

# FRIENDS OF LESOTHO

#6

Volume 3 issue 3

July, 1989

**Friends of Lesotho  
Reunion/Briefing/Reception  
Set For October 6-9, 1989**

**Come one come all!!!**

Last fall Lesotho Ambassador to the U.S., William Van Tonder remarked at the Lesotho Independence celebrations at his residence how more meaningful the celebrations would be if they were limited to people who really knew and cared about Lesotho, such as the Friends of Lesotho. Picking up on this natural lead, FOL President Scott Brumburgh brought to the FOL steering committee the idea to have a real wingding FOL party/bash on the occasion of Lesotho's Independence Day, which, coincides with the long Columbus Day weekend. And thus are great ideas born.

Amy Friedheim (RPCV/Lesotho 1981-1983) volunteered to coordinate the weekend, and she has pulled together committees to organize a wide range of interesting, meaningful and most importantly fun activities. On Friday, FOL in conjunction with the Embassy will host a reception for businesses who have potential interest in expanding their presence in Lesotho. On Saturday there will be a series of workshops and briefings at the embassy to bring all of us who may not have been to Lesotho in several years up to speed on the current

geopolitical situation in Lesotho and the rest of Southern Africa. This will be followed by a good old fashioned Mokhete humdinging bash at the ambassadors residence, to include dancing til the wee hours. On Sunday afternoon, a picnic in a Washington park. Monday, return to your homes. And much free time throughout the weekend is reserved for simply visiting, touring, etc.; i.e., free visits to the pandas at the National Zoo.

## INDEX

- p.1 Friends of Lesotho Party
- p.2 Anti Apartheid Resolution
- p.3 Lesotho Students in America
- p.3 FOL Contributes \$500 to the Lesotho Trickle Up Program
- p.4 Classified
- p.4 Lesotho in the News

A lot of work is going into preparations for this major event, and success rides on the participation of a wide range of the Friends of Lesotho membership. The timely selection of the long Columbus Day weekend makes the timing

just perfect for combining the weekend with another event -- such as showing the kids the nations capital, a job search, visiting friends on the east coast or any number of ideas for enjoying the many offerings in Washington.

The effort going into the weekend guarantees that even if you are coming from far away, such as the west coast, or Maine or any of the other places that former volunteers hide, you will enjoy yourself.

**Simply put ... Come one come all!!!**



Motion to Co-sponsor  
Anti-apartheid Legislation

Last year the RPCV/Washington steering committee broke with tradition and voted to co-sponsor the amendments to the Comprehensive Anti-apartheid Act of 1986. This was significant, because RPCV/W had been stymied on this issue. On the one hand was the normal Peace Corps revulsion to apartheid. On the other hand was the feeling that the issue was too politically charged and did not fit the legislative criteria adopted by RPCV/W for legislative action to be considered: 1) an issue must be developmental in nature; 2) it must have bipartisan support; and 3) RPCV's must have a unique position to contribute.

From the perspective of a former Lesotho volunteer, it was easy to see that of course the issue meets these criteria right on. The economic, social and political development of Africans in and out of South Africa is greatly inhibited by apartheid. The original Comprehensive Anti-apartheid Act received overwhelming bipartisan support, permitting an override of former President Reagan's veto on the issue. And most importantly, Peace Corps volunteers from Lesotho, Botswana and Swaziland

witnessed apartheid everyday. Following discussion along these lines, the RPCV/W steering committee unanimously supported the resolution printed below.

What all this leads to is a discussion on what the position of Friends of Lesotho should be in constructing the response of the United States to apartheid. On the one hand, we must be true to our charter which limits political action. On the other hand, how can we ignore the suffering that apartheid causes for all of Southern Africa, and which we witnessed intimately during our time in Lesotho.

After discussion along these lines, the steering committee of Friends of Lesotho agreed that adding our support to this issue is appropriate, but at the same time we recognize that you may have differing opinions, and we want to hear them as well. Therefore, if there are points that you wish to raise on this issue please send them to the Friends of Lesotho mailbox prior to August 1, 1989. The FOL steering committee will consider all points raised by the membership on this issue and determine whether or not supporting the legislation is appropriate at the September steering committee meeting.

**Resolution:**

**Whereas** the Government of the Republic of South Africa maintains a policy of racial segregation known as apartheid which inhibits the political and economic aspirations of all but white South Africans; and

**whereas** the South African government follows a foreign policy of regional destabilization and military adventurism significantly impacting the economic and political development of among other countries Angola, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, and Lesotho; and

**whereas** Members of the Friends of Lesotho witnessed the injustice of apartheid firsthand; and

**whereas** Members of the Friends of Lesotho share a moral revulsion and rejection of apartheid

**Be it hereby resolved** that the Friends of Lesotho joins with the acknowledged anti-apartheid leadership in the United States in its efforts to support diplomatic initiatives and legislation, including economic sanctions, to pressure the South African government to abolish apartheid and establish a system of economic, political and social opportunity for all South Africans regardless of race.



## FOL Contributes \$500 to the Lesotho Trickle Up Program

In June, FOL made its first development assistance contribution in the form of a \$500 donation to the Lesotho Trickle Up Program. The money will actually be broken into five \$100 grants to help start Basotho-run businesses this year.

An International, non-profit organization founded 10 years ago and still directed by Glen and Mildred Leet of NY, Trickle Up was selected for the first grant for a number of reasons, including its reputation, its people-to-people grass roots nature, its potential impact and the fact that the businesses are all completely Basotho run.

To qualify for a Trickle Up grant a business must be comprised of at least five people who have distributed the necessary skills to make a business operate profitably -- marketing, accounting, production and selling.

The next requirement is attendance at a workshop organized by Trickle Up coordinators, typically Basotho coop reps, Peace Corps volunteers and others with small business experience.

A feasibility study is then conducted to determine whether or not to fund the applicants. If funding is approved, a business plan is developed and the owners receive their first check for \$50.

After three months, a business report is filed by the owners describing their progress, and if appropriate a second \$50 check is awarded.

Although the Trickle Up's record is very strong regarding its ability to assist in the creation of a small business, follow up is difficult. Therefore, one good project for any FOL members travelling to Lesotho in the future would be to look into one of the projects that we have sponsored. If you are in fact travelling to Lesotho in the near future, contact FOL president Scott Brumburgh and he will provide you with a list of our projects and an evaluation approach.

## Lesotho Students in America Program Shows Results

The Lesotho Students in America Program developed by FOL member Bill Reed and FOL President Scott Brumburgh to assist Basotho students adapt to life in America is in full swing.

FOL members Kent & Makoene Simon of Santa Fe, New Mexico, reported on a four day visit this past May by Las Cruces student Pusiletso Ranthimo and two friends, one from Swaziland and the other from Zambia. Activities included a visit to Bandelier National Monument and an outdoor Reggae Concert. The visit was a real godsend for Pusiletso who had expressed difficulties adjusting to life in the States.

Dennis Caspe (RPCV/Lesotho 1967-69) also relayed his participation in the program by visiting two San Louis Obispo students earlier in the year. Dennis brought with him the video *Cold Water*, which is provided by FOL to the American hosts. *Cold Water* was produced to assist foreign students adjust to life in the States. Dennis shared some of Mokete's and Hlaso's humorous anecdotes of difficulties of theirs, and expressed appreciation for the insights of the video.

If you wish to participate in this program, contact Bill at (516) 333-2880. Bill will put you in touch with Basotho students in your area, and provide you with a copy of the video tape. Ironically, many of the Basotho students in the States are located in areas not known for their density of FOL members, such as Utah and Nebraska. This is due to the numbers of Basotho students participating in Agricultural programs. So please, if you live in a remote area, contact Bill!

## GET INVOLVED !!!



## CLASSIFIED

We heard from Donna Julian (RPCV/Lesotho 1979-1981) this past June, but regrettably she was the bearer of bad news. Joan Roberts (RPCV/Lesotho 1978-1980) passed away a few years back in the spring of 1985 after a long battle with cancer. David is completing his PhD. Donna is returning to school in east Tennessee. Donna also sent a list of names and addresses not currently on our rosters, and we will share these with you in the next directory.

Congratulations to John Ferrick (RPCV/Lesotho 1981-1983). John tied the knot this past June. He and his bride are living in Wisconsin.

Congratulations to Allyson Smith (RPCV/Lesotho 1981-1985) who will be married August 12 in Coxackie NY. Allyson left Coxackie, NY for Lesotho in 1981, returned four years later and moved to Colorado where in 1988 she met a young man from ... Coxackie. She searched the world over to find that true love had been in her backyard all along. The couple will settle in Colorado.

### Lesotho in the News....

The Word section of the *Weekly Mail* reports that "thousands" of Lesotho civil servants are likely to lose their jobs following a government decision to implement IMF recommendations to slash public spending. Already a number of older teachers have been fired. Further measures include freezing wages and posts and reducing civil service allowances for transport and international travel. According to Major-General Metsing Lekhanya, chairman of the six-man ruling military council, Lesotho employs 30,000 civil servants whose salaries consume over 70% of the nation's budget.

*Mmegi wa Dagang*, a South African publication, reports on the arrest of Johny Maseko, founding editor of *The Mirror*, an alternative press established in Maseru in 1988. *The Mirror* regularly ran a section alleging corruption in the Lesotho Government.

*Mmegi wa Dagang* also reports on efforts by King Moshoeshoe II to clarify the meaning of his meeting last year with South African President P.W. Botha on the King's return from a State visit to Nigeria. The King had become increasingly concerned that Pretoria was using this as a sign of increasing official contact with black African states. Moshoeshoe II stressed that the real motivation of the meeting was to clarify his position on the proper relationship between Lesotho and South Africa, which includes both mutual noninterference in each countries internal affairs and nondiscrimination of each others citizens.

*West Africa* also reporting on the visit between Moshoeshoe II and Botha, emphasizes that Moshoeshoe II wished to reassert his personal authority over the affairs of government which included active opposition to apartheid.

In another article, *West Africa* adds an interesting twist to the hijacking incident which occurred during the visit of Pope John Paul II last year and ended in a shootout between the hijackers and South African commandos despite the fact that the hijacked bus never left Lesotho. Apparently the South African government had located and was in the process of escorting a key member of the LLA to Maseru whom they were convinced could persuade the hijackers to surrender peacefully and that he was only two hours away when hijackers spotted the South African commandos and forced the shootout.

The *Washington Post* reports of a potential Lesotho Government crisis sparked by the presence and possible participation of the head of the military council, Major General Lekhanya at the killing of a male Agriculture student in Maseru. The actual events are sketchy, but apparently the killing occurred late on a weekend night in a dispute over a woman the student was visiting.





*The Friends of Lesotho*

*In conjunction with*

*His Excellency  
Ambassador William Van Tonder  
of the Kingdom of Lesotho*

*Request your presence at celebrations marking*

*Lesotho Independence Day*

*October 6-9, 1989*

*Kindly RSVP by September 1, 1989*



1.  I WILL ATTEND!  I will not be able to attend.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

FAMILY/FRIENDS COMING: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL NUMBER ATTENDING \_\_\_\_\_

Total Family advanced registration fee \$15.00

Total Family registration at the door \$20.00

2 We need accomodations for \_\_\_\_\_ We have accomodations for \_\_\_\_\_

OR

We will be staying with \_\_\_\_\_ We will be hosting \_\_\_\_\_

3. We plan to bring \_\_\_\_\_ for inclusion in the program.

We would like to see, hear about or discuss \_\_\_\_\_

Return to 2801 Spencer Road, Chevy Chase, Md. 20815



**DEAR FRIENDS:**

The Lesotho Independence Day celebrations this year promises a series of events that you won't want to miss!! Although the official day is October 4, the Embassy of Lesotho and *FRIENDS OF LESOTHO* cordially invite you to a four day *mokete* in Washington DC spanning the Columbus Day Weekend (October 6-9, 1989).

- \*\* FRIDAY... the Embassy will host a trade fair designed to encourage direct investment in and trade with Lesotho.
- \*\* SATURDAY... the Embassy will host the formal, catered celebration which will include a discussion/information session covering current events in Lesotho, video tapes of Lesotho; personal slide shows; as well as traditional and contemporary music and dancing.
- \*\* SUNDAY... FOL will host a family picnic where you can renew old friendships, make new ones and play to your heart's content!!
- \*\* MONDAY... will be reserved for any meetings or other activities which might be requested in the spur of the moment.

If you plan to come from out of town, we will do our best to help you find affordable accommodations and interesting things to do during your free time. You can help us by letting us know as soon as possible if you are planning to come and whether or not you will need a place to stay. (This information will also help us make other logistical arrangements such as food, transportation, babysitting, etc.!) Also let us know if you plan to bring handicrafts or anything else to be displayed during the weekend.

The Embassy and *FRIENDS OF LESOTHO* are looking forward to seeing you this fall. Please fill out the clip out form on the invitation and send it in. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, you can call Scott Brumburgh at 301-589-4236, or Amy Friedheim at 301-589-3428. Be sure to bring your photo albums, slides, cassette tapes, blankets and hats...

Your presence is needed to make this a special event.

Hope to see you on October 6!!!

**RE TLA LE BONA!**

**KHOTSO!**

**PULA!**

**NALA!**

*Scott*

*Amy*

