

PRESS RELEASE
Free Film Showcases the Peace Corps Experience
in remote Afghan Villages as Part of Peace Corps 50th Anniversary

Release Time: ASAP-- FOR INCLUSION IN CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND AS NEWS STORY

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Date: 2/1/11

Possible title: Peace Corps group to show film about pre- war Afghanistan

Request: Please place in calendar of events as well as run as story

In honor of the Peace Corps 50th Anniversary, the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Northeastern NY will offer free screenings of the documentary film "*Once in Afghanistan*" during March. The film transports viewers to 1969-70 to follow Peace Corps volunteers as they travel to remote areas of Afghanistan to inoculate tribal women against small pox. The film showings are planned for **Chatham's Crandall Theatre on March 6 at 3 p.m., the North Chatham Free Library on March 18 at 8 p.m. and the New Lebanon Public Library on March 31 at 7 PM.**

"*Once in Afghanistan*" brings viewers back to the time when the World Health Organization had made eradication of smallpox its top priority. Young women trained by the Peace Corps joined teams of male vaccinators in Afghanistan to meet a challenge - to go to remote villages vaccinating each family, house by house, staying wherever the village could accommodate them. The highly regarded film provides an up-close and candid view into both the tribal cultures of remote Afghanistan in 1969-70 as well as the experiences of the 17 women Peace Corps volunteers as they travel to vaccinate village women. The film also includes current interviews with those women some 40+ years later.

A small exhibit of cultural artifacts and plenty of stories will also be provided by Returned Peace Corps volunteers from Columbia County and surrounding regions after each screening.

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers in the area interested in participating in the discussion at any of the locations are asked to send a message to respond to rpcvmoderator@yahoo.com. For questions about the Crandell or the North Chatham Free Library screening, please contact Sue Senecah 518-210-3027 and for questions about the New Lebanon Library screening, please contact 794-8844.