace Corps Fellows Liaison - Peace Corps week is quickly approaching, get ready to participate.

Following the officer announcements, new business began. After discussion, the group voted to make a contribution of \$600 to Tucson’s Peace Corps Week activities. Next, nominations were taken from the floor for Desert Doves officer elections. Here are the results of the elections.

- President – Robin Southern
- Vice President – Elva de la Torre
- Treasurer – Kristin Trinks
- Peace Corps Partnership – Debbie Curley
- Community Service Coordinator – Kelley Finwall
- Community Advocacy Coordinator – Gwen Woods

Social Chairs – Kara Jones and Stephanie Springer

Following an opportunity for member announcements, the meeting was adjourned. – Stephanie, Outgoing Prez.

##

Membership Dues

This is just a friendly reminder that membership dues for Desert Doves are \$15/year. Cash and checks are accepted. (Checks can be written out to Southern Arizona RPCVs.) If you are not up to date on your dues, you can submit your payment at an ethnic dinner or general meeting. You can also mail your dues to Kara Jones, our Treasurer (please email rpcvtucson@yahoo.com to request Kara's address). Please note: Paying membership dues is strongly encouraged but no one will be turned away from any RPCV event for the inability to pay!

##

Spring Street Fair

Hi there good looking RPCVs, it's that time again to support the Street Fair and raise funds for projects. This year's dates are March 19 – 21. There are morning and afternoon shifts all three days as well as a cart stocking shift Friday morning from 7:30 – 10am. Friday is always the most challenging day to fill so if you are flexible or are ready for a sick day at work Friday's the day.

The shift options are morning (9:30 – 1:00) or afternoon (12:30 – 4:00) and yes, you can volunteer for more than one shift. There are cart pullers as well as a Home Base option. Ideally we would have 6 cart pullers and 1 home base person *per shift*. If you want to be a back-up person let me know.

Here's a link to general info on the street fair - <http://www.fourthavenue.org/fairs/general-information/>

Please specify what shift you can cover and include the best way to contact you. I'll confirm shift sign up at the next meeting. See you then.

Thanks all!

Elva
elvadelatorre@gmail.com

##

Member announcements and local RPCV news

From RPCV Adam Springer:

I'm a graduate student at the UA conducting a study to examine factors that influence Tucson households to conserve water. This information will be used to analyze the impact of drought, public policy, social, media, and demographic factors on household water conservation. For more information contact me at adams@email.arizona.edu. Please take 5 minutes to complete this brief online survey at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BJCLVQM>

##

National RPCV news

From the Regional Peace Corps office –

Greetings from the L.A. Peace Corps office!

*****President Obama Requests More \$\$ for Peace Corps in FY 2011*****

On Feb. 1st, President Barack Obama submitted a budget request of \$446.15 million for the Peace Corps. This is great news that is in line with Peace Corps plans for growth! The FY 2010 budget was \$400 million and the year prior was \$340 million.

*****Peace Corps Announces Top Colleges & Universities*****

Peace Corps released its annual rankings for colleges and universities last week and many of your local schools made the list:

- UCLA is #16 for large universities
- U of Arizona is #20 for large universities (first time on list in three years)
- UCSD is #22 for large universities
- Arizona State University is #24 for large universities (back on the list after being left off last year)

You can view the full rankings here: <http://multimedia.peacecorps.gov/multimedia/pdf/stats/schools2010.pdf>

Unfortunately NAU was not included on the list this year because their increased enrollment boosted them into the big leagues of the “large university” rankings. And UCSB also missed the cutoff

*****Peace Corps Week – Please Share Your Plans!*****

Peace Corps Week is coming up March 1st through March 7th. What is your group doing to mark the occasion? If you or anyone you know will be making a presentation in a classroom, please register at www.peacecorps.gov/thirdgoal to receive your Peace Corps week kit with stickers and handouts. In addition to the kit, we use those numbers in our annual Congressional Budget Justification to demonstrate how involved the RPCV community is.

I would personally love to hear anything your group may be organizing and to offer any assistance that I can. You can also find some great resources and a “how-to” kit at <http://www.peacecorps.gov/index.cfm?shell=resources.returned.thirdgoal.getinvolved>.

##

Other announcements related to RPCVs

Dear RPCVs of Tucson,

We are looking for RPCV's interested in giving classroom presentations on their experience in Peace Corps. As you know part of our work in coming home is to expose students to other cultures and this is your opportunity to do so. Please contact me if you're interested and I will match you to a school. Looking forward to hearing from you!

Thank you,

Valerie Selden

Graduate Intern (AmeriCorps)
Literacy for Life Coalition
Master's student in Language, Reading and Culture
Department of Education
University of Arizona
vselden@email.arizona.edu
917-886-3665

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Job Listings Now at Peace Corps Worldwide

Peace Corps Worldwide (<http://peacecorpsworldwide.org/>) is now accepting job postings from organizations looking for RPCVs or Returned Staff - for both domestic and international work.

If your organization recruits RPCVs, you can post jobs for free, including full-time, part-time, volunteer positions or internships. Current employers registered with us include Save the Children, HealthNet TPO from the Netherlands, CDM, Abt Associates, Transparency International and others.

If you are an RPCV or Returned Staff looking for a job, you can visit the site and search current postings, or register with us and create a profile so employers can find you. Also, registered RPCVs and Staff can search the employer profiles to find organizations who match your interests even before jobs are posted.

View current jobs at: http://www.cambridgedata.com/search_jobs.htm

Post Jobs, Search Jobs, Register at <http://peacecorpsworldwide.org>

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END DESERT DOVES NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2010