



Desert Doves Monthly Newsletter

May 2022 Update



by **Desert Doves Board** on May 4, 2022

Happy May Desert Doves!

Thanks to all who joined us at Tuk Tuk Thai a few weeks ago for Doves Dine. This month, we look forward to catching up at our general meeting, which will be Saturday 5/21 at the Lopes house. That meeting will offer an opportunity to meet and vote on prospective new Board members, hear from one of our local grantees, celebrate recent Coverdell graduates, and discuss summer event ideas (we're aiming for another cornhole tournament later in the summer!). We are also bringing back our Rideshare for meetings - see the signup link below.

See you soon,

Desert Doves Board



Our April Board meeting included current Board members, outgoing Board members, and a handful of Doves who stopped by to learn more about the organization - thanks to Crooked Tooth for hosting!

Board Updates

Board Shifts

- **We are excited to introduce potential new Board members at our next meeting!** Currently, we have applicants for the Treasurer and Vice President positions. Join us as we vote to approve them at our May meeting and bring them onto the team!
- **Current Board Vacancies - Communications/Secretary: With our former Secretary**, Chris Ortiz y Pino, and current Communications Chair, Lisa Floran, both wrapping up terms, the Board is hoping to combine the two roles into one position. The Secretary/Communication position will be responsible for compiling minutes and notes during meetings and managing the Doves email and social media accounts, including this newsletter. If you are interested in learning more about this position, feel free to reach out to Lisa at lisa.floran@gmail.com.

Advocacy Updates

- Susie Qashu, your Desert Doves President, needs a Co-Advocacy Coordinator. The time commitment is minimal. However, with board duties each month, she needs advocacy support. As a Co-Advocate you will be improving benefits for RPCVs headed to country, and you will be working to increase post-service benefits. We currently have a campaign with the NPCA to reach our Senators. Please call Susie at: 520 820 0922 or email her: sqashu@email.arizona.edu

Amazon Smile Tutorial

- Did you know that with a few simple clicks, your Amazon purchases can benefit the Desert Doves? **Using smile.amazon.com and designating 'Returned Volunteers of Southern AZ' as your charitable organization of choice ensures that 0.5% of your purchases support our mission.** Learn more on our website: [Support Us](#)

[Peace Corps Calendars Available for Purchase](#)

- These calendars are produced annually by the RPCV group in Madison, WI and feature beautiful photos of countries where Volunteers have served around the world. You can purchase your calendars online, have them shipped to your door, and support the Desert Doves from home!
- Visit rpcvcalendar.org and create an order. **When you get to the end of the purchase, there is a box to enter the discount code PC4DDoves.** You will get \$1 off your total, and the Desert Doves will receive 40% of the proceeds!

Upcoming Events

May 2022 General Meeting: Pam and Phil Lopes have graciously offered to host the Doves in their backyard for our May meeting. Per Doves tradition, please bring food or drink to share, potluck-style. We ask that all members who attend be fully vaccinated and wear a mask any time they might be walking through an indoor space (restroom, getting food from the kitchen). At this meeting, we also look forward to celebrating the new Coverdell graduates who wrapped up in May!

Desert Doves General Meeting

Potluck at the Lopes House

Saturday, May 21st

6pm

1421 Camino De Juan, Tucson AZ 85745

[Carpool/Rideshare for May 2022 Meeting](#): Looking for a way to get to the meeting, or interested in making sure that all interested Doves can make it to Camino De Juan? We are happy to bring back our Carpool effort! Use the link to sign up to drive or to request a ride. On Friday before the meeting, we will share contact information with those who complete this form so that you can get in touch with ride-sharers.

Member Announcements

UArizona Course to Spotlight Real-Time, On-the Ground Human Rights Practitioners in Ukraine : As the crisis unfolds in Ukraine, the University of Arizona is offering unprecedented real-time online access to human rights practitioners who are actively working within Ukraine and neighboring countries. Connecting live via Zoom, these frontline activists, journalists, and ordinary citizens are documenting human rights abuses, assisting refugees and displaced persons, and framing cultural resistance to Russian aggression -- and in the process writing the proverbial "first draft of history." You can read the schedule of speakers. From May 16 to July 1, students from around the world can take this one-of-a-kind course, which draws upon the Human Rights Practice Program's global network of practitioners and scholars. The course can be taken in two different ways: on a non-credit basis (as a "[Community Classroom](#)" experience) or for 3 credits (as [HRTS 495a/595a: Human Rights Crisis in Ukraine](#)). Learn more at the links!

Job Opportunity - [Director of Strategic Growth, Tohono Chul](#): Tohono Chul is a 49-acre public garden in Tucson, Arizona whose mission is to enrich people's lives by connecting them with the wonders of nature, art, and culture in the Sonoran Desert region and to inspire wise stewardship of the natural world. Founded in 1985, Tohono Chul has been a celebrated destination for locals to global visitors and deemed "One of the World's Ten Best Botanical Gardens" by Travel + Leisure Magazine. We are seeking a visionary, organized and team-oriented Director of Strategic Growth (DSG) who will be responsible for the strategic planning, coordination, and implementation of Tohono Chul's fundraising/revenue generating programs and community-oriented activities. This person should bring enthusiasm about celebrating the mission of Tohono Chul, thrive in a fast-paced environment and work collaboratively with an energetic team of staff and volunteers. Tohono Chul will be embarking on a strategic planning and master plan process and the DSG will be a key member of the leadership team in that process and will subsequently lead efforts to execute and fund the multiyear initiatives that emerge. Key to this position is growing Tohono Chul's presence in our community to broaden membership from the broader Tucson community.

Call for Panelists: Anyone who served in Peace Corps at a later stage of life --- e.g. mid-career or after retirement. I will be hosting an online event either on May 19th or May 26th via Zoom, at 2pm-3pm AZ time (subject to change). Please drop me a note if you would like to participate: abannikova@peacecorps.gov - thanks! - Anastasia Bannikova

Northern AZ RPCV Summer Camping: If you would like to join the 2022 No. AZ RPCV Camping Trip on Friday 6/10/22 - Sunday 6/12/22, you can start making reservations at the NPS North Rim Campground. The North Rim has outstanding hiking and mountain biking opportunities at the cool weather of 8,000' elevations. At some point during the weekend we will pick up the trash on our ADOT adopted segment of highway on AZ 67 @ milepost 607-609. Folks come together for breakfasts and dinners to share stories from around the world. More information will be sent out closer to June. Contact Jim with any questions - Jim McGeorge (Liberia 1968-71) - 928-714-1371 (h)

Lodging Options:

1. North Rim Campground— This campground is very popular. And reservations fill up quickly. Two vehicles and up to 6 campers are allowed at each campsite. In addition there are some tent -sites. Reservations can be made 6 months in advance (starting December 10, 2021) at: [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov)
2. North Rim Lodge -- Reservations for June 2022 open up October 1, 2021
3. Throw down camping in the Kaibab National Forest. Free

Volunteer Opportunity - Literacy Connects

Looking for a volunteer opportunity?

Join us for a street clean up of Prince & Yavapai Road on these upcoming dates:

Sunday, February 20

Saturday, March 19

Saturday, May 14

Sunday, September 11

Sunday, November 13

Saturday, December 10

**With full neighborhood clean up on
April 10 and October 15**

Come learn about recycling and other environmentally-friendly efforts in your community!



For more information contact Lupita Vazquez at
Lvazquez@literacyconnects.org



Reminders

- Support the Desert Doves and [pay your dues!](#)
- Join us on [Facebook](#) and Instagram (@rpcvtucson)
- Add the Desert Doves as your beneficiary on Amazon Smile. It's [easy!](#)
- Join our listserv and refer your friends! Email us at rpcvtucson@gmail.com

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Southern Arizona - Desert Doves

P.O. Box 41621

Tucson, AZ 85717

rpcvtucson@gmail.com