



April 2026 Newsletter

Northern Virginia Returned Peace Corps
Volunteers (NOVA RPCV)

novarpcv.org

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[Live feed | VA - Northern Virginia Returned
Peace Corps Volunteers \(NOVA RPCV\)](#)

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Thank you for Your Support - Let's keep growing!

Thank you to everyone who has supported NOVA RPCV! We're excited to share that our community is growing—and it's all thanks to you.

As we look ahead, we invite you to join or renew your membership or make a one-time donation to help us continue building a strong, connected Peace Corps community in Northern Virginia.

Join NOVA RPCV via Connect+:

- NOVA RPCV membership is just \$15/year now and \$25/year beginning May 1, 2026.

To make a one-time donation:

1. Visit [Memberships & Donations | Peace Corps Connect+](#)
2. Click "Select Membership" under the "Donations" section
3. Click "Proceed to Pay" then "Proceed to Billing Information" and enter your preferred amount

(Note: \$10 will be added by default—just factor this into your total.)

4. The listed timeframe is a system default; your donation will be processed as a one-time gift.

Please help us spread the word—invite fellow RPCVs to join, give, and stay connected.

We look forward to a vibrant year ahead as we continue to champion the Peace Corps mission together!

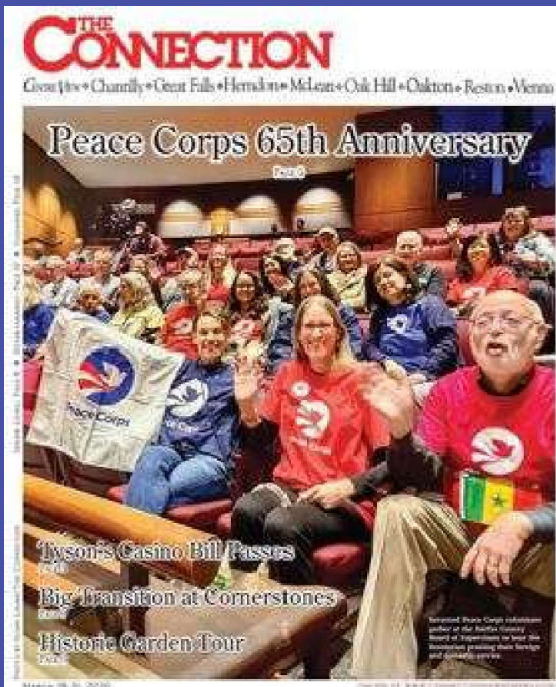
With gratitude,

The NOVA RPCV Board



Celebrating Spring!

On March 22, NOVA RPCVs & friends celebrated Navruz/Nowruz and the start of Spring at Rus Uz in Ballston. We enjoyed an array of Uzbek dishes including Manti and Plov and desserts. Some of us also enjoyed a variety of flavors of Uzbek infused vodka! We had a number of Central Asian RPCVs joining us representing Uzbekistan as well as Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan!

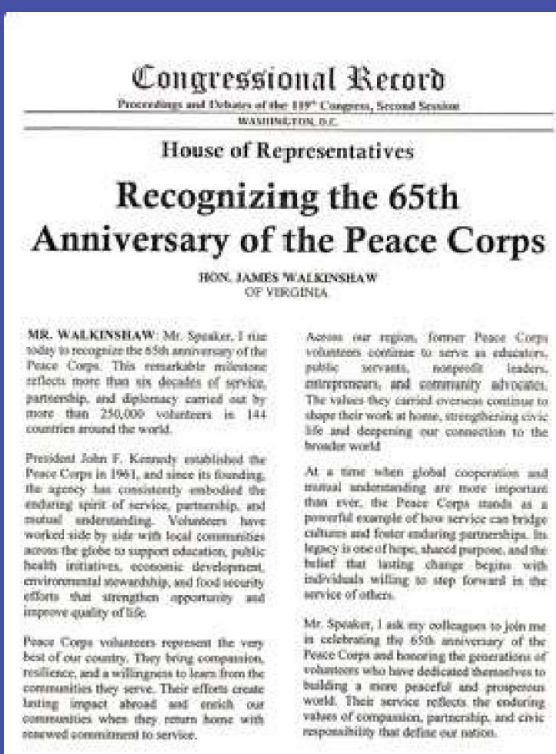


Thank you for your Support of Peace Corps' Anniversary!

A heartfelt thank you to all who joined NOVA RPCV to celebrate Peace Corps' 65th anniversary in Fairfax and Richmond, VA! We were honored by the warm reception we received and by the recognition of RPCVs by Virginia's General Assembly and Fairfax County's Board of Supervisors. Virginia's General Assembly passed Joint House Resolution 178 noting Peace Corps volunteers have not only transformed communities and fostered a greater understanding of Americans but have continued to engage in volunteerism, activism, and intercultural exchange upon their return. To date over 9,000 volunteers have served from Virginia and in 2025, the Commonwealth sent the second highest number of Peace Corps volunteers abroad with 178 volunteers.

Honorable James Walkinshaw entered a proclamation on Peace Corps into the Congressional Record recognizing March 1 as Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Day/Peace Corps Day. Our sincere thanks to Chair McKay, Supervisors Dalia Palchik, Walter Alcorn, Rodney Lusk and Rachna Sizemore Heizer as well as VA Senator Saddam Azlan Salim for their support of

Peace Corps' 65th anniversary. Coverage of the visit to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors was covered in a local paper The Connection FxCo 031826.pdf.





Serving the Commonwealth: Applying for a Virginia Board or Commission

Have you ever considered taking your commitment to service to the state level? Join a special Teams call with Marina Pugh, a fellow RPCV (Kosovo) who now serves as the Associate Director of Board Appointments in the Office of Governor Abigail Spanberger.

As a member of a Virginia board or commission, you serve in a vital citizen role. While these are nonpartisan positions, appointees help shape the Commonwealth's future in areas like education, health, and the environment.

RPCVs bring exactly the kind of adaptability, cross-cultural skill, and community-first mindset these boards need. It's a fantastic way to leverage your global experience into local impact.

April 7 at 3:30pm



Jeopardy Happy Hour with RPCV Winner Quentin Powers (East Timor 2023-25)

Join us for a Jeopardy Happy Hour with RPCV Winner Quentin Powers (East Timor 2023-25) Friday, April 10th at 6PM in the spacious and innovative Rosslyn hot spot Upside Food Hall.

Quentin will share his story as a recent winner on Jeopardy and lead a fun, interactive Peace Corps-inspired game of Jeopardy.

Also enjoy happy hour specials and a global mix of eateries to satisfy every palate. This is also a great opportunity to connect with fellow RPCVs.

About Quentin

Quentin Powers is a recently returned Volunteer who served in Timor-Leste from October 2023-November 2025. During his time in the Peace Corps, Quentin served as a middle and high school English Teacher in the town of Bercoli, located in the eastern part of the country. In addition to his primary teaching responsibilities, Quentin completed a PCPP grant centered on the construction of new futsal goals for his school. Born and raised in Arlington, Quentin is a graduate of Yorktown High School and the University of Michigan, where he majored in International Studies. In his free time, Quentin enjoys playing trivia, traveling, and watching sports. His love of trivia led him to recently appear on Jeopardy, where he won two games and

Register & Sara will send you the Teams link to join the call.

In preparation for the zoom call, read this [VA Boards & Commissions page](#) and [research boards and commissions](#) to find one that matches your expertise, interest, and/or passions.

[REGISTER](#)



Join us for Spring trail cleanup Saturday April 11th!

Where: 1550 Glade Dr, Reston
(Parking lot of the Glade Pool at the corner of Glade Dr & Soapstone Dr. in Reston)

Grabbers and trash bags will be supplied by the Reston Association.

Everyone should wear gloves. If you do not have gloves, please contact us prior to the trail cleanup at novarpcv@gmail.com and we will bring gloves for you.

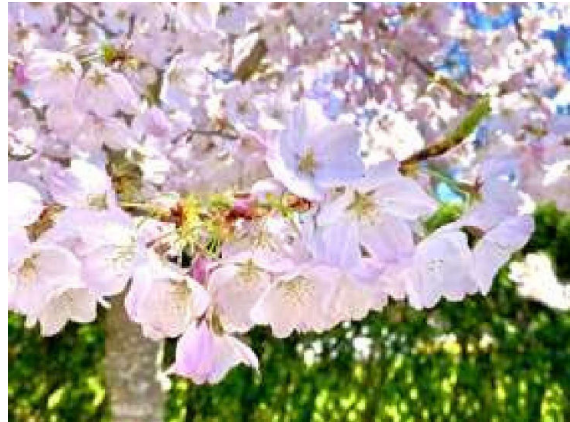
The trail cleanup will end at 11:30 am with an optional event afterwards for lunch together at De Clieu Coffee and Sandwich shop in Reston <https://www.coffeedeclieu.com/>

[REGISTER](#)

over 22,000 dollars! Here today to talk about his experiences in Timor and filming Jeopardy, please welcome Quentin Powers!

Upside Food Hall is located just above Rosslyn Metro at 1700 N. Moore Street. Level M2. Free parking with validation after 6pm.

[REGISTER](#)



Cherry Blossom Celebration at Mosaic

Date: April 11, 2026 | Time: 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Join NOVA RPCVs at Mosaic District as we celebrate the National Cherry Blossom Festival! We will gather for a day of spring celebration, international friendship, and community connection. Mosaic also hosts its “Art Blooms” festival in partnership with the Cherry Blossom Festival, featuring art installations and cultural programming. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate global friendship and the spirit of cultural exchange central to Peace Corps service.

Event address:

Mosaic District
2910 District Ave
Merrifield, VA 22031

For more information, please visit: novarpcv.org/april-11th-cherry-blossom-celebration-at-mosaic/

Meeting time and location:

Meet at 1 p.m. in front of "JINYA Ramen" in the park, across from Target Parking Deck.

[REGISTER](#)

"Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time."

- former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg



Holi Festival of Colors Celebration at Mosaic

Date: April 25, 2026 | Time: 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Join NOVA RPCVs at the Mosaic District as we celebrate Holi -- the vibrant "Festival of Colors" -- marking the arrival of spring! In partnership with RASA, this lively event invites our community to gather for an evening of authentic Indian flavors, music, dancing and festivities.

This celebration is a wonderful opportunity to honor the spirit of cultural exchange and global friendship. Whether you served in South Asia or simply appreciate the beauty of international traditions, come reconnect with fellow volunteers as we enjoy the sights and sounds of this joyous cultural milestone.

The event is free to the public and offers a fantastic chance to experience the diversity and community spirit that defines our global Peace Corps family.

Event address:

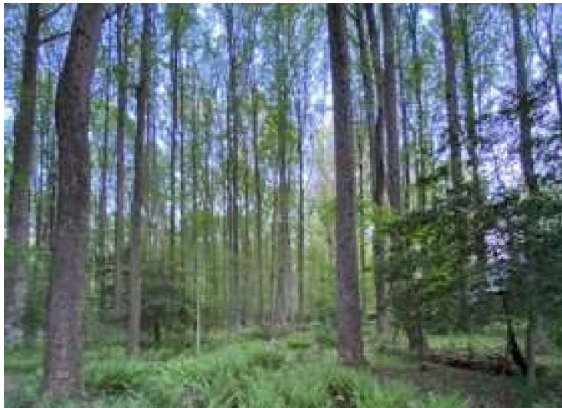
Mosaic District (Strawberry Park)
2905 District Ave
Merrifield, VA 22031

For more information, please visit: novarpcv.org/holi-festival-of-colors-celebration-at-mosaic-on-april-25/

Meeting time and location:

Meet at 4:45 PM outside of the target building in mosaic, next to Rasa restaurant.

[REGISTER](#)



65 Trees for 65 Years

Celebrate 65 years of the Peace Corps by helping us plant 65 native trees at Fairfax County's Jefferson Manor Park in Alexandria! Our hands-on service will create vital wildlife corridors for birds, pollinators and other native species while actively sequestering carbon to combat local climate change, and provide cooling shade for our community. Join fellow RPCVs to leave a "domestic dividend" that strengthens our environment for generations to come. No experience is needed—just bring your energy and a desire to give back to the home soil. All welcome, including family, friends, and allies of the Peace Corps.

April 26

Tentative time: 2 - 4:30 pm



May 21 Sting Concert at Wolf Trap

Join NOVA RPCVs for an evening at Wolf Trap on Thursday, May 21st at 8pm. Sting will be playing at this venue once again, after many other sold-out shows. Always a fun time. Lawn tickets are available for \$53 at the box office - not sure how long they will last.

Bring blankets or low chairs and a picnic to share. Hope to see you there!

"Sting will be performing live at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts in Vienna, VA on May 21st, 2026, at 8:00 PM. Known for his unique blend of rock, pop, jazz, and world music, Sting promises an unforgettable concert experience. Attendees can expect a mix of classic hits and new material, making it a must-see event for both long-time fans and new listeners alike."

[REGISTER](#)

2909 Farmington Drive. Alexandria, VA,
22310

[REGISTER](#)

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Peace Corps News

Members of the House of Representatives rushed to meet a one week deadline of March 11 to sign on to a [letter calling for a Fiscal Year 2027 \(FY 27\) funding increase for the Peace Corps](#). Congressman John Garamendi (D-CA and Returned Peace Corps Volunteer) and Delegate Amata Radewagen (R-American Samoa) co-authored the letter addressed to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs — calling for [\\$479 million](#) to be set aside for the agency's operations and programs.

Co-Chairs of the Peace Corps Caucus Radewagen and Garamendi made a similar request for FY 26, whereas the actual funding was further cut from the prior year's \$430 million to \$410 million. Funding requests, which precede the appropriation processes in the House, traditionally set aside one week for signatures in the 435 member lower house chamber. After the deadline, the number of [signatures reached 121](#).

The funding request letter serves as a confirmation of bipartisan support for the Peace Corps, as well as a guide for funding that meets the agency's needs and demands of an evolving global economy. Since the Peace Corps was founded in 1961, close to 250,000 [Volunteers from across the U.S.](#) have served in more than 140 countries. Currently, more than [3,000 Volunteers are based in more than 60 countries worldwide](#). Programs include agriculture, community economic development, education, environment, health, and youth in development. The funding request initiated by Representatives Garamendi and Radewagen — and advocated for by National Peace Corps Association and broader Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (RPCV) community — is intended to inform the forthcoming "National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs Appropriations Act" later this year.

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Peace Corps Connect 2026 – July 18-19, 2026

Peace Corps Connect 2026 brings together RPCVs, students, and global changemakers for two days of learning, reflection, and celebration. This year's conference celebrates **65 years of Peace Corps and 250 years of American history**, renewing our shared commitment to national service and translating it into real collaboration, advocacy, and peacebuilding. For details: [Home | Peace Corps Connect 2026](#)

Free limited scholarships to attend the conference for recently returned volunteers. Please see details here to apply: [Scholarships | Peace Corps Connect 2026](#)

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Call for Volunteers -- NOVA RPCV Board

NOVA RPCV is seeking volunteers to help support our growing community! We are currently recruiting for four roles: Community Service Chair, Activity Coordinator, and Interim Membership Chair (Data) and Third Goal Chair. Descriptions of each may be found at <https://novarpcv.org/about-us/get-involved/>. If you're interested in helping organize events, coordinate service projects, or support membership engagement, we'd love to hear from you! Please send a brief Expression of Interest to novarpcv@gmail.com by April 17th, 2026.

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Participate in RPCVnexus survey

As the world of work continues to shift, many Peace Corps Volunteers are asking: What comes next?

For the past couple years, RPCVnexus has been providing career services - resume reviews, mentoring programs, discussions, etc. - to 2600+ PCVs and RPCVs looking for work, especially those who lost jobs last year. As they continue to support Volunteers at each step of their career, RPCVnexus is looking for your perspective no matter when you served - what worked, what bumps you experienced, and what you would recommend to others wanting to follow you.

If you have 10-20 minutes to share your input, help be part of the conversation as RPCVnexus supports those looking for work and those transitions out of service.

Those who complete the entire survey will be entered into a raffle to be one of three people who win \$100!

[Understanding the Needs & Career Paths of Volunteers](#)

Recognize Peace Corps Volunteers—past and present—with a Congressional Gold Medal!

Take Action to Support the Peace Corps in Congress. The Peace Corps is approaching its 65th anniversary — a perfect time to honor its legacy and Volunteers with a Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor from Congress.

Just prior to the government shutdown, a bill was introduced to Congress. The bipartisan Peace Corps Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2025 (H.R. 5521) would award the Congressional Gold Medal to all Peace Corps Volunteers, past and present, recognizing over six decades of global impact and partnership. This initiative not only honors history, it also reinvigorates America's commitment to national service. The Peace Corps needs more Volunteers, and this recognition helps elevate awareness, pride, and recruitment for our next generation of grassroots ambassadors and peacemakers.

Peace Corps family, if you can, please send a message to your Representative urging them to cosponsor H.R. 5521: [Recognize Peace Corps Volunteers with a Congressional Gold Medal | National Peace Corps Association](#)

Before sending a message, you can read the full bill text here: [Text - H.R.5521 - 119th Congress \(2025-2026\): Peace Corps Volunteers Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2025 | Congress.gov | Library of Congress](#)

Thank you for honoring Peace Corps so we may continue to inspire and engage new Volunteers!

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Volunteer Opps!

Do you love to share stories? Wear your traditional outfits from when you served overseas? If so, please sign up with Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS).

FCPS is seeking speakers from our NOVA RPCV community interested in sharing their experience and in-depth understanding of the communities where they served. This will “promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans” -- Peace Corps’ Third Goal.

Opportunities include showcasing your Peace Corps experience and the country/region you served during a cultural heritage night or perhaps giving a short presentation on various topics (i.e. how you used foreign language overseas; ancient Mali; knowledge of a particular region; information on a subject you’re comfortable addressing -- environmental protection, civic education, etc). Please share your info and proposed topics in this form [Returned](#)

[Peace Corps Volunteers - Third Goal Opportunities](#) (only shared with FCPS staff). FCPS will contact you.

Thank you for sharing your Peace Corps experience with Fairfax County Public School students!

Virtual service and other opportunities!

For those who are nearing retirement or have time, please do consider Peace Corps virtual service or Peace Corps response.

[Peace Corps - Serve Online Through Peace Corps Virtual Service Pilot](#)

[Peace Corps - Short Term, Skilled Volunteering with Peace Corps Response](#)

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2026 International Calendars – courtesy of RPCVs of Wisconsin now available at NOVA RPCV!

Purchase your 2026 Calendars here! Now discounted as we have only a few remaining.

\$10.00 each, pay here for credit card transactions or pay cash in person!

Credit card transaction can be made [here](#). Cash is always acceptable!

Delivered in person, we hope to see you at one of our events!

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Join Peace Corps Connect+!

NOVA RPCV has hundreds of members but only a handful have registered on Connect+. We need your help to encourage all our members to register! Connect+ is the brand-new virtual village for the entire Peace Corps community. Reconnect with fellow RPCVs; build your personal & professional network; contribute to conversations, join a group, find the latest news and network with the global Peace Corps community. We are stronger together!

It's a great way to connect/network! When joining Connect+ you can also become a member of the Northern Virginia Returned Peace Corps Volunteer group! If you need help to register, please don't hesitate to reach out to mail@novarpcv.org. Why wait?

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How you can help!

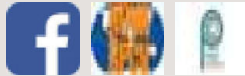
You can help recruit the next generation of Volunteers by sharing your unique Peace Corps experience and how it continues to impact your life and career. Connect with your local community through service groups, libraries, school activities and social media networks. Your story has the power to inspire the next generation of Peace Corps Volunteers. [Sign up on the RPCV Portal](#) to be part of Peace Corps' [Global Connections Program](#) and become part of

the network of RPCVs available to share
your story with communities in the U.S.

Thank You for Your Support – Let's Keep Growing!

We invite you to join or renew your membership or make a one-time donation to help us continue building a strong, connected Peace Corps community in Northern Virginia.

Donate Now



Stay Connected

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Northern Virginia Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

mail@novarpcv.org