

The Jaffe Peace Corps Fellows Program Autumn Newsletter

Teachers College, Columbia University



Save the Dates

December 1st, 6:30-8pm, Performance of “Renaissance in the Belly of a Killer Whale,” Joyce Cowin Center, 525 West 120th Street

Everyone is welcome!

March 2nd – Peace Corps Fellows Program Alumni Storytelling

May 18th - 2018 PCFP BBQ

The summer of 2017 was filled with learning, teaching and community projects. Below are some highlights.

• Our Intensive Summer Institute

From May until August, the 2017 cohort prepared for their full-time teaching experiences in high need New York City public schools.

Each day, the Jaffe Fellows attended workshops that delved into a variety of topics

including lesson planning, assessment, classroom engagement, community building, combatting Islamophobia, supporting LGBTQ students, music, art, caring for ourselves and our students as well as many other topics.



The 2017 Fellows with Helen Jaffe

One highlight was a visit by a special guest, **Helen Jaffe**, TC Trustee and friend of the Peace Corps Fellows Program. Helen attended our storytelling workshop and told a few stories along with the Jaffe Fellows.

Our 2017 Fellows have entered their classrooms with new storytelling skills!



For our **guided observations**, we visited 12 schools that included alternative, international, specialized, independent, single-sex, charter, inquiry-based, progressive and traditional schools. We spoke with principals, teachers and students. After the guided observations, the Fellows completed their fieldwork observations.

Jaffe Fellows talking about education with Principal Contreras at Stuyvesant High School

- **Summer School Teaching**

The phrase, “Everything I needed to learn, I learned in kindergarten” had a special relevance for the Fellows this summer. What works well with young students also works great with older students. For that reason, the Fellows conducted their summer school teaching at PS 197, the John Russwurm Elementary School in Harlem. The principal Natasha Spann is a great advocate for her school and welcomed the opportunity for the Fellows to teach her students during the summer’s Harlem Children’s Zone program.

Each Fellow taught a modern version of a one-room schoolhouse. Students age four to eleven were learning in mixed-age groups.

The Fellows planned eight 2.5 hour lessons for their young students. At the end of the summer, the Harlem Children’s Zone leader asked if we could return next year and “stay longer.”

Success! We look forward to nurturing our connection with PS 197.



2017 Jaffe Fellow Yin Lin with her summer school class.



• Community Service

This summer, our first community service project was filled with opportunities for planting, chopping compost and greeting the chickens at Harlem Grown on 124th Street. We also had the chance to get some tips from Harlem Grown’s founder, Tony Hillery, an expert at bringing out the best in young people. Tony inspired all of us with his supportive tone, inspiring words and kindness.

The Jaffe Fellows at Harlem Grown



Our 2nd community service project was painting an American map, hopscotch and gigantic caterpillar on the PS 197 playground. The school principal Natasha Spann wrote to us that, “You are all amazing. The kids are enjoying the paint job. Thanks so much.” A special thanks to our longtime friend **Amity P. Buxton** for

providing the funding for the painting supplies. We are also grateful for the help from Alexandria Hill, Chiara Fuller, Sarah Lovejoy and Caitlyn McGuire for painting our masterpieces.



The playground at PS 197



- **Supporting the Fellows**

In September, the Peace Corps Fellows Program Director Elaine Perlman will attend the Coverdell Fellows Coordinators Conference as well as a Fellows Fair to speak with interested RPCV's about the Teachers College Peace Corps Fellows Program Conference in Washington DC.

The following week, Elaine will attend the National Youth Leadership Council National Service-Learning Conference, for an immersive two days of professional development so that she can support current Fellows and alumni as they conduct service learning projects in our schools. Elaine will also meet with prospective students in Philadelphia. If you have a service learning project in mind, please submit the application for a Jaffe Grant that can be found on our website for grants of up to \$500.



Elaine Perlman

Upcoming Events

- **Theatrical Performance**

On Friday, December 1st, the Peace Corps Fellows Program will host an extraordinary performance of "Renaissance in the Belly of a Killer Whale" in the Teachers College Joyce Cowin Center on the first floor of Horace Mann at 6:30pm. **All alumni and friends of the program are invited for this free performance about Harlem.** The show is a lively exploration of Harlem history and the complex impact of gentrification. Here are some quotes about the performance:

"Janelle Heatley, Hollis Heath, and Jaylene Clark are all triple threat beautiful young women, who source their childhood nostalgia on the stoops of brownstones in the Mount Morris Park area. Hand games, playground, rhymes, and the new "it" dance are called out between them as they skip merrily down nostalgia lane."

-Sister Escape Blog

"In Renaissance, the three infuse their background with spoken word, song and dance into traditional theater and create a visionary play that allows us to travel through the rich history of Harlem while exploring the socio-economic issues that make it vulnerable to the gentrification occurring today."

-Uptown Flavor



- **Helen, Roslyn and Elliot Jaffe**

- **Jaffe Music Program Continues**

This past spring, the Jaffe Music performances by Los Pleneros de la 21 played for six of the Fellows' schools. This fall, the cultural tour continues when The Heritage Blue Trio will perform in six of the Fellows Schools. An article about the spring performances was published on the Teachers College website.

- **Worldview Magazine Advertisement**

In the fall issue of Worldview Magazine, this full-page advertisement will be featured.

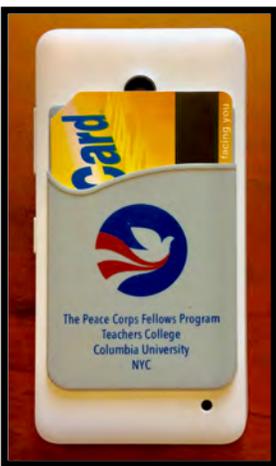
Follow Us!

We are now posting on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!

Special thanks to James Todd for inspiring us to create an Instagram account.



Peace Corps Fellows Program at Teachers College, Columbia University



ISI, 2018 Are you interested in presenting a workshop to the 2018 Fellows? Please send a proposal of what you would like to share. The learning is more exciting and relevant when former Fellows teach current Fellows.

Alumni News? If you have professional or personal news you would like to share in the upcoming newsletters, please send it along!

Cell Phone Wallet We have free cell phone wallets. If you would like one, please send along an email.

Please email the Director Elaine Perlman with any questions or thoughts at esp2012@tc.columbia.edu

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