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## Friends of Morocco Quarterly Newsletter July 2018

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### ★ News from Morocco

★ [07/14 Weekly News in Review](#)

★ [07/07 Weekly News in Review](#)

★ [06/23 Weekly News in Review](#)

★ [06/16 Weekly News in Review](#)

★ [06/09 Weekly News in Review](#)

★ [06/02 Weekly News in Review](#)

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★ Peace Corps Morocco is celebrating **55 years of service in Morocco** (formerly the Staj 100 Celebration) with a media campaign starting this August! The Multimedia Committee is collecting submissions from RPCVs for photos and stories to be shared via Peace Corps Morocco's media channels, including [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#). The committee is working with several current PCVs to plan interviews with RPCVs and former staff interested in sharing stories. We are also gathering information for a long-term archival project. Resources of the Friends of Morocco and Peace Corps HQ will also be included. If you interested in sharing photos and stories from your service, fill out our Google Form [here](#). If there is a Moroccan counterpart, staff member, host relative, student, etc., we should feature, submit [this](#) form. Please also feel free to contact us at [pcmoroccomedia@gmail.com](mailto:pcmoroccomedia@gmail.com).

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### ★ Peace Corps/Morocco to Politics

★ Rick Neal, Morocco 88-93, Candidate for US House of Representatives (OH) joined the Peace Corps after college, working in Morocco for five years as a teacher and a health educator. [Rick Neal for U.S. Congress](#).

*He writes: I'm running for Congress in Ohio's 15th district against Steve Stivers. It's time we had a Congress that works for all of us - for better-paying jobs, for an end to the opioid epidemic, and for affordable healthcare for everyone. Steve Stivers left us behind last year when he took a new job raising money for his fellow Republicans in Congress - then voted to kick thousands of his constituents off their health insurance.*

*I've dedicated my life to service and advocacy. I joined the Peace Corps after college and ran relief programs for refugees in Asia and Africa. I moved to Columbus in 2007 to raise a family, and fought for*

*marriage equality so that my family could have the same protections under the law as other married couples.*

*Right now, our country is headed in the wrong direction, and we all need to do everything we can to get it back on track. Join me here on this page and at [rickneal.com](http://rickneal.com) - it's time to do better for Ohio and for the country.*

★ [Alex Garcia](#) Health Educator, Morocco · March 2007 to May 2009 has been elected to a seat on the Baltimore City Democratic Central Committee. He writes *I launched this campaign because I care deeply about advancing progressive causes in our city--things like providing affordable housing, good education for our kids, fighting poverty and homelessness, and standing up for those who are marginalized, threatened, and made poor in our society. To achieve these goals in a city that's dominated by the Democratic Party, we need that Party to be better than it has ever been, work harder than it has ever worked, and to model genuinely progressive ideals. I will fight for this vision of what the Party should be from my seat on the Central Committee. In the coming months, I look forward to working to elect a Democratic Governor, supporting our House and Senate candidates who are in competitive general elections, and strengthening our Party's own organizational culture.*

★ Barbara Ferris President/Founder of the [International Women's Democracy Center](#) was established to strengthen women's global leadership through training, education, networking and research in all facets of democracy with a particular focus on increasing the participation of women in policy, politics and decision-making within their own governments. The International Women's Democracy Center was established to strengthen women's global leadership through training, education, networking and research in all facets of democracy with a particular focus on increasing the participation of women in policy, politics and decision-making within their own governments.

★ [RPCVs for Political Action](#) is the FaceBook group is a group for Peace Corps Alumni who are interested in political action. It is open to all perspectives. This group is connected to @PCTopolitics Page and web site <https://peacecorpstopolitics.org>.

★ The [National Peace Corps Association Advocacy site](#) has information on current issues, resources and links to your representatives in Congress.

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★ [PeaceWorks](#) the PCVs of Morocco have just published the [Spring 2018](#) version of PeaceWorks, the literary magazine created for and by Volunteers in Peace Corps Morocco.

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★ **Peace Corps Partnership:** Environmental education project for the youth in Ait Ishaq I (David Rojas) am a current PCV from Florida serving in in Morocco. My site mate, Rebecca Mercer, and I are working on an environmental education project for the youth in our town, Ait Ishaq. Through a newly formed environmental club at the youth center, we are trying to plan a handful of day hikes and one multi day trip to hike the tallest mountain in Morocco (Mt. Toubkal) with the youth from our community - 30 youth. We hope that we can trick them into learning a few things while keeping them

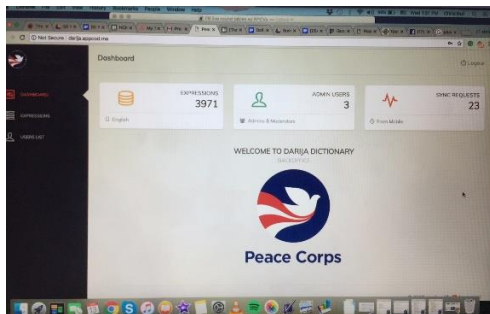
engaged by doing fun activities and exploring the Atlas region of Morocco. There is more information about the project at this [link](#).

There are eight other Peace Corps Partnership projects in Morocco also seeking funding described [HERE](#). One can also contribute to the Morocco Country Fund [HERE](#)

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### ★ Peace Corps Darija App Update

PCV Chris Bull and team are working to get everything published and transferred over to Peace Corps Morocco. Currently, we are working on getting the web editor uploaded to the server, then we will move forward creating an account and publishing the Android version of the app to the Google Play store and making that available. From there we will work to get the iOS(iPhone) version of the app uploaded to Sharepoint so as to distribute the app without incurring the high annual cost from the App Store.



The Darija App Project was an initiative started by the Multimedia Committee of Peace Corps Morocco. The initiative was to develop an app for volunteers as a resource for their continued language learning, as well as for any and all others with a desire to learn Moroccan Arabic. Currently, there are a handful of apps available for Moroccan Arabic that offer a very basic level of language training for the dialect. The Darija App has been developed based on a Peace Corps database of thousands of words, expressions, and grammatical guides for Moroccan Arabic that is continually being developed by Peace Corps Morocco training staff. In an effort to continually expand upon the app, Peace Corps training staff is currently at work developing audio tracks to accompany each word and phrase within the app. The app has been developed by a local Morocco-based technology company and made possible by donations from Friends of Morocco. The app is currently in beta testing but will be available free of charge to all users in the Google Play store and the App store for all iPhones and Android phones in the near future. Our deepest gratitude goes out to Friends of Morocco for their kind donations which made this app a possibility and their continued support of Peace Corps Morocco and Peace Corps Volunteers.

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### ★ Know Your Gender and Development Committee (GAD) Committee: Summer 2018

The GAD Committee is excited to share what we've been working on the past few months, as well as announce the [newly elected board](#)! As we begin transitioning into our new roles, GAD is focused on streamlining our extensive [Resources](#) to make them more easily accessible and relevant to your work in site. We hope that with additional promotion of what our [Google Drive](#) has to offer via our media channels, PCVs and Moroccans will find further use of the incredible material created and curated over

the years.

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## ★ Blogs and Vlogs

Blogs are a good way for volunteers, RPCVs and others to work on Peace Corps Goal 3: To help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans. Check out [blogs from serving volunteers](#). Archival blogs by RPCVs can be found on the Friends of Morocco [Personal Home Pages-FOM members](#) and by others at [Blogs, ListServes and News Groups](#)

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## ★ [Dr. Jody Olsen Sworn in as 20th Director of the Peace Corps](#)

Dr. Josephine (Jody) K. Olsen was sworn in as the 20<sup>th</sup> Director of the Peace Corps on March 30, 2018. Olsen has previously served the agency in various capacities, including as a Peace Corps volunteer in Tunisia from 1966-1968.

Olsen is committed to leading a Peace Corps that remains the world's preeminent volunteer agency, offering all Americans the opportunity to serve their country. She envisions recruiting skilled and resilient volunteers who stand poised to achieve the greatest impact. In the months ahead, she will focus on ensuring that Peace Corps sends volunteers to countries where they are needed most.

Under her leadership, volunteers' health, safety, and security will remain the agency's top priorities. "I look forward to working closely with our remarkable volunteers, dedicated staff serving across the world and throughout the United States, our global partners, and bipartisan supporters in Congress to ensure that together we are advancing the agency's mission and goals," said Olsen. President Trump nominated Olsen to lead the agency on January 3, 2018, and the U.S. Senate took bipartisan action to confirm her on March 22, 2018.

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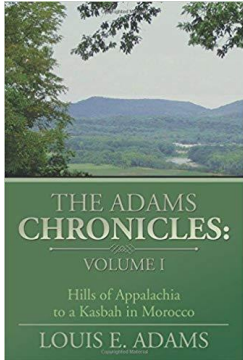
★ The Peace Corps has published its [FY 2018-2022 Strategic Plan and FY 2018-2019 Annual Performance Plan](#). Congress is now considering the Peace Corps [Congressional Budget Justification - FY 2019](#) for the Fiscal Year starting October 1, 2018.

★ Other [Peace Corps Open Government Reports](#) (593) are also searchable and available. Reaching a peak in 2009 with 140 reports posted the number has declined to 20 posted in 2017 and 10 so far in 2018.

★ The [Peace Corps Manual](#) provides the policies govern the operations of the Peace Corps and the responsibilities and conduct of Volunteers and agency employees.

★ Additional information about Peace Corps policies can be found in the [Peace Corps Volunteer Handbook](#), [Peace Corps' Code of Federal Regulations](#) and [MS 101 The Peace Corps Act](#).

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**Louis E. Adams (Morocco Peace Corps Staff 62-66 and Retired: Emeritus Professor of Medicine University of Cincinnati)** published his second book about the Lab Tech Program in Morocco. The Adams Chronicles: Vol. II. The first book: [The Adams Chronicles; Vol. I. Hills of Appalachia to a Kasbah in Morocco](#) is available on Amazon and the Vol II is available for \$35 from [theoldeprofessor@gmail.com](mailto:theoldeprofessor@gmail.com) or at 513.254.7558.

*As presented in detail in Volume Two, the author returned to Morocco as the Director of two groups of 50-plus PCV Lab Techs who were stationed in hospitals and clinics throughout Morocco to fill a void left by the exodus of French health care workers after Moroccan Independence in 1956. The overall success of the program was marginal due to many factors: limited number of well-trained medical technologists, demands for additional lab test overwhelmed AB generalists, lab bench work too mundane, work lacked opulence, provided limited self-gratification, and impeded cross-culture exchange and social interaction, loyalty to work ethics was limited, and social revolution occurring in the 1960's accentuated the character flaws and immaturity of some PCVs. Cities like Tangier, Tetouan, and Marrakesh in the 1960's provided adventure, deception, intrigue, mystery, and high-octane thrills that attracted expatriates, writers, poets, exotic travelers, and PCVs who got caught up in the drug scene.*



**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. Friends of Morocco will have affiliated events. Morocco RPCV 1971-73 and Peace Corps Country Director in multiple countries [Douglass Teschner](#) will speak on *Growing Your Inner Leader*.

"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."

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.

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★ **Stevens Initiative 2018 Competition Opening Soon!** The Stevens Initiative will open the 2018 competition to fund virtual exchange programs in August with letters of interest due six weeks later.

The Initiative is interested in scaling proven models of virtual exchange as well as seeding innovative new program models. Prospective qualified applicants are encouraged to discuss their program design, communicate with partners, and conduct other planning activities in anticipation of the official announcement. Please visit the [Resource Page](#) on the Initiative's website to learn more about how to design and conduct a virtual exchange program and how to apply for an Initiative award. Please email us at [stevensinitiative@aspeninstitute.org](mailto:stevensinitiative@aspeninstitute.org) if you have any questions.

The Stevens Initiative is managed by the Aspen Institute through a cooperative agreement with the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State with additional funding from the Bezos Family Foundation and the governments of Morocco and the United Arab Emirates.

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★ **[Painless Arabic](#)**

Excellent comparison videos between Moroccan and Standard Arabic [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#). They also have a Suite (39) of YouTube video dialogues in Darija.

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★ An excellent video [هل الدارجة المغربية : لهجة عربية؟ "Is Moroccan Darija an Arabic dialect?"](#) is posted by [أصول الشعب المغربي Moroccan DNA Genetics & Anthropology](#) a FaceBook group specializing in Anthropology, Demography, DNA and Asset Human static state of Morocco, North Africa and the Mediterranean countries.

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★ The **[Moroccan Arabic Step By Step](#)** by Skype course is designed as its name suggests in a step by step approach allowing you to learn and acquire Moroccan Arabic little by little taking a step further each time you take a class.

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★ **[Amazon launches support for Arabic language books](#)**

More than 12,000 books are now available in Arabic. Good news for Arabic language authors: They now have a spot on Kindle. The digital selection is available on Kindle devices and the free Kindle app on iPhone, iPad, Android phones and tablets, and Amazon's own Fire tablets.

"We are excited to make Arabic language Kindle books available to the hundreds of millions of Arabic speakers around the world," said David Naggar, vice president of kindle at Amazon, in a release. "This is another step in our ongoing work to provide more choice and selection to readers."

Some of the popular books available include Arabic classics like Ibn Khaldoun's Muqadimah and Kalila wa Dimna as well as translated English language books like Diary of a Wimpy Kid and Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone.

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★ **Pay it back and continue good works**

Examples of ways for Morocco RPCVs to stay connected with good works in Morocco. Organizations such as [Project Soar](#), [Crafting Love and Hope](#), [Tangier American Legation Institute for Moroccan Studies \(TALIM\)](#), the [High Atlas Foundation](#), [Mobilising for Rights Associates \(MRA\)](#), [Morocco Library Project](#) and [CorpsAfrica](#) all have a Peace Corps connection.

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★ The **Moroccan-American community in the U.S.** is vibrant operating at national, state and local levels. [Wafin.com](#) is the oldest and largest portal for the Moroccan American community. The site allows its members to find each other, locate Moroccan businesses, discuss pertinent topics and stay abreast of Moroccan events. It also provides helpful resources and services to the Moroccan community, including links to some of the other major [organizations](#).

Searching Facebook groups for Morocco or Moroccan turns up many groups. Some of the Groups are geographic-centered such as in Washington, DC, New York, Tampa, Florida, and Dallas, Houston, Arizona, and California. Others are centered on interests such as cuisine, Darija, business, politics, employment, youth, and women. Peace Corps/Morocco-related facebook groups will be linked on our web site.

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★ **Live Moroccan radio streams** noted on the website [Radio Garden](#) include:

[Atlantic Radio](#)

[Radio Medina FM](#)

[Med Radio 88.2](#)

[MFM](#)

[NRJ Maroc](#)

[Radio Aswat](#)

[Radio Medi 1](#)

[Radio Yabiladi](#)

[CapRadio](#)

[Radio Mars](#)

[La Confiserie Sonore](#)

[Ness Radio](#)

[Radio Plus Marrakech](#)

Other Commercial News Services (Television, newspapers, magazines, web sites are linked on the Friends of Morocco [web site here](#)

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★ **Lindsay Lockhart**, 29 years of age, was diagnosed with Stage III adrenal cortical carcinoma in November 2017; an extremely rare cancer that is sadly one of the most aggressive and unforgiving. Lindsay has given much of her life in service to others, including two and a half years in the Peace Corp in Morocco 2011-13, and time in Peru helping to rebuild a small town after an earthquake. After graduating from Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies with a master's degree in May 2017, Lindsay married the love of her life, Michael Riess, in June 2017. Lindsay has now had multiple surgeries, several scans, is on a highly specialized cocktail of medication, and is well into her chemotherapy regimen, which will hopefully get this cancer under control. A [GoFundMe page](#) is tracking her progress and is a contact point.

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★ **Hosting foreign students and visitors**

[Tara Bell](#), Morocco Health 2011-13 Ouarzazat, posted on Facebook *I'm working with a nonprofit called [American Councils for International Education](#) on a high school exchange program and I have a few YES scholarship students that I'm trying to find host families for the 2018-2019 academic year.* The Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) program, funded by the U.S. Department of State, provides scholarships for secondary school students from [countries](#) with significant Muslim populations to spend one academic year in the United States.

The above is one of many short and long-term opportunities to host foreign visitors to the United States. Examples also include [CIEE](#), which supports exchanges both ways and [AFS-USA](#) as well. Hosting professional exchanges visitors are generally coordinated by affiliates of the [World Affairs Councils of America](#), an independent, nonpartisan organization dedicated to engaging the public and leading global voices to better understand the world, America's international role, and the policy choices that impact our daily lives and our future.

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★ **Peace Corps Journey** added [a new photo](#) to the album: [Meet Your Recruiter May 27](#) ·

"Serving in the Peace Corps helps Americans learn that the world is inextricably interconnected and how wonderful it is to have a cross-cultural exchange while promoting peace and friendship." Jill MacIntyre Witt served as a Health Education Volunteer in Morocco (1990 to 91) and is now a campus recruiter at [Western Washington University](#). [#MeetYourRecruiter](#)

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★ **[How Peace Corps Volunteers changed my life](#)**

By Reda Dihimine OCT. 24, 2017

*When I was 14, I heard that an American Peace Corps Volunteer was teaching English classes in my town, Amizmiz, situated in the high Atlas Mountains of Morocco. [More...](#)*

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★ **Friends of Morocco and the National Peace Corps Association** are now dues-free 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](mailto:timresch@gmail.com). Contributions welcome.

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 180 affiliate 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. [WorldView archival issues](#) can be viewed free online.

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★ **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 [tim@friendsofmorocco.org](mailto:tim@friendsofmorocco.org) if they would also like these periodic updates. Advise if you would NOT like to receive these infrequent email alerts.

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