



January 2018 Friends of Morocco Newsletter

Calling your attention to events, groups and information of possible interest to Friends of Morocco



Peace Corps has announced recruitment for 110 Youth Development Specialists to serve in Morocco. Apply by Jan. 1, 2018, know by March 1, 2018 and depart by Sept. 10, 2018.



Peace Corps Morocco swore in its newest cohort of 105 Youth Development Volunteers. Representing 31 different U.S. states, these volunteers will work in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports to foster positive youth development and leadership in Moroccan communities. Congratulations and best of luck to Peace Corps Morocco's newest group of volunteers!

Maghreb Arab Press (MAP) coverage on YouTube

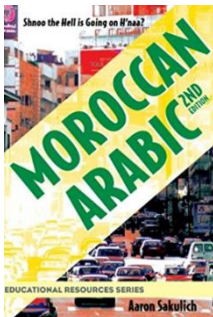
Full Swearing in ceremony on Facebook 1:51:16



[Moroccan dialectal Arabic \(Darija\) language resources](#)



[Moroccan Arabic \(Darija\) Textbook](#). By Peace Corps Morocco. 190 pp. 2017 version.



[Moroccan Arabic: Shnoo the Hell is Going On H'naa? A Practical Guide to Learning Moroccan Darija - the Arabic Dialect of Morocco \(2nd edition\)](#) (Educational Resources) Paperback – April 1, 2012
by [Aaron Sakulich](#) (Author), [Rajae Khaloufi](#) (Editor), [George F Roberson](#) (Producer)

For everyone going to Morocco, any age + skill level: language students to casual visitors and everyone in between. Clear and easy pronunciation system, on-the-street utility and low price.

All book sales go to support Moroccan-USA NGO for more community and education-based materials, activities and exchange. Produced by an all-volunteer bi-national team of experts - your chance to move beyond tourist phrasebooks and corporate textbooks

★ [Robert Wisniewski](#) shared an internet archives link to the 1966 **A Dictionary of Moroccan Arabic: Arabic-English and English-Moroccan**. [Orin Hargraves](#) notes there is now a newer edition, but it's nice to have it in digital form. Unfortunately, not searchable, it looks like it's saved as a photocopy.

★ [Language and social distinction: speaking Darija* with the right accent](#) * Darija refers to the variety of Arabic spoken in Morocco. Abstract only.

★ **Darija for Peace Corps** at Quizlet
[Darija Dictionary](#) This one goes A to R
[Darija Dictionary Part 2](#), the second half!
[Flash cards](#)

★ [Peace Corps Arabic Courses](#) courtesy of the [Live Lingua Project](#) 2011, 1994 and earlier

★ [Darija God Phrases](#)

★ [North African Maghrebi Arabic](#) by Memrise Several courses of various lengths but also including [amazigh-language-1](#) and [tifinagh-alphabet](#)

★ NPCA **Next Step Travel to Morocco**: From the Desert to the Sea - The Medinas, Mountains (and more) of Morocco

The [first trip April 30 - May 13, 2017](#) under the NPCA banner was a smashing success. The majority of travelers are Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) – mostly from other Peace Corps countries as well as Morocco - and their family members. Tour operator and tour leader is [Kristy of Morocco](#) operated by Kristy Larson, a Peace Corp Volunteer in Essaouira Morocco from 1982 to 1984 and now a Meknes resident. She has been a tour leader or operator in Morocco for almost 35 years. and has led more than 200 trips throughout Morocco. Trip size is 10-15 travelers.

April 1 - 14, 2018 - [Morocco: From the Medinas to the Mountains](#) - *7 Spots Left!*

April 22 - May 5, 2018 - [Morocco: From the Medinas to the Mountains](#) - *SOLD OUT!*

October 7-20, 2018 - [Morocco: From the Medinas to the Mountains](#) - *SOLD OUT!*

November 4 - 17, 2018 - [Morocco: From the Medinas to the Mountains](#) - *6 Spots Left!*

★ **Photography contest to honor Casey Coes Morocco 2008-10: Entries and winners**

Casey Piper Coes was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Morocco 2008-10 in Boulmane Province. His Peace Corps Service is chronicled in his blog <http://caseypipercoes.blogspot.com>. Subsequently he was USAID Presidential Management Fellow (PMF) and analyst in Bureau for Resource Management. He passed away in 2016. Throughout his travels, Casey fully invested himself professionally and emotionally in the people and places he visited. He used photographs to memorialize the many lasting friendships made along the way. Casey's ability to engage with people and build genuine relationships enabled him to work effectively across different organizations, countries, and cultures. [Video](#) (2:14 min) of him.

A photography contest to honor Casey Coes, titled "Building Relationships: The People Behind Development" is at the website: <https://cpcpc.net>. The theme of the photo contest was "Building Relationships." The winners were as follows: 1st Place: Faye - Atlas Mountains, 2nd Place: Walton - little girl in Ghana and 3rd Place: Grady - Moroccan coop member. All entries can be viewed at cpcpc.net/judging



★ **PeaceWorks Fall 2017** by [PeaceWorks Morocco](#) Published Oct 31, 2017 hosted by Issuu. PeaceWorks is a literary magazine created for and by Volunteers in Peace Corps Morocco.

★ [PeaceWorks Spring 2017](#)

★ [PeaceWorks Spring 2016](#)

★ [PeaceWorks Fall 2015](#)

★ **Peace Corps Connect 2018** The 2018 annual gathering of the Peace Corps community - Peace Corps Connect August 23 - 25, 2018- will be hosted by National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) and [The Shawnee Institute](#) Shawnee on Delaware, PA. "This is going to be a different kind of conference," says NPCA President & CEO Glenn Blumhorst, of three days focused on how the greater Peace Corps community can move forward the health and wellness as international development missions in the fresh air and surroundings of a gathering in the Pocono Mountains.

"It's a chance for our community to step back and rethink what the Peace Corps and the international development communities are doing to improve the quality of life in the less-developed communities of the world." Blumhorst urges everyone to save the dates for the event as the NPCA announces further plans for Peace Corps Connect 2018.

The Shawnee Institute is part of the Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort, a 103-room hotel and golf resort in Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains on the banks of the Delaware River. The resort is owned by Charlie and Ginny Kirkwood. Ginny serves on the NPCA Advisory Council and is NPCA Board Director Emeritus (1995-2001). She was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Turkey (1964-1966) and was Peace Corps Thailand country director from 1990-1993. The resort hosted an NPCA annual conference there in 1996 and again in 2000. The historic resort was built in the 1920s and was the recording home of Fred Waring and the Pennsylvanians in the 1940s years for many of their weekly radio programs. In recent years, the Kirkwoods have operated a popular family resort and in addition to NPCA events have, as the resort added the Shawnee Institute, hosted University of Pennsylvania psychology department training for faculty from Harvard and other major universities. The resort features two golf courses, as well as fishing, canoeing and kayaking on the river, a local craft brewery and a community theater. The small town of Shawnee is surrounded by national forests and other recreation opportunities.

★ **NPCA 2016 Annual Report** details key goals and activities, lists of contributors, and financial statements. The 2017 Annual General Membership Meeting (AGMM) was held in conjunction with [Peace Corps Connect in Denver, CO](#) on Saturday, August 5, 2017. [Download the agenda](#) and [presentation slides](#).



Dr. Josephine (Jody) K. Olsen nominated as the 20th person to be Director of the Peace Corps. Ms. Olsen, Ph.D., is senior lecturer at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, and has served for the past eight years as a visiting professor at the School of Social Work and Director, Center for Global Education Initiatives. She has taught on issues of international health and social services, and has authored numerous articles and spoken frequently at academic conferences on teaching and studying abroad. If confirmed, Dr. Olsen will return to the Peace Corps, where she served as Acting Director in 2009, Deputy Director from 2002-2009, Chief of Staff from 1989-1992, Regional Director, North Africa Near East, Asia, Pacific from 1981-1984, and Country Director in Togo from 1979-1981. Dr. Olsen also served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Tunisia from 1966-1968. Dr. Olsen served as senior vice president of the Academy for Educational Development from 1997-2002 and executive director of the Council for International Exchange of Scholars from 1997-2002. Dr. Olsen received a bachelor's degree from the University of Utah and a master's degree in social work and a doctorate from the University of Maryland. A native of Utah, Dr. Olsen currently lives in Maryland. [Click here](#) to see the list of previous Peace Corps Directors.

"We applaud President Trump for nominating Dr. Jody Olsen to lead the Peace Corps," said National Peace Corps Association President and CEO Glenn Blumhorst. "As a returned volunteer, country director, acting director for the agency—and highly engaged member in the Peace Corps community—Jody knows the Peace Corps experience and the people who have served as well as anyone. Jody's commitment to education and social work and her decades of leadership are a perfect match for a 21st-century Peace Corps poised to grow and improve. We encourage Chairman Corker and his Senate colleagues to move swiftly to confirm Jody as next director. America and the world need the Peace Corps now more than ever. We're excited Jody has the opportunity to lead it."

A co-founder of the NPCA affiliate *Women of Peace Corps Legacy*, Olsen was a featured contributor in the Winter 2017 issue of *WorldView* magazine, writing about the rise of women in leadership roles in the agency and in international development.

"Today 62 percent of Peace Corps' 7,300 volunteers are women," Olsen wrote. "Over the years, each group of female volunteers has motivated the next group, and each generation to the next. This extraordinary group of approximately 125,000 females spanning 56 years of service are giving back to families, communities, states, and nations in ways not possible without the Peace Corps experience, one contribution at a time. "Today, women's roles are stronger than ever, particularly here in the United States. Is there a need for further attention of Peace Corps women on behalf of women and girls? Yes. The issues faced by women and girls still need our support...Some of the issues might look overwhelming, but the Peace Corps experience has taught us to work with whatever situation we find, a person, a family, or community."



In Memoriam:



[Reuben Simmons](#) Died Sunday, August 13, 2017 shortly after his 103rd birthday on the 9th. He leaves behind his wife of almost 20 years, Marilyn Charles (Morocco 1 62-64 TEFL); his sons, Edward and Reuben, daughter, Linda; ten grandchildren, numerous great-grandchildren and relatives; and a multitude of close friends. A native of Charleston, SC, where his father owned the well-known Ocean Fish Company, Mr. Simmons attended Lincoln University in Kansas City, MO and pursued graduate studies at the University of Chicago and the Washington College of Law at the American University. In his early career Mr. Simmons worked at the Department of Agriculture as the project director of an experimental development program representing rural farmers during the Great Depression. For 25 years he continued his career overseas as an advisor to foreign governments on agricultural banking. In carrying out his assignments for the U.S. government, the Ford Foundation and the World Bank in Libya, Kenya, Vietnam and Bangladesh, Mr. Simmons utilized skills in financial development and mediation. He was recruited by Sargent Shriver to establish the early Peace Corps programs in Tunisia and Morocco. Published in The Washington Post on Aug. 16, 2017



[Diane Skelly Ponasik](#) passed away on November 17, 2017, after a short illness, in Washington, DC. Diane was born in San Francisco on April 9, 1939. Diane graduated from William and Mary College in 1961. After working a

short time as a travel agent in New York City, she became a Peace Corps Volunteer in Morocco. Her Peace Corps Activities motivated her to pursue graduate studies, earning a PhD in anthropology from the State University of New York in Binghamton. She continued her interest in international development as a democracy officer with USAID from 1977 to 2002. In retirement Diane was a docent at the Freer-Sackler gallery in Washington, DC, specializing in Islamic art and she was an officer with the Tangier American Legation Institute for American Studies (TALIM). She also wrote the novel, *Tangier*. Diane is survived by her husband, Gerald (TEFL 69-70; APCD/Educ 70-72); daughter Amal Disparte (Dante Disparte); brothers Jack and Edward, and grandchildren Andalus, Messina, and Nero. In lieu of flowers please donate to the Freer Sackler Gallery or TALIM.

★ **Joseph Kenneth Cummiskey**, PhD '63, of Gloucester, Mass., at 78, of stomach cancer. He served in the Army from 1946 to 1948 and the National Guard from 1951 to 1954. He earned his bachelor's degree from Springfield College in 1952 and a master's in education from Oregon State U. in 1953. In 1965 to 67, he was associate director for the Peace Corps in Morocco. He supervised educational programs in Guam and established an in-state secondary school program for Native Americans in Alaska in the late 1960s. He directed a community services project for the American Association of Junior Colleges and directed the National Council of Community Services before serving as vice president for academic affairs at the Henniker, N.H.-based New England College. He became president of the college in 1973 and remained there for 10 years. After retiring, he became active in volunteer activities, including serving on the board of the Gloucester-based Cape Ann Forum. Survivors: his wife of 53 years, Joan; one daughter, Lynn Anne Maguire; one son, David; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

★ **Owen John Kvittem**, 69, of Lincoln, NE, passed away August 8, 2016. Born February 11, 1947 in Faribault, MN to Myron and Marcy (Johnson) Kvittem. Ret. Engineer, State of Nebraska Dept. of Natural Resources. Member of Southwood Lutheran Church. Peace Corps Morocco 1970. Enjoyed helping anyone with any and every project and more importantly spending time with his family and friends. Family members include his wife, Debbie; mother, Marcy, Kenyon, MN; sons, Scott (Holly), Detroit Lakes, MN, Dane (Jamie), Lincoln and Lee (Sandy) Kvittem, San Angelo, TX; sisters, Ann (Bruce) Carlson, Colorado Springs, CO, Naomi (Dean) Murray, Zumbrota, MN; brother, Eric Kvittem and special friend Sharon Hundley, Minneapolis, MN;; grandchildren, Jacob, Taylor, Caleb, Max, Landon, Autumn; niece, Grace and nephew, Steven. Memorials to Peoples City Mission, Southwood Lutheran Church or Lincoln Police Dept.

★ **[The Amazigh Adventures of Le Petit Prince](#)**

Article in *Aramco World* November/December 2017 Written by Louis Werner

A fennec fox, the sand and stars, a baobab tree and a lad whose scarf unwinds to the length of a tagelmust, the face-covering turban worn by the nomads in the Sahara, are just some of the images that readers hold dear after finishing *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. The reach of the beloved children's classic—about a pilot who crash-lands in the world's largest sand desert and meets a small boy from a far-off asteroid—is as vast as the Sahara itself.

★ **"Dawn in the Sahara Desert. You can't help but feel a sense of wonder and magic..."** Terry Colby, in [an article](#) in the Chicago Tribune on a recent sightseeing trip through Morocco.

★ **[Welcome to Morocco](#)** Short (2:27) video on modern Morocco on Facebook

★ **[Peace Corps Morocco's Current Reads: Fall 2017](#)**

Every season, the Gender and Development (GAD) Committee likes to recommend gender-friendly, insightful books to our readers. However, we changed things up a bit this season and decided to reach out to the entire Peace Corps Morocco community for recommendations. Here are five books that some of our second-year volunteers want to put on your radar:

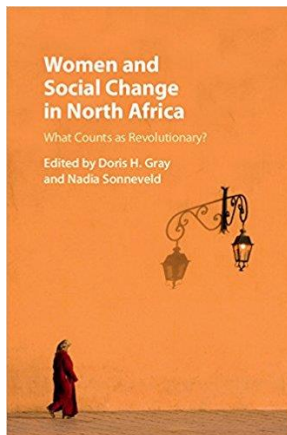
[All Strangers Are Kin: Adventures in Arabic and the Arab World](#) by Zora O'Neill

[My António](#) by Willa Cather

[We Share Walls: Language, Land, and Gender in Berber Morocco](#) by Katherine Hoffman

[Beyond Feminism and Islamism: Gender and Equality in North Africa](#) by Doris Gray

[Orlando](#) by Virginia Woolf



★ Forthcoming publication of a new book "[Women and Social Change in North Africa: What Counts as Revolutionary?](#)" Women's voices are brought to the fore in this comprehensive analysis of women and social change in North Africa. Focusing on grass-roots perspectives, readers will gain a rare glimpse into how both the intentional and unintentional actions of men and women contribute to societal transformation. Most chapters are based on extensive field work that illuminates the real-life experiences, advocacy, and agency of women in the region. The book considers frequently less studied issues including migration, legal changes, oral and written law, Islamic feminism, and grass-roots activism. It also looks at the effectiveness of shelters for abused women and the changes that occurred in the wake of the 2011 Arab uprisings, as well as challenging conventional notions of feminist agency by examining Salafi women's life choices.

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★ Searching the Internet Archives for the keyword [Morocco](#) brings up a browsers paradise with 8,088 citations in multiple media, such as Texts: 3,584; Movies: 2,857; Audio: 1,199; and Image: 350

★ Thomas Duncan (M'Hamid el Ghizlane 2013-2016) has finished his Peace Corps service in the region and has continued in Morocco with the music school program and a cultural preservation project through the US Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation funded by the Department of State. [Joudour Sahara](#) was officially established in 2016 and our programming has been very successful since then. And a [video on gender development](#) through the school. [Facebook](#)
Thomas Duncan dunc.te@gmail.com +212 6 13 32 64 34 and +1 240 550 1070

★ [Mushmina: Made with Love in Morocco](#) is the business of Heather O'Neill, Co-founder and CEO Heather is a designer and social entrepreneur. She has a BFA from the School of Visual Arts and a Masters Degree in Global Affairs and International Business from New York University. She started her career working as a materials and design specialist for Material Connexion in NYC and then served as a volunteer small business

adviser with the United States Peace Corps in Morocco. She lived in a rural region of Morocco and helped women diversify their line of products for the export market. Since her experience in the Peace Corps, it was her dream to start a company to employ women both in the US and in Morocco. Heather is fluent in Arabic and lives in a rural region outside of Casablanca with her husband, son Youssef, and daughter Hiba, whose name means 'gift' in Arabic. Boutique is at 164 E. Lancaster Ave. Wayne PA. They currently also sell to over 100 shops internationally.



[Council of American Overseas Research Centers \(CAORC\)](#) is pleased to announce the 2017-2018 fellowship applications are now available online!

NEH Senior Research Fellowship Program

The CAORC National Endowment for the Humanities Senior Research Fellowship Program supports advanced research in the humanities for US postdoctoral scholars, and foreign national postdoctoral scholars who have been residents in the US for three or more years. Fellowship stipends are \$4,200 per month for a total of four months.

Applicants must:

- carry out research in a country which hosts a participating American overseas research center. Eligible countries for 2018 are: Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Cyprus, Georgia, Indonesia, Mexico, Mongolia, **Morocco**, Nepal, Senegal, Sri Lanka or Tunisia;
- be postdoctoral scholars;
- be US citizens or foreign nationals who have been residents in the US for three years prior to the application deadline.

Applications for the NEH Senior Research Fellowship Program are now available at orc fellowships.fluidreview.com. The deadline for submissions is January 31, 2018 and announcements are expected to be made by the end of April 2018.



[The American Institute for Maghrib Studies \(AIMS\) 2018-2019 Grants Program for US Citizens.](#)

The program offers grants to U.S. scholars interested in conducting research on North Africa in any Maghrib country, specifically Algeria, Mauritania, **Morocco**, or Tunisia for the academic year beginning in May 2018. AIMS sponsors three Overseas Research Centers in the region in Oran, Tunis and Tangier and has other institutional affiliations that support AIMS scholars. AIMS only funds primary research conducted in the Maghrib.

Short-Term Research Grants: AIMS awards short-term grants for one to three months for up to \$6,000.

These awards may also be used in combination with grants from other sources for projects of longer duration.

Long-Term Research Grants: AIMS offers awards with a maximum of \$15,000 for projects longer than three months. In accordance with an agreement with major funding agencies, applicants may not accept multiple grants concurrently for the same project. In the event a grantee declines an AIMS award to accept another grant, AIMS may provide a small allowance for supplementary research expenses. Some privately funded grants are exempt from this rule.

Eligibility: Graduate students currently enrolled in an M.A. or Ph.D. program, independent scholars, and faculty in all disciplines are eligible to apply. All applicants must be U.S. citizens at the time of application. Recipients of AIMS awards in either of the two previous funding cycles are ineligible to apply. Travel/research plans must be set and funds must be disbursed prior to May 2019. Applicants must be members of AIMS at the time of application. For membership and grant information, please contact the AIMS Executive Office at aims@aimsnorthafrica.org.

Requirements: All AIMS grantees are required to present their research at one of the AIMS Overseas Research Centers or affiliated centers, currently CEMA in Oran, Algeria; CEMAT in Tunis, Tunisia; Dar Si-Hmad in Sidi Ifni, Morocco; TALIM in Tangier, Morocco. AIMS Grantees must also submit a written report within one month of completing their fieldwork. Please email completed applications to: AIMSFellowship@gmail.com. The deadline

for applications is JANUARY 31ST, 2018. [View Grant Call Application Cover Sheet](#)

★ **Friends of Morocco and the National Peace Corps Association** are now dues-free (contributions welcome) One can join NPCA and Friends of Morocco at the [NPCA membership page](#). Membership in the NPCA is complimentary for everyone in the Peace Corps community – serving Peace Corps Volunteers, Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, current Peace Corps staff, former Peace Corps staff, host country nationals and anyone who shares Peace Corps ideals, so long as we have accurate service and contact information for you. If you are a part of the Peace Corps family, then membership in the National Peace Corps Association is important for you! Alternatively, one can fill out the [Friends of Morocco Membership Application](#) and email it to timresch@gmail.com.

The [National Peace Corps Association \(NPCA\)](#) is connecting and championing Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and the Peace Corps community. It provides service and education opportunities that build on the Peace Corps experience, and is also the longest-standing advocate for an independent and robust Peace Corps. The National Peace Corps Association is a nonprofit organization encompassing a network of over 50,000 individuals and more than 140 member groups. The NPCA and its member groups produce global education programs and advocacy campaigns, and provide community, national and international services. [Friends of Morocco](#) and the [High Atlas Foundation](#) (Morocco) are affiliate groups of NPCA.

[Become a Mission Partner](#) by contributing \$50 or more and you'll automatically receive a one-year subscription to WorldView. Your contribution to NPCA's [Community Fund](#) supports our core programs. You'll be helping to increase our community's development impact, provide transition assistance to recent RPCVs and advocate for a bigger and better Peace Corps. You can also get WorldView on a subscription-only basis for \$25 per year.

★ **Friends of Morocco (FOM)**, active since 1988, is an organization of Americans, mostly returned Peace Corps volunteers (RPCVs), with experience in Morocco, Moroccan-Americans and Moroccans in America united with an interest in promoting educational, cultural, charitable, social, literary and scientific exchange between Morocco and the United States of America.

FOM seeks to:

- ★ unite Americans with experience in Morocco, Moroccan-Americans and Moroccans in America;
 - ★ improve the awareness of Americans regarding the culture, needs and achievements of Moroccan peoples;
 - ★ keep members and others current on events in Morocco;
 - ★ organize and implement development education and outreach activities;
 - ★ support projects of the U.S. Peace Corps and private charitable organizations in Morocco;
 - ★ fund and support scholarship on Morocco and Moroccans.
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★ This message is sent BCC to Friends of Morocco members for whom we have email addresses. BCC to prevent well-intentioned (or malicious) SPAM. Feel free to forward onward to your friends who might appreciate knowing about these events and who may not be on our email list. Have them contact us at timresch@gmail.com if they would also like these periodic updates. Advise if you would NOT like to receive these infrequent email alerts.

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