



As 2019 comes to a close, I would like to take time to thank both our SEAPAX community and Board for all the great work that you have done over the last year. Your efforts and participation have helped to create a supportive, connected, and an engaged RPCV community.

SEAPAX has continued to support an active and robust Grants, Advocacy, Service, and Social Program. Instead of spotlighting the accomplishments of these mainstay programs, I would like to highlight several of the new things we started in 2019. This includes:

- Creating a Member Spotlight to showcase the amazing work and achievements of our members, which appears monthly on our social media platforms;
- Creating Instagram and LinkedIn accounts to better connect with our members and local organizations;
- Hosting regular networking events to help those looking for employment or a change in job;
- Launching an online storefront comprised of SEAPAX merchandise that is available to SEAPAX members – the intent of which is to generate a greater sense of community and to raise additional revenue for our Grants Program and general operations; and
- Successfully submitting an application to host the Peace Corps Connect 2020 Conference (PCC2020) here in Seattle!

None of this would have been possible without all the amazing contributions from our Board and members. I sincerely appreciate all that you do and I look forward to another year that is full of events and community engagement. As most of you are aware, 2020 will be an especially busy and memorable year for SEAPAX and our local RPCV community as we plan and get ready to host the PCC2020. I look forward to seeing you in 2020!

Warm regards,

Brad Cleveland

SEAPAX President

South Africa 2006-2008



SEAPAX is a group of former Peace Corps volunteers whose mission is to support, connect, and engage Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) in the greater Seattle area. We do so by supporting RPCVs' transition back to life in the United States through social, professional, and service opportunities, while also offering a forum for communication and connection. We are dedicated to improving international understanding at all levels, drawing on the lessons we have learned from living in the countries where we once served to promote awareness of the social, political, and economic circumstances, as well as the global interdependence, of people worldwide. This dedication stems from our aim to fulfill the Third Goal of the Peace Corps: help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans. SEAPAX also provides opportunities to advocate for Peace Corps, and financial support to community-based local and international organizations in the form of small grants and contributions.



In addition to the Seattle group, there are several informal satellite RPCV groups in other cities, which are part of the SEAPAX network. In the Bellingham area, Cat McIntyre coordinates social and service opportunities for RPCVs. Events are publicized through the SEAPAX website, social networks, and newsletter. The groups in Everett, Olympia, the Kitsap Peninsula, and Wenatchee hold activities periodically, which are also publicized by SEAPAX.



Governance

SEAPAX is run by an annually elected volunteer Board of Directors. Voting is conducted electronically by December of each year for positions that run from January to December of the following year.

Officers January – December 2019

President – *Brad Cleveland (South Africa 2006-2008)*

Vice President – *Sarah Swenson* (Malawi 2008-2011)*

Treasurer – *Brendan Chiesa (Mongolia 2011-2013)*

Secretary – *Emily Biester* (Madagascar 2013-2015)*

Directors at Large – *Josh Fliegel (Philippines 1984-1986), Ilene Jaffe (Costa Rica 1979-1982), Jenn Ritchey (Swaziland 2008-2010), Carolee Walters (Belize 1996-1998)*



**Sarah Swenson stepped down as Vice President and Emily Biester stepped down as Secretary in August. Cara Sandquist was Acting Secretary from August to December 2019.*

Committee Chairs (appointed)

Community Service Co-Chairs - *Josh Fliegel, Andrea Shelton (Ethiopia 2012-2014)*

Book Club Chair - *Trisha Patek (Philippines 2010-2012)*

Communications Chair & Newsletter Editor – *Kira Cha (Costa Rica 2006-2008)*

Grants Committee Chair – *Ilene Jaffe*

Speakers Bureau Co-Chairs - *Sheila Carey (Malawi 2014-2016)*, Katy Kaltenbrun (Philippines 2009-2011)*

Events Co-Chairs - *Alana DelVecchio (Mali 2015, Guinea 2016-2017)*, Jenny Sayles (Moldova 2015-2017)**

International Calendar Coordinator – *Carolee Walters*

Membership Chair – *Kim Arent (Lesotho 2012-2014)*

Webmaster – *Steve Gapinski (Philippines 2005-2007)*

NPCA Advocacy Co-Chairs – *Beth Ahlstrom (Senegal 2002-2004), Jenn Ritchey*

Happy Hour and Pub Trivia Coordinator - *Brendan Chiesa*

**Sheila Carey stepped down as Speakers Bureau Co-Chair in April and Alana DelVecchio stepped down as Events Co-Chair in June. Jenny Sayles stepped down as Events Co-Chair in August.*



Board Meetings held in 2019

SEAPAX Board meetings are held regularly and are open to all interested parties. Locations are varied, and are announced on the SEAPAX website, www.seapax.org/, and in the monthly newsletter. Minutes of the meetings are available through <https://www.seapax.org/cpages/docs-reports>.

The 2019 board meetings were all held downtown Seattle at Antioch University on the following dates:

- January 6
- March 3
- May 5
- July 14
- September 8
- November 3 (2019 Board Retreat)

Participation in Peace Corps Community Events

- February 28 - Peace Corps Action Days on the Hill organized by NPCA
- May 13 – Annual University of Washington Send-Off and Welcome Home Event organized by the Regional Recruiting Office at the Columbia City Library
- June 20-22 – Peace Corps Connect 2019 Conference (PCC2019 Conference): Innovation for Good, at Austin, TX

Social and Service Activities

January

- 8: Arts and Cider at Schillings Cider
- 12: Mt. Baker RPCV Association Potluck at a private residence in the Bellingham area
- 16: Happy Hour at Uptown Hophouse
- 17: SEAPAX Eats Out at Tamarind Tree
- 21: MLK Jr Day of Service at Hillside Paradise Community Garden with World Relief Seattle and United Way King County
- 24: SEAPAX Networking Event at Popluxe Brewing

February

- 3: SEAPAX Book Club at Tougo Coffee Co
- 6: Trivia Night at The Canterbury Ale House





- 12: Arts and Cider at Schillings Cider
- 20: Happy Hour at Coindexter's
- 23: Annual Peanut Stew Cook-Off at a private residence
- 28: Western Washington University (WWU) Peace Corps Around the World Festival

March

- 6: Trivia Night at The Canterbury Ale House
- 12: Arts and Cider at Schillings Cider
- 20: Happy Hour at Beer Star
- 21: SEAPAX Eats Out in Capitol Hill
- 30: Mt. Baker RPCV Association Potluck at the Roots Room at the Cordata Co-op Store
- 31: Museum of the Peace Corps Experience focus group at the Seattle Public Library - University Branch

April

- 3: Trivia Night at The Canterbury Ale House
- 7: SEAPAX Book Club at Honey at Alma Mater
- 9: Arts and Cider at Schillings Cider
- 17: Happy Hour at Teku Tavern
- 27: Scavenger Hunt at Green Lake

May

- 4: Cinco de Mayo Potluck at a private residence in Wallingford
- 7: Arts and Cider at Schillings Cider
- 9: SEAPAX Networking Event at Belltown Pub
- 11: Mt. Baker RPCV Association Potluck at a private residence in the Bellingham area
- 13: Peace Corps Send Off/Welcome Home event at the Columbia City Library
- 15: Happy Hour at Solo Bar



June

- 1: Ramadan Break-Fast Potluck at Interfaith Community Sanctuary
- 2: SEAPAX Book Club at Guanaco's Tacos Pupuseria
- 5: Trivia Night at The Canterbury Ale House
- 19: Happy Hour at Octopus Bar
- 28-30: SEAPAX Annual Campout: Lopez Island
- 29: Capitol Hill PrideFest

July

- 10: Gates Foundation Picnic at Seattle Center



- 17: Happy Hour at Bad Jimmy's Brewing

August

- 1-4 14: Regional Camp Out at Aspen Point Campground at Lake of the Woods
- 4: SEAPAX Book Club at Koku Cafe + Market
- 7: Trivia Night at The Canterbury Ale House
- 10: SEAPAX Annual Picnic at Ravenna Park
- 21: Happy Hour at Cyclops

September

- 4: Trivia Night at The Canterbury Ale House
- 7: Booze Cruise to Bainbridge
- 18: Happy Hour at Ounces Taproom
- 19: SEAPAX Networking Event at Leny's

October

- 2: Trivia Night at The Canterbury Ale House
- 5: Mt. Baker RPCV Association Potluck at a private residence in the Bellingham area
- 6: SEAPAX Book Club at Boon Boona
- 16: Happy Hour at Uptown Hophouse
- 19: SEAPAX Movie Night at private residence in Wallingford

November

- 6: Trivia Night at The Canterbury Ale House
- 7: Pangea Giving at Two Beers Brewing Co.
- 16: Mt. Baker RPCV Association Potluck at a private residence in the Bellingham area
- 20: Happy Hour at The Rendezvous

December

- 4: Trivia Night at The Canterbury Ale House
- 14: SEAPAX Annual Holiday Potluck at a private residence in Greenwood





SEAPAX International Book Club

The Book Club discusses books with themes and authors with an international focus. It meets every 2 months on Sunday afternoon at rotating locations. Coordinated by Trisha Patek, meetings are held at coffee shops and other locations around the city. All interested parties, whether or not they have read the book, are welcomed.

Following are the titles discussed this year:

- **February 3:** “A House Without Windows” by Nadia Hasimi
- **April 7:** “The Girl Who Smiled Beads: A Story of War and What Comes After” by Clementine Wamariya and Elizabeth Weil
- **June 2:** “The Far Away Brothers: Two Young Migrants and the Making of an American Life” by Lauren Markham
- **August 4:** “Then Again” by Ben Berman (RPCV)
- **October 6:** “Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood” by Trevor Noah



Communications

Social Networks

SEAPAX connects with its members in several ways. We have a Facebook page, an Instagram, and a website, www.seapax.org. Kim Arent took charge of posting events and sending out reminder emails to keep our members informed. We also introduced, “Member Spotlight,” a way for SEAPAX to recognize all the amazing work of RPCV's in the Seattle community. Selected winners appear in the Newsletter, SEAPAX blog, Facebook and Instagram page for SEAPAX.

If you're a SEAPAX member doing great work either professional, personally or both in the Seattle community we want to brag about your greatness and share it with our community! Nominate a SEAPAX member or yourself by completing the member spotlight nomination [form](#). Email us the completed forms by the 30th of each month for consideration.



SEAPAX Newsletter

The monthly newsletter provides news and information including job openings, reports on SEAPAX activities and information, and events and news of interest to the RPCV community. Kira Cha remained newsletter editor for the third consecutive year. The newsletter is published and distributed monthly by email to 1000+ people. Archive copies of the newsletter can be found through the website, <https://www.seapax.org/cpages/newsletter>.

Membership

Full membership is open to all RPCVs. We recommend a \$15/year donation but events are open to all RPCVs and their family and friends with no financial obligation.



2019 Donor List

- Andrea Shelton
- Anna McKnight
- Beth Ahlstrom
- Brad Cleveland
- Cara Sandquist
- Carolee Walters
- Donald Wingard
- Emily Biester
- Erin Branigan
- Folake Oyegbola
- Gary Hedrick
- Heather Ferguson
- Ilene Jaffe
- Jake Ashcraft
- Janet Callis
- Jonathan Olds
- Jonathan Green
- Katy Kaltenbrun
- Lillian Baer
- Molly McDonald
- Patricia McGovern
- Patricia Mork
- Ricardo Sitchin
- Ryan Neumeister
- Sandra Heneri
- Shelby Tarutis
- Stephanie Potts
- Timothy Dill
- Tucker Dacey
- Virginia (Gina) Wallace
- William Marcouiller



Grants

Money for SEAPAX grants are generated by calendar sales and merchandise, though general funds may also be used by vote of the SEAPAX Board. Ilene Jaffe chairs the Grants Committee, whose meetings are open to anyone and held as necessary at rotating locations in the city. The grants committee continued to work hard to streamline the application process, making funding more accessible for PCVs and local organizations. A total of \$961 was either awarded or donated in 2019.

The following disbursements were authorized prior to December 2019:

- \$123 to Friendly Water for the World to provide training on building clean water pumps in Africa, Asia, and South America
- \$103 to current Peace Corps Volunteer (PCV) Andrew Matthews in the Philippines for his community solid waste management project.
- \$110 to PCV Katy Burr in Malawi for her local Malaria Health Volunteers training
- \$325 To Global Seed Savers, an organization founded by Seattle RPCV Sherry Manning (Philippines 2006-2008)

Top-It Up Contributions

Another way for our members to contribute to local organizations is through a “top-it up” contribution from the SEAPAX grants fund. Members submit the name of the organization, website, and invoice for SEAPAX to give a 25% contribution (up to \$250) to that organization. It’s a great way to stretch the member’s giving, and support efforts that embody the Peace Corps’ spirit. The following disbursements were authorized this year:

- \$50 to Bike Works Seattle
- \$50 to Rainier Valley Food Bank
- \$50 to Seattle Public Library
- \$50 to Real Change Homeless Empowerment Project
- \$50 to Downtown Emergency Service Center





2019 PCPP Project Recap

This year we received a special thanks from one of our 2019 grants recipients, Andrew Matthews (PCV, The Philippines).



Maraming salamat po sa iyong mapagkaloob na donasyon! On behalf of the Peace Corps and community members of Barangay Leido in Oriental Mindoro, we sincerely thank you for your kind and generous donation to our Solid Waste Management project.

Last week, our team selected the final location to build the proposed MRF (Materials Recovery Facility) and held community gatherings to discuss the potential impact this project will have on community members. Next week, we plan on purchasing all the materials necessary to build and sustain a functioning MRF!

Again, we truly thank you for your kind donation. Your contribution will have a meaningful impact in Barangay Leido for years to come.

Maraming salamat po,

Andrew Matthews, PCV



In Kind Support for other Nonprofits

This year we have continued to put special efforts into connecting with other groups with similar goals of international understanding and global community. We have used our newsletter and social media to spread the word of events and efforts of these groups which include:

- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)
- ELS Language Centers
- Museum of the Peace Corps Experience
- Pangea Giving
- United Way King County
- University Branch - The Seattle Public Library
- UPS Peace Corps Prep
- Village Bicycle Project
- World Relief Seattle

2019 SEAPAX Logo Design Challenge

SEAPAX designed our 2019 logo that was utilized for branding and marketing on all our 2019 SEAPAX swag. The winner of this challenge was Kim Arent! Check out her design below:





Financial Activity

Calendar Sales and Member Donations

SEAPAX uses donations from supporting members and revenue from calendar sales to execute our local activities and projects, distribute grants, and donate to local and international organizations.

Merchandise

Additionally, this year SEAPAX launched our first-ever line of SEAPAX merchandise! Merchandise is available for members and their families to order with either the official SEAPAX logo or the 2019 logo design winner. 75% of all the proceeds from these sales benefit the SEAPAX grant committee to provide funding for local and international non-profits that align with the core values of SEAPAX.

You can find all of our merchandise at <https://www.seapax.org/cpages/merchandise>.



Paraguayn Rug Auction

SEAPAX member Barbara Stahler generously donated a [Paraguayan rug](#) that was auctioned off for \$200 at our Peanut Stew Cook-Off event on February 23rd. All proceeds were donated to SEAPAX's grant program.





Financial Report

Brendan Chiesa, our treasurer, has provided a detailed report of this year's expenses and financial position:

SEAPAX Statement of Activity January 1 - December 20, 2019

	Total
Revenue	
Calendar Sales	1,255.58
Camping Fund	257.36
Grants Drives	193.90
Interest	4.83
Membership Dues	1,290.30
TeeSpring Profits	168.65
Total Revenue	\$ 3,170.62
Gross Profit	\$ 3,170.62
Expenditures	
Calendar Expenses	57.89
Calendar Purchase	1,110.00
Grants	720.83
Top Up Contributions	200.00
Total Grants	\$ 920.83
Meals & Entertainment	255.89
Picnic	197.31
Total Meals & Entertainment	\$ 453.20
Merchandise Purchases	102.56
Office Supplies & Software	592.87
Postage And Delivery	154.00
Travel	300.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 3,690.95
Net Operating Revenue	-\$ 520.33
Net Revenue	-\$ 520.33



SEAPAX
Statement of Financial Position
 As of December 20, 2019

	Total
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
Business Basic Checking (7766)	2,620.54
Business Member Share Savings (7758)	5,002.74
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 7,623.28
Total Current Assets	\$ 7,623.28
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 7,623.28
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Total Liabilities	
Equity	
Retained Earnings	8,143.81
Net Revenue	-520.33
Total Equity	\$ 7,623.28
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 7,623.28

Speakers Bureau

SEAPAX promoted multiple Speakers Bureau events this year, and looks forward to expanding this program in the coming years.

Our first talk was hosted by the SEAPAX Board on January 6th, and was given by Adam Granato of Health Alliance International (HAI) <http://healthallianceinternational.org/>. HAI is a nonprofit organization affiliated with the UW Dept. of Global Health. HAI currently partners with Ministries of Health in Mozambique, Côte d'Ivoire, and East Timor. Adam briefly discussed the work of HAI and their unique approach to health system strengthening.



Look Ahead to 2020

Next year SEAPAX will be hosting the Peace Corps Connect 2020 Conference (PCC2020 Conference): Cultivating Connections! Details below:

Date: July 16th - July 18th, 2020

Venue: University of Washington (Seattle campus)

We plan to spotlight topics that relate to immigrants/refugees, indigenous peoples, and girls' education. Many other topics will likely be covered as well, ranging from global health to the environment to interests of recently Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (e.g. career development and graduate school). We will pass along more details as soon as they become available.

This event will provide a great opportunity for individuals to network with a national Returned Peace Corps audience. Our goal is to attract 500 attendees. We also plan to provide opportunities to interact with local and national organizations whose interests align with the values of Peace Corps.

We are looking forward to putting together a great PCC2020 Conference program!

Contact



Website: seapax.org



Facebook: [@seapax](https://www.facebook.com/seapax)



Instagram: [@seapaxseattle](https://www.instagram.com/seapaxseattle)



LinkedIn: [Seattle Area Peace Corps Association \(SEAPAX\)](https://www.linkedin.com/company/seattle-area-peace-corps-association)