

# METSOALLE EA LESOTHO

First Quarter, 2008

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## President's Message

Every time I begin writing my message, I try to picture who you are and where you might be when you are reading this. Newsletters get mailed to names I've seen for years, going to places like Farmington, Hebron, Livingston, and even Vilnius. In our hectic workweek of 8 to 5, a glance at this newsletter brings back some good memories. But I also think of that small pile of newsletters we send to the Peace Corps office in Maseru. Maybe you're sitting in your rondaval reading this, hoping you never have an 8 to 5 job.

If you are in the latter group, there probably isn't much news here that's really news to you. There is a limited amount we can do when working and writing from so far away. But what I hope you do gain from reading this is the fact that there are hundreds of returned volunteers back in the U.S. who still have a deep interest in Lesotho. After you've COS'd and thoroughly bored your friends with Lesotho stories, look us up. Renew your

ties again through membership in FOL.

As for what news we can provide, congratulations to Becky Banton. Becky sent word recently that she would be leading the Volunteer Advisory Committee in the coming year. Previously we had started working with Becky to help out on a libraries project and it was a pleasant surprise to see a familiar name.

For those of you who knew Peggi Tabor, she is back in her village of Menkhoaneng working to develop a water supply system. When she arrived in February the plan was to have a well drilled, but geology and economics got in the way. That hasn't stopped her though. See her evolving story on the Letters page of the website, [www.friendsoflesotho.org/letters0.html](http://www.friendsoflesotho.org/letters0.html).

In less exciting news, the Board has approved the 2008 operating budget, very close to last year's figures, with 61% of our expenses paid from in-kind donations. In-kind donations are material donations made by

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an FOL member performing a service for the organization, such as donating the paper for the newsletter, etc. Funding for the libraries project mentioned above was approved, and we have received the first request of the year for continuing funding of the Tuition Assistance Program. I expect that will be approved at the Board meeting later this month. Our Board minutes are always posted on our website within a week or so of our meetings. Everyone is invited to call into our board meetings<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Board teleconferences are open to all members and occur on the 3rd Sunday of odd numbered months at 8 p.m. Eastern.

On the subject of donations for projects, it's only been in the last 3 or 4 years that we've routinely offered to earmark donations for particular projects. We've done this, and will continue to do it, for donors who have a passionate interest in one type of project or another. But I am hearing concerns that there is a potential imbalance between donations and requests when so many of the donations are constrained by earmarking. If it matters to you, please continue to specify a project type, but don't think that you are required

Please contact any Board member for information about how to participate

to. Membership renewal and donations can now be made by credit card as well. See the Membership page of the website ([www.friendsoflesotho.org/dues.html](http://www.friendsoflesotho.org/dues.html)) for details.

Finally, I'd like to thank Nicole Haber and Janisa Balcomb for joining the newsletter team; it's getting to sound like a real cooperative effort! I'm sure you'll be seeing the positive results of this soon.

Until next time,  
Bill Dunn



PLEASE PAY YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP DUES ANNUALLY

## Litaba tsoa Lesotho (News of Lesotho)

**David Ambrose, Professor  
National University of Lesotho**

**Excerpts from:  
Summary of Events in Lesotho  
Volume 14, Number 4  
(Fourth Quarter 2007)**

The National University of Lesotho graduated record numbers of students in September 2007. There were a total of 1,558 degrees, diplomas, and certificates distributed, an in-

crease of 14.1% compared to the previous year. One of the speakers at the graduation ceremony was His Majesty King Letsie, Chancellor of the University. He mentioned the problem of joblessness and noted that job market analysis must influence academic programs.

The number of public service employees as of 24 September 2007 was 40,110, of whom 18,208 were civil servants, 7,450

were police, soldiers, or staff in mission hospitals or clinics, 13,976 were teachers and 476 were daily paid workers.

On 12 October 2007, the ten story Lesotho Bank Tower was handed over to the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority. The International Business Centre has moved from the ground floor of the tower to the main Standard Lesotho Bank buildings. Standard Lesotho

If you have comments, questions, suggestions, news, articles, websites, photos, or other items to contribute to this newsletter, please contact:

Faye Farmer at [f\\_e\\_@hotmail.com](mailto:f_e_@hotmail.com) or 2612 E. Geneva Dr. Tempe, AZ 85282.

We reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity and length.

We would be happy to return submissions

Bank has signed an agreement to be a sub-tenant of LHDA and use the ground floor an adjoining buildings for a seven year period. The move for LHDA provides a solution to the inefficiency of having several offices across three different Maseru sites. The Lesotho Bank Tower, Maseru's tallest building, was constructed in 1980. The Tower has housed several varied commercial and government offices and diplomatic missions.

There was a ground breaking ceremony on 29 October 2007 on the site of Lesotho's new Parliament, on Mpilo Hill, above the Lesotho Sun Hotel and overlooking the 'Manthabiseng Convention Centre. Construction is expected to be complete by July 2009. The five story complex will include residential facilities for MPs and their families, public art galleries, chambers, spacious and adequately equipped committee rooms, offices, internet cafes, information centres and security features. The M64 million project will be funded by the People's Republic of China.

It was announced in November 2007, the Lesotho Government Office of Smart Partnership in Lesotho is

completing plans to establish a University of Creative Technology. The University was requested from the Office to Malaysia. While it is planned to open in June 2008, there is no location as of yet.

The Primary School Leaving Examination Pass List was published in December 2007. There were 42,512 candidates from 1,292 primary schools (a drop of 4% from the previous year's total). 83% of candidates passed the examination, 14% passed in the First Class, 24% passed in the Second Class and 45% in the Third Class. Three schools in Leribe District, Leribe English Medium School, Mafube English Medium School, and Joy to the World School, had a majority of its entrants pass First Class. However, Tlaling Anglican Primary School, a remote school in Mohale's Hoek District, had all of its candidates (21 total) obtain First Class.

## In Memoriam

C.M.H. Morojele, statistician and international civil servant, passed away in July 2007 at the age of 77.

Former Chief Justice Lebona Joseph Kheola passed away in October 2007 and was laid to rest at a State Funderal in Makhoakhoeng, Butha Buthe District.

Professor Fusi Zakaria Aunyane Matsela, co-founder of the Sesotho Language Academy, Director of the National Teacher Training College, Permanent Secretary for Education, Professor at the National University of Lesotho and, most recently, Senator in the Parliament of Lesotho, passed away in December 2007.

Graham Chadwick, who worked for more than 16 years in Lesotho as an Anglican missionary, passed away in Salisbury, England, in October 2007 at the age of 84. 🌳

*Check us out  
online to see  
the latest news  
updates*

## The National Anthem of Lesotho

Scott Rosenberg  
FOL Board Member

The National Anthem of Lesotho, *Lesotho Fatse La Bo-Ntat'a Rona* ("Lesotho Land of Our Fathers"), was not written by a Mosotho, but was penned by two French missionaries around 1870. The Mosotho historian Ntate Damane believed, "the French missionary Reverend Coillard wrote the words to the song in an attempt to calm the Basotho over the land lost in the treaty of Aliwal North. To make them accept it as a fait-accompli." Reverend Brutsch would support this, noting that the line from verse two, "Some

say our land is very, very small, We think it large enough" was written for that purpose. Of the beginnings of this song, Brutsch felt, "Even in the early days, they were expressing the feelings of the missionaries and their still very small congregations, rather than those of the nation as a whole." The lyrics of this song praise protection offered by the British and the new borders of Lesotho by using the ancestors to legitimize the territorial concessions made at the Treaty of Aliwal North in 1868. In an attempt to soothe the Basotho, Coillard wrote a song with a strong nationalist meaning, which

would be harnessed as a symbol in the next century.

Originally this song was sung while laboring in the fields, but how was it transformed from a work song to a national anthem? Reverend Brutsch suggested that, "From this time onwards, the song having appeared in print and being taught in schools, especially at Morija, it became known all over the country and gradually gained recognition." It was actually with the next generation of Basotho that this song was transformed from work song to national anthem.

Clearly, the missionaries teaching this song to children in school aided its growing

### THE NATIONAL ANTHEM OF LESOTHO

*Lesotho, fatse la bo-Ntat'a rona,  
Har'a mafatse le letle ke lona.  
Ke moo re hlahileng  
Ke moo re holileng  
Rea le rata.*

*Molimo ak'u boloke Lesotho,  
U felise lintoa le matsoenyeho  
Oho, fatse lena,  
La bo-ntat'a rona,  
Le be le Khotso.*

Lesotho, land of our fathers  
Is the nicest of all countries  
Here we are born  
Here we have grown  
This is why we love it.

Oh lord, save Lesotho  
Put an end to wars and troubles  
May this country  
The country of our fathers  
Enjoy the benefits of peace.

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familiarity amongst the Basotho. Both Thulo Morakabi and MaMolise Khati recalled being taught the song at elementary school. It is also worth noting that they both went to an L.E.C. school (Lesotho Evangelical Church, which was the church of Coillard and Mabile). Besides these two, numerous others who attended school during the 1920s and 1930s remembered being taught the song, which they were already being told was the national anthem. Thus, at some point between the 1870s, when it was written, and the 1920s, this song had been transformed from a work song into a national anthem. The position of the song as de facto national anthem by 1940 is evident from Hugh Tracey's description of Seeiso Griffith's coronation as Paramount Chief of Lesotho. At the end of the festivities, "everyone stood up and sang the song Lesuto, the National Anthem of the Basotho people, composed many years ago by an old French missionary."

Some people recall the missionaries leading people in this song at gatherings held by various chiefs. Ntate Damane believes that the song was introduced at the *pitso* because "the *pitso* were run by the missionaries, because they were

the interpreters, so they led the singing of that song at the *pitso*." Montga Makote, who never went to school, learned the national anthem at the *pitso*, "I would follow those who knew it." Gladstone Phatela believes that at gatherings "white people sing 'God Save the Queen' and the Basotho sing 'Lesotho Land of Our Fathers'." The singing of the song after "God Save the Queen" at the *pitso* explains its metamorphosis into the national anthem of the Basotho.

An article appearing in the August 1, 1934 edition of the newspaper *Mochochonono* illustrates the cultural significance of the national anthem. In this article the author complained that, "the present Mosotho will tell you he had rather sing 'Nkosi sikelela' rather than sing his own 'Lesotho,' not on account of any other reason save that the former is in a foreign tongue. He goes to Bloemfontein and comes back speaking foreign tongues to the utter exclusion of his own language on the pretext that he doesn't know any more of Sesotho."

The author was clearly concerned that Basotho workers living in South Africa for extended periods of time were losing their own culture.

According to MeMaleanya Seako, "It is important to sing 'Lesotho' because it helps us remember Moshoeshoe and the good deed that he did in building the nation." She went on to explain that the first line "Lesotho Land of Our Fathers" is referring to "our grandfather Moshoeshoe." While the national anthem is not explicitly about Moshoeshoe, it is not hard to see how it has come to be connected to him, as it encourages the Basotho to accept the borders he created. Though the song was penned by Europeans and promoted by the missionaries, it is the Basotho who provide the cultural meaning to this song, as it becomes their national anthem.

In 1996, it was suggested that Lesotho should drop "Lesotho Land of Our Fathers" and replaces it with "God Save Africa", the South African National Anthem. The desire to appropriate South Africa's new national anthem might be part of attempts to redefine who the Basotho are in the post-Apartheid era. While certain elites may wish to change the song because of its foreign composition, most Basotho have accepted this song as part of Sesotho culture. The current strife over the National Anthem illustrates the role of songs in defining group identity. 🌱

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AND YOU'LL HELP FOL SEND MORE MONEY TO LESOTHO

## Family Literacy Lesotho: Report on an FOL Funded Project

**Applicant: Christine Lim**

Contribution Received:

US\$ 150

Converted to Rand: 1050

### Summary of Project Outcome

The Family Literacy Lesotho event took place July 2007. It was a huge success with around 200 people in attendance. Seven activity stations, including Sesotho book reading, puppets, artwork, create-a-book, ABCs, English story time, and arts &



An artist demonstrating how to illustrate a story



Kids reading the Sesotho children's books

crafts, were enjoyed by kids and adults alike. At the end of the event, a small ceremony was held to announce winners and runner-ups.

The money that was generously donated from Friends of Lesotho was not used until after the event. This partly was due to a few last minute donations from other sources that provided food and decorations, and also due to the limited time in accomplishing all that had planned. One of which was that there was

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not enough time to purchase Sesotho Children's Books from South Africa, in time for the event. Thus, the copies that were already at Baylor Clinic were used and distributed to event participants, and the funds were then used to purchase more books to be enjoyed at the Baylor Clinic. 🌱



Ceremony announcing the winners

## Friends of Lesotho - 2008 Budget

RECEIPTS	PLANNED	COMMENT
Dues - Cash Contributions	\$2,200	average 2005-2007
Extra Cash Donations (breakout below)		n/a - not for operating
Sales of Tshirts and CDs	\$100	half 2007
Sales - Cafepress before/after expenses	\$100	2007 total
Interest (Bank Account)		n/a - not for operating
Life Membership Fund		n/a - not for operating
NPCA Dues Rebates (cash pass thru)		n/a - not for operating
Donated In-kind Expenses	\$2,693	per committee budgets + \$200 misc - Includes
Other Past Receipts (hidden but included in appropriate totals)		(\$593 fundraiser, \$720 memb, \$1180 newsletter)
Other		n/a - not available
Mokete Registration		n/a - not available
Sasakawa funds		n/a - not available
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$5,093</b>	Estimated Operating Income

OPERATING EXPENSES	EXPENSES	COMMENT
Duplicating	\$1,000	820 newsletter, 180 member/misc
Postage	\$1,300	1000 newsletter, 300 member/misc
Computer/Internet	\$100	Webhost and domain annual
NPCA Dues Rebates (pass thru)		not budgeted
NPCA Affiliation Dues	\$100	New cost structure
Misc. Supplies/Fees (consolidate line items - 2006+)	\$180	80 labels, 100 misc
Fundraising Fees/Initiative/Event 2006+ (1)	\$593	per committee workplan
Membership Fees/Initiative/Event 2008+ (1)	\$720	per committee workplan
Other	\$100	ave. 2004 and 2005
Telephone	\$50	Contingency
Annual Mtg / Mokete Expenses	\$250	per 2007 Annual meeting
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$4,393</b>	Estimated Operating Budget
Total Expenses (minus NPCA)	\$700	Difference with income 🌱

## 40 years with Lesotho Peace Corps: an email update from Verney Halse

I am Verney Halse. I have been a member of FOL for some time.

I was born in Mochale's Hoek in 1934, My Mother was born in Quthing in 1899, her mother was born at Fort Hartley in about 1860, her father was Mr. Austen who was magistrate of that area during the Moorosi War, the "Gun War" both he and Moorosi perished as a result of that war. My wife Elspet and I sat in the stands at the Maseru Pitso Ground when Lesotho won Independence from the British.

Elspet and I lived in Maseru. She worked as a social worker at a Girls Facility in Ladybrand. My Dad, who owned the trading Stores at Hellspoor and Thabana Morena, passed away and these stores became ours. We sold the Hellspoor (Ha Khobolte) store to the lady who found the first major diamond at Letseng. Thabana Morena remained ours, and we moved there in January 1968.

My association with the Peace Corps started soon after we arrived at Thabana Morena. There was a PCV by the name of Ian Duncan already there. The PCV's of that time will recall that all white traders in Lesotho, were treated as "bad" people, since it was supposed that we all supported the South

African Government, so Ian stayed away from us for about five months. He occasionally came into our store when he got off the bus from Mafeteng, but never spoke to us, only the store clerks. We tried to contact him since he and us were the only whites at Thabana Morena, but he remained aloof.

Eventually in June of '68 when it was freezing, he could no longer take his cold shower in the village and he decided to put his pride in his pocket and asked one day if he could use our bathroom. That was it, our infant son Norman loved Ian and as a result, Ian became an almost permanent guest.

If I remember correctly Ian left Lesotho some time in 1970. While he was at the Thabana Morena High School, Elspet helped with the exams there on numerous occasions. In fact, some of the students from those years still rush up to meet her when we sometimes go to Maseru. Elspet and Ian remained in vague contact for years through his time in Germany and all his kids got Basuto blankets for their first birthdays.

Eventually we lost touch with Ian. Then, out of the blue our son Jonathan from Semonkong Lodge received an e-mail from Ian

through his website, enquiring about Elspet and I. Ian and his wife Therisa came to a medical conference in Durban and afterwards visited us at our home in Ficksburg and at Semonkong. He also gave us the balance of a timeshare he had at the Victoria Falls where he also went for a conference. We were shocked to hear of Ian's death.

Jonathan took over the Semonkong Lodge from Frasers in February 1990 and has since regularly hosted PCV's and almost every year the "Thanksgiving Party" is at the Lodge. We have improved the recipes since we started and many American friends through Rotary have given us different versions, so we are very good at pumpkin pie and sweet potatoes in addition to making a mean turkey in a three-legged pot. Actually we are quite famous for that now. Recently many PCV's have done the "Longest Commercially operated Abseil in the World."

Jonathan and Armelle have just returned from a sailing holiday that took them to Madagascar and had an ex-PCV as Crew she is Kara Gober who was based at Semonkong some time ago, Jenifer Farmer was also based up there at the same time.

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As a matter of interest, in 2006 we went on a trip to Tanzania to see the Serengeti. We got hopelessly lost in Dar Es Salaam, which is a frightening city, when all appeared lost, we found a small blond girl standing at a traffic light and when we asked her for the way, we found

out that she was a PCV and knew her way about the city. Found another two in the far away village of Mtwara and they were delighted to meet us.

Kind regards,  
Verney and Elspet Halse

Editors note:

FOL is currently working with Verney and Elspet Halse and their Rotary Club to connect PCV's with a collection of books in Johannesburg for library projects in Lesotho. Please contact any board member for more information on this project. 🌱

## News from Gary Browne: 1967 PCV

Gary Browne of Santa Ana, California, sent the following update to FOL:

I was in Lesotho with the first Peace Corps group. We arrived in late 1967; in fact it was 40 years ago yesterday that we arrived there, landing on a grass airfield at Maseru. I went

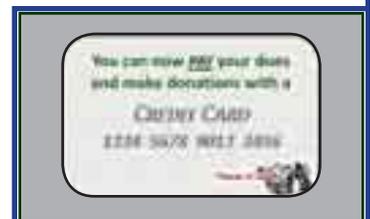
back to visit two months ago. A lot of changes. Traffic lights in Maseru and about ten times more people, at least. And so much development along the main road going north. There was no tar road north or south when we got there. The main tar road was paved while we were there, so there was nothing

along the road. It was very open and you could see forever. Now there is a lot of development along the road. It was great to see how things have changed, and to visit the school where I worked – Sacred Heart High School, just southwest of Hlotse. Now the school has electricity and many more students. 🌱

## Photo Gallery



Photos: © Faye Farmer, 1999  
Moshoeshoe Day Celebration 🌱



Check out FOL's Online Store

[www.cafepress.com/lesotho](http://www.cafepress.com/lesotho)

20% of purchase price on all items goes to FOL to help support our projects in Lesotho.

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**[www.friendsoflesotho.org](http://www.friendsoflesotho.org)**



Why join FOL?

- Make a difference in the lives of Basotho
- Keep abreast of the latest news about Lesotho via a quarterly newsletter

Annual Membership: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(\$15.00/person)

Additional Contribution?: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Additional Contribution Designation:
- HIV/AIDS
  - Orphanages
  - Morija Museum
  - Memorial Scholarship Fund
  - Tuition Assistance Program
  - Peace Corps Volunteer Projects
  - Greatest Need

Total to FOL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Membership in the National Peace Corps Association (\$35/person):<sup>3</sup>  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Matching gifts can enable you to double or even triple the value of your contribution. Many companies match their employees' personal donations. If your company is eligible, request a matching gift form from your employer and send it completed and signed with your gift, we'll do the rest.

- Please check if you would like more information on other ways to give, such as wills, estate planning, IRAs, or listing FOL as an insurance policy beneficiary.
- Please check to receive information on Lifetime Membership in FOL.

Please mail your completed membership form to:  
Friends of Lesotho  
4110 Denfeld Avenue  
Kensington, MD 20895

If you prefer to send your dues and donations on-line, go to <http://friendsoflesotho.org/member.html> and click **Membership Renewal**. Open **Member Info Update** document then go to **Donate** using [justgive.org](http://justgive.org).

Friends of Lesotho (FOL) is a non-profit organization promoting friendship between the peoples of Lesotho and North America. FOL provides scholarships and grants to small development projects in Lesotho, assists in locating old friends from Lesotho, and provides information about current events

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

List email on website?  Yes  No

Years in Lesotho: \_\_\_\_\_

Village: \_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_\_\_

Information for FOL Directory:  
Current Occupation/Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Members: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Check to receive the newsletter via e-mail link. (This saves postage costs and results in more money being available to be sent to Lesotho!)

A copy of the current financial statement of Friends of Lesotho is available by writing 4110 Denfeld Ave., Kensington, MD 20895 or by emailing [treas@friendsoflesotho.org](mailto:treas@friendsoflesotho.org). Documents and information submitted under the Maryland Solicitations Act are also available, for the cost of postage and copies, from the Maryland Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis MD 21401, (410) 974-5534.

- 1) Unless you specify otherwise, FOL will provide your name and address to an individual asking about an old friend or to a prospective volunteer to Lesotho. If you do not want your name released to organizations, please mark as appropriate here:  
 a) Organizations selling merchandise and publications  b) Professional organizations concerning employment  
 c) Other non-profit organizations
- 2) Friends of Lesotho is a registered 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.
- 3) Friends of Lesotho (FOL) is affiliated with the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA). If you have included NPCA dues in your payment, we will forward them to NPCA. If, however, you choose to send your FOL dues directly to NPCA in response to their membership solicitation, you must specify FOL as your choice of affiliated group to receive the credit for dues. NPCA membership is optional.

For FOL use, please do not complete this information:

2008-01

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Member Since \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Source \_\_\_\_\_  
Renew Date \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Members \_\_\_\_\_ NPCA \_\_\_\_\_



FOL Newsletter  
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