

## ***GCC-RPCV*** ***November News Letter***



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### **1. Upcoming Events**

#### **Peace Corps 2012 International Calendars are here!**

Look for them at the Annual Holiday Party December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Calendars cost \$10 at GCC-RPCV events and \$12 if purchased online through [peacecorpshouston.com](http://peacecorpshouston.com) (price includes shipping).

Proceeds from calendar sales go to help fund Texas Peace Corps Volunteer projects voted on at the annual fundraiser held in the spring of each year.



#### **GCC-RPCV Online Membership Survey via SurveyMonkey**

The Board of Directors would like to learn more about what GCC-RPCV members would like to do, and what types of causes they would like the group to support. Please watch for the survey to come to your e-mail within the next few weeks. Thanks in advance for your responses.

#### **December 3rd, Saturday**

##### **Annual Holiday Party**

6:00 PM to ?

Location: Stephanie Wilson's house, 14110 Blair Ridge, Cypress, TX

Please bring a dish to share. Donations will be collected for the non-profit Child Advocates, Inc.

For more information and directions please see the attached flier from Stephanie.

Contact person: Stephanie Wilson, E-mail: [bobnsteph@entouch.net](mailto:bobnsteph@entouch.net), Phone: 281-246-4407

#### **December 7th, Wednesday**

##### **Recently Returned PCV Happy Hour**

6:30 PM to 9:30 PM

Location: To be announced (check the Facebook page "[Houston Area Returned Peace Corps Volunteers](#)" or the website, [peacecorpshouston.com](http://peacecorpshouston.com), a week before the event for the location)

Contact person: Kate Simpson, E-mail: [katelsimpson@gmail.com](mailto:katelsimpson@gmail.com), Phone: 713-628-9817

**December 9<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup>, Friday to Sunday**  
**Camping Trip to Martin Dies State Park**

6:00 PM on Friday to 2:00 PM on Sunday.

Location: Martin Dies State Park, 634 Private Road 5025, Jasper, TX, 75951

Contact person: Heather Siemert, E-mail: [heatherjean82@gmail.com](mailto:heatherjean82@gmail.com), Phone: 713-376-8805

**January 4th, Wednesday**  
**Recently Returned PCV Happy Hour**

6:30 PM to 9:30 PM

Location: To be announced (check the Facebook page "[Houston Area Returned Peace Corps Volunteers](#)" or the website, [peacecorpshouston.com](http://peacecorpshouston.com), a week before the event for the location)

Contact person: Kate Simpson, E-mail: [katelsimpson@gmail.com](mailto:katelsimpson@gmail.com), Phone: 713-628-9817

**January 22nd, Sunday**  
**Annual GCC-RPCV Membership Meeting**

4:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Come meet other GCC-RPCV members, have a say in group activities, and elect new board members. Food and drink will be provided.

Location: Meeting will be near I-10 and Voss. Exact location to be announced soon.

Contact person: Stephanie Wilson, E-mail: [bohnsteph@entouch.net](mailto:bohnsteph@entouch.net), Phone: 281-246-4407

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## 2. Message from the Board of Directors

Hello fellow GCC-RPCV Members,

We just completed our last Board of Directors meeting for the year of 2011. For more information on what was covered please see the meeting notes attached to the newsletter e-mail. Our next two big events are the Annual Holiday Party December 3rd, and the Annual Membership Meeting January 22<sup>nd</sup>. We hope to see most of you at one of these events. We are currently looking for additional board members to join the Board of Directors to fill vacated board positions, plus possible expiring terms for board members who wish not to renew their terms. Board member terms are for three years. Current position terms are as follows:

Expiring in January 2012: Stephanie Wilson, Tara Smarsh, and Nancy Gibson

Expiring in January 2013: Ken Fraley, Lisa Reynolds, Vacated position

Expiring in January 2014: David Schienman, Ryan Gorczycki, Vacated position

If you are interested in becoming a board member, please e-mail us at [gccrpcv@gmail.com](mailto:gccrpcv@gmail.com) by December 15th with your name, country and date of service, and board positions or area of interest (3<sup>rd</sup> goal, recruiting, volunteer events, etc). Board positions are listed at the bottom of the newsletter and last for one year (board member terms last for three years). Voting for new board members will take place at the January 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Membership Meeting. Candidates will be announced in the December newsletter along with a paper ballot for those who cannot attend the annual meeting.

We wish all of you happy holidays from those of us on the Board of Directors.

### 3. Member Spotlight:

## Tarush Nihalani, RPCV Guatemala, 2005-2007

#### 1) A short description of your Peace Corps service:

I was a small business development volunteer in Oratorio, Santa Rosa in Guatemala. I was assigned to work with a savings and loan cooperative.

The savings and loan cooperative offered a loan to a woman who started a pharmacy. One of the projects I worked on was to improve inventory management processes for this local pharmacy, and was probably my biggest (professional) accomplishment in Peace Corps. We cut down the time taken to count end of month inventory from 20 hours to 2 hours in 8-9 months, resulting in a better quality of life for the pharmacist. We also cut down the time taken to produce inventory count sheets and also produce inventory valuation reports from 2 hours to 30 minutes. The pharmacy was doing well, so the board at the savings and loan coop decided to open a few more pharmacies in nearby communities. We rolled out the inventory management best practices to these units as well. The picture from my service is in the 2nd pharmacy the coop opened - we are stocking the medicines on the shelves.



#### 2) Fun fact about your host country:

A scene from the original Star Wars movie, “A New Hope”, was shot in Guatemala in the Tikal National Park.

#### 3) Fun fact about your community:

The youth in my community loved basketball as much as they loved soccer.



#### 4) Most unique part of your Peace Corps service:

The most unique part of my Peace Corps service was winning Oratorio's basketball tournament with my team!

#### 5) What are you up to now?

Currently I work as a supply chain manager for LSG Sky Chefs.

## 4. Board Member Position Descriptions:

### **President**

The President is principal officer of GCCRPCV and serves as chairman of the Board of Directors. He/she presides at meetings of the Board, and serves as an ex-officio member of all committees. The President, with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall create and appoint chairpersons of committees. The President is responsible for the execution of the policies and programs of the Board, and for the administration of the affairs of GCCRPCV.

### **Vice President**

The Vice President shall perform such duties as may be assigned from time to time by the Board of Directors, or the President. In the event that illness or other disability prohibits the President from performance, the Vice President shall have the power to perform the duties that are ordinarily the responsibility of the President.

### **Secretary**

The Secretary is responsible for ensuring that accurate minutes of meetings are taken, approved, and distributed. He/she is sufficiently familiar with legal documents such as by-laws and makes sure they are available at all meetings; acts as parliamentarian making sure Robert's Rules of Order are followed during meetings, fulfills any other requirements of an Officer, and performs other duties as the need arises and/or as defined in the bylaws.

### **Treasurer**

The GCCRPCV Treasurer is primarily responsible for tracking revenue and expenditures for the group. He/she tracks calendar purchases to determine the total amount that can be donated to projects in the Peace Corps Partnership Program and manages the bank and Paypal accounts for the GCCRPCV. The Treasurer prepares an annual report to the NPCA on total expenditures and ensures the proper IRS filing is completed to maintain the group's nonprofit status.

### **Fundraiser Chair**

Currently, the Fundraising Chair coordinates the yearly Peace Corps Partnership Fundraiser Dinner which includes asking for participation of members to provide dishes from their country of service and monitoring the numbers of individuals who will attend the dinner. The Chair researches the Peace Corps web site for the Partnership proposals submitted by Texas volunteers. Members vote on the proposal(s) to fund with the money raised. The person filling this position potentially has flexibility to identify other areas in which money could be raised to fund the Peace Corps Partnership program.

### **Webmaster**

The Webmaster is responsible for updating the website. The person must have some knowledge of website design is helpful. Must have access to web editing software that allows for uploads (ftp). Being able to convert documents to pdf format is also helpful.

### **Membership/ Data Base**

A good working knowledge of Access or Excel data base is helpful. This person keeps the membership list updated and can provide mailing labels for mail outs and email addresses for email news blasts.

**Special Events** Planning events and helping with publicity are the main duties of this person.

**Archivist** The Archivist acts as the historian for the organization.