



Volume 7

MAVA VISTA

Nov. 1, 2022



AmeriCorps

# NEWSLETTER

## Editor's Note - Jonathan Grinde

Welcome to November. In this volume of the newsletter, which will be the final of my service-year, there is a lot of content. We have VISTAs to thank for their service: Chance Chapman, who finished the last week of October, and Amelia Blair-Smith, who will finish November 7. We highlight Niila Hebert, the wonderful past chair of the MAVA Board of Directors. We have a special note from Maureen Bourgeois, the MAVA VISTA Program Manager. We have our VISTA highlight of Lena Stern and Morgan Logue. We preview a small piece coming in the MAVA News highlighting a new report from Service Year titled: Equity Agenda: Recommendations for Improving the Accessibility of National Service (pictured here). And remember to check out the MAVA Happenings for a notice about the conference coming up in December.

As for me, I want to say thank you to all of you who have appreciated or perused this simple newsletter that I have created. It was conceived of as a project to better get to know our VISTA cohort and has been a wonderful piece of my service year with MAVA. I want to acknowledge and thank all the people I have met over this past year and who have supported me. I especially want to thank the MAVA Staff for their unyielding support, guidance, and company. Now for my own highlight:

**Fun Facts:** 1) I have 6 nieces and nephews 2) I have been to 3 continents, 10 countries, and 41 states 3) I have run 2 marathons

**Favorite Place:** Sognsvann Lake, Oslo, Norway

**Media:** Invisible Man by Ellison/A Brief History of Time by Hawking

**Money no object:** End all wars and give books to everyone.

**Fully Paid Trip:** An art, literary, and food tour of the globe



## A Note from the MAVA VISTA Program Manager Maureen Bourgeois



Happy Autumn! I hope that the November Newsletter finds you doing well and enjoying the change in leaf colors. I do love the crunch of leaves beneath my feet as I walk and go on hikes.

It is hard to believe that we are nearing the end of 2022. This month will be a period of adjustment for the MAVA VISTA program as VISTA members leave or join the program, and host sites continue with recruitment. If you know anyone who would be interested in being a VISTA member please share this newsletter with them.

In this issue of the Newsletter, I would like to thank Jonathan Grinde, as he concludes his year of service, for his work as MAVA's Volunteer Engagement and National Service Program VISTA member. Jonathan has been a wonderful member of the MAVA team, and the VISTA cohort. With his help we have been able to grow the program and provide more resources to VISTA members and host sites.

I truly appreciate all of the work each of you do. Your organizations, and the communities that they serve, have benefited greatly from your hard work and dedication to your program's goals. To thank you for your work, MAVA would like to host a VISTA gathering for all involved in the 2022 program year during the 3rd week of November. Details to come! MAVA will provide food, but if you would like to bring a treat feel free. We hope to see you there!



### MAVA Happenings

The Minnesota Alliance for Volunteer Advancement Presents: 2022 Virtual Dismantling Inequities Conference

December 8 & 9, 2022 - 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM CST

KEYNOTE SPEAKER ANNOUNCED!! Anton Treuer

Join celebrated author and educator, Anton Treuer, for a fresh look at nonprofit and volunteer work and the rapidly changing dynamics of tribal communities!



# VISTA Highlight



**Name:** Lena Stern

**Site:** Hennepin Healthcare

**Fun Facts:** 1) I prefer tea over coffee 2) I took French throughout high school and college, but I am currently trying to learn Spanish 3) I love to snowboard

**Favorite Place:** My family's cabin near the North Cascades in Washington. There is no service or electricity, which always helps me slow down and feel at peace being in nature.

**Media:** My Neighbor Totoro

**Money no object:** Travel around the world

**Fully Paid Trip:** New Zealand



**Name:** Morgan Logue

**Site:** Rainbow Health

**Fun Facts:** 1. I love to dance- salsa, clubbing, ballet, anything 2. I love swimming, but I only use doggy paddle and floating to get around 3. I have worked in a cadaver lab and at a funeral home

**Favorite Place:** Anywhere in nature as long as the sun is shining

**Media:** My Favorite Murder (it's a true crime comedy podcast)

**Money no object:** Travel anywhere and everywhere I could think of

**Fully Paid Trip:** Peru



# Comings and Goings

Amelia Blair-Smith (YWCA Minneapolis), Jonathan Grinde (MAVA), and Chance Chapman (CAPI USA) will all be finishing their service years within two weeks of each other. A new VISTA has joined with MAVA and will be replacing Jonathan as the Volunteer Engagement and National Service Program. Jonathan is mentioned above as the editor of this newsletter. Below is more about Amelia and Chance.

While at YWCA Minneapolis, Amelia has strengthened their volunteer program by focusing on universalizing their volunteer onboarding. She has also taken leadership on their largest event of the year: The Women's Triathlon which takes place in August. Amelia has always been a ready and willing participant with the MAVA VISTA Cohort and her enthusiasm and curiosity is always appreciated. You can find her highlight in the first volume of this Newsletter from May. Thank you, Amelia for your service!

Chance came to Minnesota from south Texas and began making an impact with CAPI USA by helping with the volunteer program at their food shelf. He took his service another step further by leading a volunteer appreciation event and reworking how CAPI appreciates their volunteers. Chance was highlighted in the third volume of this newsletter from July. Thank you, Chance for your service!



# Staff/Board Highlight

Niila Hebert is MAVA's Past Board Chair and currently serves as MAVA's DEI Consultant.

Niila's tenure with MAVA started in 2015 as a member of the Public Policy Committee and over the years, she's contributed to planning and hosting MAVA's Annual Day at the Capitol event and pushing MAVA's Volunteerism Bill. Helping our members and our legislators see the connections between advocacy and volunteerism is her passion and she enjoys bringing people together at the capitol to rally for change.

When she is not mava-ing and championing MAVA's work, Niila works full time at the African American Leadership Forum, which focuses on elevating and amplifying the voice of the Black Community.

Niila's love for MAVA is rooted in her upbringing in New Orleans and the importance of service to home and the community. As a youth, early on she learned the value of contributing to her neighborhood and school through service projects and community events. Her love for being connected to others and being a force for good continues to be her why.

