



---

---

# Semi Conductor

*The newsletter of the Southeast Michigan Returned Peace Corps and VISTA Volunteers*

Vol. XXIII No. 2

March/April 2011

## WELCOME COLUMN

We want to welcome some newly returned, newly arrived in town, or never been introduced returned volunteers or families of volunteers.

Please contact Cheryl Bukoff at [cbukoff@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cbukoff@sbcglobal.net) if you are new to the area or have not been involved with SEMIRPCV before as a returned volunteer or as family of volunteers. This includes Vista Volunteers as well!

Included in our welcome this time is:

·Perry Teicher who is currently living in Washington, D.C. doing "job development" before he begins his JD/MBA program in the Fall of 2011 (school not determined at this time).

Volunteer - Perry was in the Peace Corps in Aktobe, Kazakhstan, returning in March 2010. His placement was in the Organizational and Community Development Program. Perry primarily served as a PC volunteer at an organization

which worked to create an environment where people with disabilities can lead in-

dependent lives. His projects included the development and construction of the first wheelchair factory in Central Asia, setting-up a local volunteer club, organizing a series of charity parties, and supporting English Clubs. After Peace Corps – He travelled around Central Asia and the Caucasus for 4 months, spending time in Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Armenia. He would love talking about traveling

and/or Central Asia with anyone interested. He can be contacted at 248-736-6126 or a [pteicher@gmail.com](mailto:pteicher@gmail.com).

Mentoring – He would be interested in mentoring concerning social enterprise/ entrepreneurship or foreign affairs.

He would also be glad to talk with more recently returned volunteers about adjusting to being back in the State, the job market, etc. Perry does come back to the Detroit area.

A second person we want to welcome is Sam Ahlquist

who came to the Potnic this summer. Sam, who lives in Plymouth and is a retired Ford Engineer, is the father of Carrie Ahlquist who is presently a volunteer in Paraguay. She began her PC service February 2010 and will return in May 2011.

"Carrie is working with the schools and is planning to set up a library in her small town of about 250 people. It is very rural where she lives and when it rains the roads are impossible and everything shuts down. She has met some great friends in the village and seems to be doing quite well." Sam does not know what support she needs but she was to be back during the holidays and he will forward our interest.

(Unfortunately SEMIRPCV did not have any activities during that time). After Peace Corp Carrie plans to go to graduate school when she finishes her assignment.

A third volunteer is Sam Shopinski. Sam was a

2010-2011  
 Officers:  
 Sarah Martin-Fanone,  
 President  
 (585)295-9447  
 sarah.  
 martinfanone@gmail.com  
 Don Haffner, Vice-President  
 (248) 646-0844  
 Haffhere@sbcglobal.net  
 Beth Gamburd Secretary  
 (248)892-8878  
 Tom Napolitano, Treasurer  
 (734) 464 - 1897  
 Tomnap@bersama.net

Board of Directors  
 Cheryl Bukoff  
 Carol Freilich  
 Beth Gamburd  
 Malin Halladay  
 Louise Hartung  
 Jeff Jenks  
 Elaine Jirkans  
 Jeff Lambrecht  
 Pat Livingston  
 Manohar Shardeshpande  
 Jay Thomas  
 Jim Urban

Social  
 Ashleigh Shiffler  
 Community Outreach  
 Jeff Lambrecht  
 International  
 Carol Hofer, Pat Livingston  
 World Wise Schools  
 Elaine Jirkans  
 Fundraiser  
 Louise Hartung, Carol Hofer  
 Membership  
 Tom Napolitano  
 Mentoring  
 Harvey Somers

Meetings are the third  
 Sunday of the month  
 from 3-6 pm . We  
 rotate the location  
 each month so please  
 read the newsletter.

March:  
 Get together is in Ann Arbor,  
 courtesy of Harvey Somers.  
 Saturday, March 19 at 7pm,  
 Lotus Thai Restaurant,  
 2803 Oak Valley Drive,  
 734-668-2828.  
 Lotus is located near the Tar-  
 get -- just off I-94 at the Ann  
 Arbor-Saline Road exit.

April Event:

RPCV event at the Cadieux  
 Cafe April 2nd.  
<http://www.cadieuxcafe.com/>

Dinner at 6pm and Feather  
 Bowling at 8pm.  
 Rachel Westergren made the  
 reservation for 10, but  
 can increase it if more people  
 plan to attend.

RSVP to Rachel Wester-  
 gren by March 27,2011.  
 she needs an exact count.  
 586-879-363

Directions:  
 4300 Cadieux Rd.  
 between Mack  
 and Warren  
 Detroit MI 48224  
 Phone: 313 882 8560  
 Fax: 313 882 6832

The Semi Conductor is the official  
 newsletter of the Southeast Michigan  
 Returned Peace Corps Volunteers.  
 Publication is bimonthly; letters,  
 comments, and contributions are  
 welcome. Contact beth gamburd  
 248-892-8878 editor or email at eliza-  
 bethgamburd4@gmail.com

SEMIRPCV BOARD MEET-  
 ING DATES: All meetings  
 are on Sunday at 3pm (3rd  
 Sunday of the month)

March 20, 2011 Beth Gam-  
 burd, 30580 Hunters Dr. #2  
 Farmington Hills 48334  
 (248) 892-8878

April 17, 2011 Elaine Jirkans  
 703 E. Windemere Royal  
 Oak 48073 (313) 399-1182

May 22, 2011 Tom Napoli-  
 tano 17748 Woodside,  
 Livonia 48152 (248) 464-  
 1897

June 19, 2011 Jeff Jenks  
 13361 Ludlow, Huntington  
 Woods 48070 (248) 506-  
 4483

July 23, 2011  
 Directions to follow

August 21, 2011 Beth Gam-  
 burd 30580 Hunters Dr. #2  
 Farmington Hills 48334  
 (248) 892-8878

Sept. 18, 2011 Elaine  
 Jirkans 703 E. Windemere  
 Royal Oak 48073 (313) 399-  
 1182

Oct. 16, 2011 AGM at Tom  
 Napolitano's 17748 Wood-  
 side, Livonia 48152 (248)  
 464-1897

Website:  
[semirpcv.org](http://semirpcv.org)  
 Come visit us on the  
 website!

Community Development Volunteer, Banse-La Grace, St. Lucia, Eastern Caribbean (Jul '07 – Sep '09) and worked in:  
 Banse-La Grace Combined Primary School: School library development with lending system, chess and other extra-curricular activities, and IT instruction.  
 Fair Trade Farmers community groups: Financial records, group planning. Youth & Sports group: community activities, long-term development.  
 Disabilities awareness group: group activities, general planning. Tennis: Coached beginning and intermediate players, organized and implemented summer camps.  
 Program Development Response Volunteer, Castries, St. Lucia, Eastern Caribbean (Jan – Oct '10)  
 St. Lucia Diabetes & Hypertension Association: Co-wrote Constitution, formalized administrative policies and procedures with staff, developed financial systems, organized training of community leaders in diabetes and hypertensive care, general infrastructure and program development.  
 ·National Chess-in-Schools Initiative: initiated school assessments, co-organized national chess tournament, general program development.

Education / Professional outlook:

Since returning stateside, I have been preparing to take the MCAT and will apply for medical school for a fall '12 start.

In the interim, I hope to find work with an NGO or institution that focuses on affordable housing, health care, or any array of community-based initiatives. Any suggestions or references would be welcomed and appreciated.

Especially would be interested in working overseas with basic human needs (e.g. Haiti and rebuild – led crews to gut homes New Orleans post-Katrina '06-'07).

We hope that Perry, Sam, and Carrie (when she returns) will join our activities when they can!

\*\*\*\*\*

#### THE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Jeanne Paul

Natalie Wowk [Namibia '07-'09], SEMiRPCV's first mentee, beginning in July 2010, is finishing up her first of two years as a graduate student in the University of Michigan's Department of Urban Planning, which is within the College of Architecture and Urban Planning. Although the mentoring relationship

formally lasts only three months, Natalie has continued the relationship as a way to stay connected with the Peace Corps and to facilitate discussions of her studies and thoughts about the direction in which they might take her.

Natalie has discovered that among the courses she has taken, she most enjoys Geographic Information Systems (GIS), which connects with her undergraduate major at U-M in mathematics, as well as with work at her PC site, which entailed teaching math as well as physical science. GIS is a tool for analyzing a community's problems through collections of spatial data.

Other areas of particular interest to her are sustainability, environmental planning, and housing. Although she also is working 20 hours a week in another unit of the university, Natalie is taking a 15-credit course load--larger than the normal one--to pick up as many skills as she can before beginning her professional life in urban planning.

She is currently working with other students to develop a project for sustainable reuse of the landfill area in Ann Arbor. During her Peace Corps service, Natalie gained skills related to making presenta-

tions, working with others, and working with people from diverse backgrounds--skills she feels are helpful to her in her graduate work and will be helpful in her career.

Although Natalie had already been accepted into graduate school, she choose to join the mentorship program because "I was feeling lost when I was about to start the planning program. I didn't know which direction I wanted to go. It was helpful to bounce ideas off my mentor and it made it easier to keep going in the direction I'd started on."

\*\*\*\*\*

PUNS FOR EDUCATED MINDS:

- 1. The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.
- 2. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian .
- 3. She was only a whiskey maker, but he loved her still.
- 4. A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class, because it

was a weapon of math disruption.

5. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.

6. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.

7. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.

8. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.

9. A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.

10. Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

11. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.

12. Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other: 'You stay here; I'll go on a head.'

13. I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.

14. A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center said: 'Keep off the Grass.'

15. The midget fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.

16. The soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.

17. A backward poet writes inverse.

18. In a democracy it's your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count that votes.

19. When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.

20. If you jumped off the bridge in Paris, you'd be in Seine .

21. A vulture boards an airplane, carrying two dead raccoons. The stewardess looks at him and says, 'I'm sorry, sir, only one carrion allowed per passenger.'

22. Two fish swim into a concrete wall. One turns to the other and says 'Dam!'

23.

23. Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.

24. Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says, 'I've lost my electron.' The other says 'Are you sure?' The first replies, 'Yes, I'm positive.'

25. Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused Novocain during a root canal? His goal: transcendental medication.

26. There was the person who sent 10 puns to friends, withthe hope that at least one of the puns would make them laugh. No pun in ten did.

Smithsonian Folklife Festival

The Peace Corps Promoting World Peace and Friendship

Here's more info: <http://www.festival.si.edu/2011/PeaceCorps/>

The Festival will be taking place June 30-July 4 and July 7-July 11.

The Peace Corps program at the 2011 Smithsonian Folklife Festival will commemorate and celebrate the service and accomplishments of Peace Corps Volunteers during the agency's first fifty years.

On March 1, 1961, President John F. Kennedy signed an Executive Order that authorized the Peace Corps to "promote world peace and friendship" through three interrelated goals:

1. To help the people of interested countries and areas meet their needs for trained men and women;
2. To help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served; and
3. To help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

Since 1961, more than 200,000 Americans have

served as Peace Corps volunteers in 139 countries worldwide.

Their fields of service include agriculture, business development, community development, education, environment, health, and youth development.

The Peace Corps program at the Folklife Festival will bring together Peace Corps volunteers—both past and present—with many of the people with whom they have served from countries around the world. Some of the highlights will include:

- \* Demonstrations by craft cooperatives illustrating both local culture and the work of Volunteers in economic development and income generation;

- \* Performances by musical, dance, and theatrical groups that Peace Corps volunteers have helped to support, advise, and partner with to educate their communities;

- \* Presentations of food and cooking traditions that have played an important role in the Peace Corps experience; and

- \* Hands-on educational activities that will help increase public understanding and appreciation of the cultures and countries where Peace

Corps volunteers have lived and served during the last five decades.

The Peace Corps program is produced in cooperation with the Peace Corps, an independent federal agency based in Washington, D.C.

\*\*\*\*\*

Sargent Shriver Quote:

"The Peace Corps represents some, if not all, of the best virtues in this society.

It stands for everything that America has ever stood for. It stands for everything we believe in and hope to achieve in the world." - Sargent Shriver (1915-2011)

Sargent Shriver, the first Director of Peace Corps died recently. Our thoughts are with the Shriver family. RIP Sargent Shriver.

Peace Corps Announces 2011 Annual College Rankings

University of Colorado at Boulder and University of Mary Washington Earn Top Spots for the First Time

WASHINGTON, D.C., Feb. 1, 2011 – The University of Colorado at Boulder, The George Washington University and the University of Mary Washington top Peace Corps' 2011 rankings of colleges and universities.

For the first time in history, the University of Colorado at Boulder outpaced other universities in providing Peace Corps volunteers, with 117 undergraduate alumni currently serving overseas. Prior to 2011, the University of Washington held the top spot for four consecutive years. Historically, the University of California, Berkeley maintains the number one all-time rank, with 3,457 Peace Corps total volunteer alumni.

"For the last 50 years, colleges and universities across our country have been an integral part of the Peace Corps family, from developing young

leaders, to hosting trainings and teaching the importance of lifelong learning," said Peace Corps Director Aaron S. Williams.

"In 1961, President Kennedy created the Peace Corps in response to the passion of university students, and today we continue to be inspired by the enthusiasm, dedication, and creativity of the thousands of Americans now serving overseas. Colleges instill a commitment to public service among their students and share our belief that, together, we can work to make the world a better place."

Following are the top five colleges and universities in each undergraduate category, as well as the top graduate schools and a historical ranking. The numbers in parenthesis represent the number of alumni currently serving as Peace Corps volunteers.

LARGE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES:  
More than 15,000 undergraduates

\* University of Colorado at Boulder (117)

\* University of Florida (97)

\* University of Michigan

(94)

\* University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (94)

\* University of Washington (94)

MEDIUM COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES:

Between 5,001 and 15,000 undergraduates

\* The George Washington University (72)

\* University of Virginia (71)

\* Western Washington University (60)

\* American University (55)

\* Cornell University (55)

SMALL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES:

Less than 5,000 undergraduates

\* University of Mary Washington (32)

\* St. Olaf College (24)

\* Lewis & Clark College (23)

\* Gonzaga University (23)

\* University of Portland (23)

GRADUATE SCHOOLS

Number of graduate alumni volunteers

\* University of Washington (21)

\* University of Florida (20)

\* Michigan State University (16)

\* The George Washington University (15)

\* University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (15)

\* Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (15)

HISTORICALLY (SINCE 1961) Number of Alumni Volunteers

\* University of California, Berkeley (3,457)

\* University of Wisconsin - Madison (2,942)

\* University of Washington (2,676)

\* University of Michigan (2,409)

\* University of Colorado at Boulder (2,269)

In the medium school category, The George Washington University ranks number one for the third consecutive year, with 72 undergraduate alumni serving overseas.

For the first time since the es-

tablishment of the rankings, the University of Mary Washington took the top seat in the small school category, with 32 undergraduate alumni currently serving as volunteers. The University of Mary Washington has ranked among the top five in the small school category since 2005.

In the graduate school category, the University of Washington holds the top spot, with 21 currently serving volunteers holding master's degrees from the school. It was tied for first place with the University of Texas at Austin last year.

You can view the entire top 25 rankings for each category, as well as all-time and graduate school rankings, here.

Rankings are calculated based on fiscal year 2010 data as of September 30, 2010, as self-reported by Peace Corps volunteers.

About the Peace Corps: President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps on March 1, 1961, by executive order. Throughout 2011, Peace Corps is commemorating 50 years of promoting peace and friendship around the

world. Historically, more than 200,000 Americans have served with the Peace Corps to promote a better understanding between Americans and the people of 139 host countries. Today, 8,655 volunteers are working with local communities in 77 host countries.

Peace Corps volunteers must be U.S. citizens and at least 18 years of age. Peace Corps service is a 27-month commitment.

\*\*\*\*\* SEMIRPCV BOARD MEETING MINUTES JAN. 16, 2011

Attending: Carol Hofer, Tom Napolitano, Beth Gamburd, Sarah Martin-Fanone, Cheryl Bukhof, Elaine Jirkans, Jim Urban, Don Haffner, Harvey and Lek Somers

Meeting called to order at 3pm  
Nov. 2010 minutes were approved.  
Treasurer's report: we have \$1795.13 in account.  
Calendars are all sold out. Still have the new blue SEMIRPCV T-shirts and vintage gray T-shirts.

Sarah brought up the idea of selling our calendars on our website and we would need a paypal account. Tom will look into that. The Wisconsin website has links to the other regional

groups for calendar sales and people can reach us that way also.  
 Mentoring: At present we have 6 mentees. Jean Paul will have the newest mentee. The first Welcome Column is done and will be in the next newsletter.  
 Peace Corps House Parties March 1, 2011:  
 Since it is during the week, we will host 2 parties: Ann Arbor at Harvey Somers house and the east side at Carol Hofer's house. Party starts at 6pm and we will Skype at 7pm to link the parties.  
 Recruiting at U of M and Oakland University.  
 Rachel Westergren want April dinner at Cadieux Café...will set date and time.  
 Harvey Somers took August for Ann Arbor.  
 Meeting adjourned at 4:15  
 Post meeting discussion on the ABC 20/20 Peace Corps sexual assault reports That aired on national TV the other night. Not flattering to PC and how it was all handled.  
 Can watch the report online at 20/20.  
 Talked about the murdered volunteer in Benin and the over 1000 sexual assaults on PC volunteers in the 2000s.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 SEMIRPCV BOARD MEETING MINUTES FEB. 20,2011

In Attendance: Sarah Martin-Fanone, Beth Gamburd, Jeff Jenks, Tom Napolitano, Cheryl Bukhof, Harvey and Lek Somers, Carol Hofer, Sam Shopinski  
 Minutes from Jan, 2011 meeting approved.  
 Treasurer's report: \$2044 in account. report was approved. annual affiliation fee paid (\$20).  
 PayPal: need a secure website and they will process the fees for a charge based on a graduated scale +\$.30 per transaction. More investigation needed.  
 President's Report:  
 House Parties on March 1. Carol Hofer is the east side of Detroit. Jeff added his party to hers. Harvey is the house party in A2.  
 Parties will Skype at 7pm.  
 Peace Corps DVD to watch. Ten Thousand Villages. Menonite Store in A2...looking for a board member. Meetings are once a month on Wednesday nights in A2. mail out to membership.  
 A Warm welcome to Sam Shopinski...recently returned PCV from St. Lucia.  
 Potnic will be JULY 23...a Saturday...Sarah's church in Warren.  
 Ethnic Dinners:  
 April- Rachel- Cadieux Cafe  
 May- Elaine- Detroit Buddy's Pizza  
 June- Cheryl...TBD  
 July- Potnic...July 23  
 August- A2- Harvey... TBD

ABC's 20/20 show on the Peace Corps death and rapes...we watched most of the show. Cheryl, Jeff and Harvey will come up with a letter from the group to NPCA.  
 Meeting adjourned at 4:52.

Next meeting is March 20, 2011 at Beth Gamburd's house.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 SEMIRPCV BOARD MEETING DATES: All meetings are on Sunday at 3pm (3rd Sunday of the month)

March 20, 2011 Beth Gamburd, 30580 Hunters Dr. #2 Farmington Hills 48334 (248) 892-8878

April 17, 2011 Elaine Jirkans 703 E. Windemere Royal Oak 48073 (313) 399-1182

May 22, 2011 Tom Napolitano 17748 Woodside, Livonia 48152 (248) 464-1897

June 19, 2011 Jeff Jenks 13361 Ludlow, Huntington Woods 48070 (248) 506-4483

July 23,2011 Potnic

August 21, 2011 Beth Gamburd 30580 Hunters Dr. #2 Farmington Hills 48334 (248) 892-8878

Sept. 18, 2011 Elaine Jirkans 703 E. Windemere Royal Oak 48073 (313) 399-1182

Oct. 16, 2011 AGM at Tom Napolitano's 17748 Woodside, Livonia 48152 (248) 464-1897

YES! I want to join the  
Southeast Michigan Returned Peace Corps Volunteers  
(SEMIRPCV)

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Home\_\_\_\_\_

Work\_\_\_\_\_

Country, years of  
service\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is:  
\$15 voting membership in SEMIRPCV (PC and VISTA vols)  
\$50 membership in SEMIRPCV and National Peace Corps

Assn.  
\$15 associate membership (includes newsletter)  
No money enclosed— I am a newly-returned volunteer and  
eligible for a free one-year "readjustment subscription."  
\$\_\_\_\_\_tax-deductible contribution to SEMIRPCV

*All memberships are for one year. Check label for renewal date.*

Return this form to:  
SEMIRPCV Treasurer  
PO Box 725075  
Berkley MI 48072

# CALENDAR

## BOARD MEETINGS:

SEMIRPCV BOARD MEETING DATES: All meetings are on Sunday at 3 pm (3rd Sunday of the month)

March 20, 2011 Beth Gamburd, 30580 Hunters Dr. #2 Farmington Hills 48334 (248) 892-8878

April 17, 2011 Elaine Jirkans 703 E. Win-demere Royal Oak 48073 (313) 399-1182

May 22, 2011 Tom Napolitano 17748 Woodside, Livonia 48152 (248) 464-1897

June 19, 2011 Jeff Jenks 13361 Ludlow, Huntington Woods 48070 (248) 506-4483

July 23, 2011. Directions to follow.

August 21, 2011 Beth Gamburd 30580 Hunters Dr. #2 Farmington Hills 48334 (248) 892-8878

Sept. 18, 2011 Elaine Jirkans 703 E. Win-demere Royal Oak 48073 (313) 399-1182

Oct. 16, 2011 AGM at Tom Napolitano's 17748 Woodside, Livonia 48152 (248) 464-1897

\*\*\*\*\*

WE HAVE NEW SEMIRPCV T-SHIRTS.  
MEMBERSHIP AND T-SHIRTS NOW \$30.00 SPECIAL!!!! GET IT WHILE IT LASTS...

\*\*\*\*\*

GET TOGETHERS:  
March 19 at 7:00  
Lotus Thai in Ann Arbor  
April 2 at 6pm Cadieux  
Café in Detroit

## Semi Conductor

SEMIRPCV  
PO Box 725075  
Berkley MI 48072-5075