

### President's Message

Lumelang,

I hope that this newsletter finds you doing well this holiday season. Friends of Lesotho has been busy with a number of things over the past couple of months. We have started planning for the Peace Corps 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary scheduled for September 2011. Bill Reed was a member of the first group of Peace Corps Volunteers to go to Lesotho in 1967. He and a handful of RPCVs from several groups have been planning FOL's participation in the anniversary celebrations. You can find more details in this newsletter. You can also find out more if you visit the Friends of Lesotho Facebook group www.facebook.com/home.php#!/ group.php?gid=116891323095). Information regarding the event is posted there, and you can also post photos of your PC group and PC service. If you would like to be involved in the planning, please contact Bill or send us a message via the Facebook group.

Friends of Lesotho is also planning our Annual Membership Meeting on March 12, 2011. Look for more details to come during February. As in the past, members will be able to participate in the conference call.

We have recently elected four new FOL Board Members. Please welcome: Pete Neumann, 2004-2006, Mohale's Hoek; Janice Stapleton, 2008-2010, Mafeteng; Hazel Domangue, 2003-2005, NUL; and Julie Galbraith, 1987-1988, Mohale's Hoek.

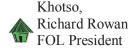
Friends of Lesotho continues to rely on your generous donations to continue to support projects in Lesotho. The Board recently approved three grants:

- \$4,000 to support PCV projects and provide tuition to Basotho students (administered through the Peace Corps Partnership Program)
- A \$700 donation for the Laptops to Lesotho project, led by RPCV Janissa Balcomb
- \$3,000 for a project led by FOL Board Member Scott Rosenberg, which will support the construction of two Habitat for Humanity houses to be built for orphan-headed households in Nazareth and contribute to the building of an orphanage/dormitory in Motsekuoa

You can find additional details about these projects in the Donations Committee report in this newsletter.

I encourage you to support projects like these this holiday season by purchasing gifts from the FOL online store or by using the FOL Amazon.com link from the FOL website for your holiday shopping. See the article from the Fundraising Committee for more details. Please also consider making a donation to Friends of Lesotho.

Thank you for all your support this past year, and I wish you the best in the coming year. Please have a safe and happy new year.



Fourth Quarter 2010 Newsletter

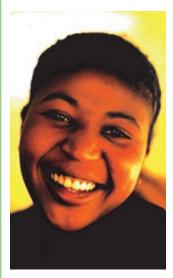


Photo courtesy: Kevin Caughlan RPCV, 1972-1974

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### Lesotho I Reunion

#### By Ava Woolliscroft Betz Photo by Tom Betz

In Sesotho, it's *poli ea soalala*. The American translation of this is "planning the first Lesotho I Reunion." No matter what the language, putting together a meeting of Peace Corps Volunteers 40 years after service is, indeed, like herding scattered goats.

On Memorial Day weekend of 2010, an intense year of planning, monthly conference calls, and email blizzards among planning committee members culminated in a once-in-a-lifetime reunion of 37 of the original Lesotho I volunteers, who served in Lesotho from 1967 to 1969. Also attending were spouses, staff members, friends, and volunteers who were in Lesotho at the same time. The meeting site was at the venerable Omni Shoreham Hotel in, appropriately, Washington, D.C.

The greatest challenge of the reunion was learning the whereabouts of the Lesotho I RPCVs after so many years. Thanks to a dynamic and relentless research crew and contributions from many resources, an unbelievable 80 members out of the original 83 were accounted for. Also included in the planning and organization was the establishment of a Facebook site to share photos and memories, reunion name tags in the shape of Basotho hats manufactured by one of the RPCVs, a biographical book that included the volunteer profiles published 42 years earlier along with updated information and photos, an exhibit wall/tables of news clippings and mementoes of the Lesotho I Peace Corps experience, and table centerpieces with the three Lesotho national flags that have flown over the country.

And, in the spirit of volunteerism, RPCVs couldn't just get together to

count gray hairs. We turned to an inspiring roster of speakers to update us on today's Peace Corps, modern Lesotho, and what might be a helpful project for the members of Lesotho I to undertake. Among those speakers were:

- His Excellency David Mohlomi Rantekoa, ambassador of the Kingdom of Lesotho to the United States;
- Aaron Williams, the Director of the Peace Corps;
- Kevin Quigley of the National Peace Corps Office;
- Fernando Moyle from the Lesotho desk of Peace Corps; and
- Friends of Lesotho representative John Hollister.

Williams started out festivities on Friday evening with a glimpse into the modern Peace Corps. Following that, the incountry director for Lesotho I, David Sherwood, started the RPCVs galloping down memory lane by telling us of the behind-the-scenes drama that ensued when we were the first U.S.

governmental body since the U.S. Cavalry to be officially issued horses. The session was theoretically suggested to be a time to share how being in the Peace Corps had changed our lives, but it took many turns before it disbanded in the wee hours of Saturday morning.

Saturday included informal visiting, a session with Quigley and Moyle on volunteer activity in today's Lesotho, chatting via

electronic media with volunteers who could not attend the reunion in person, and a tour of the White House arranged by the son of one of the RPCVs. Saturday evening, Ambassador Rantekoa not only honored the group with a presentation on modern Lesotho, but patiently posed with the group for an official reunion photo.

Before closing down the party Sunday, John Hollister spoke on how FOL operated and how FOL could participate in projects determined by the Lesotho I group. The RPCVs discussed several suggestions and opted for establishing a fund to provide mini-grants to in-country volunteers to be used for whatever need the volunteer chose.

At the close of the weekend, Lesotho I RPCVs parted, wondering why we hadn't done this years ago and pondering whether, now that members had been located, it might not be easier next time.

To see reunion photos and other photos from the Lesotho I volunteers, see Lesotho I Peace Corps on Facebook (http://www.facebook.com/pages/Lesoth o-I-Peace-Corps/122016938732?v=wall).







### Village Hope

#### By Georgann Gall

Village Hope Project has continued assisting orphans since it began in 2006. Each year, we return to Ha Molapo, in the Butha -Buthe district, to assist a group of children who have been living on their own or with unsatisfactory caretakers. We use the funds raised to pay any school fees that are due and to buy school uniforms, clothing, food, and household supplies to last until our next visit. Our returning representative this year was Sethunya Gall, an orphan found living on his own and adopted by PCV Georgann Gall in 2006. At 18 years old, he was able to return to his village from where he is now living in Long Beach, California, and purchase the necessary supplies for the kids. Sethunya, who is attending college in Long Beach, has the goal of returning to Lesotho to become a school principal. Anyone interested in donating to Village Hope Project may simply send their donation to Friends of Lesotho, noting that it is for Village Hope. This will allow us to continue to assist the orphans of Ha Molapo.



# Contribute to History

Peace Corps has announced that they are working with the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History to conduct an artifact search in the hopes of creating a permanent Peace Corps collection at the museum. This is a chance to have artifacts from RPCVs become part of this national institution and to help people better understand the Peace Corps. The focus is on the volunteer rather than the country in which they served.

Guidelines for submitting artifact information can be found at the Friends of Lesotho Facebook group. Please consider this opportunity to contribute in this unique way to ensure the legacy of the Peace Corps and commemorate our 50<sup>th</sup> year. The deadline for submission is January 30, 2011.

## Reflections

By Janissa Balcomb, who has just returned from a five and a half week adventure in Lesotho, where she was working on behalf of the nonprofit organization Laptops to Lesotho. We look forward to more stories of Janissa's experiences.

I'm an RPCV. I just returned from a trip to Lesotho after an absence of over 30 years. The difference in the PCV experience then and now is like night and day. Where we were mostly left to our own devices, Peace Corps now closely shepherds volunteers through their entire tour. Today's PCVs are also constrained by far more rules. But the most significant difference—there's no longer the deep, prolonged sense of isolation from family and friends. Distance is almost irrelevant. Deepest, darkest Africa is just an instant text message away. Fortunately, the taxi rides still provide an adventure.

# Grant to NTTC Nursing School





# Lithaba tsa Lesotho (News of Lesotho)



### News about Lesotho compiled by Ella Kwisnek

#### **GPS Tracks Roof of Africa Leaders**

This year, organizers of the Roof of Africa dirt-bike race are using GPS to track the race leaders. Fluxcon, a satellite tracking service provider based in Pretoria, is having tracking units mounted on the bikes of the top 10 competitors. To date, it has been difficult to track the riders over the rough terrain, but GPS may provide the answer. This method of tracking improves participant safety and enables fans to follow the race. In addition to GPS tracking, all riders will wear arm bands with electronic devices that will be swiped at various checkpoints. This enables race officials to track participants' progress and ensure that they have reached checkpoints.

\*\*View the full story online at www.iol.co.za/motoring/bikes-quads-karts/gps-will-track-roof-leaders-1.876602.

#### **Diamond Sales**

Letseng Diamonds, owned by Gem Diamonds Limited (70%) and the Government of Lesotho (30%), recently sold two rough white diamonds of 196 carats and 184 carats for \$22.74 million. The sale resulted from participation in a Special Tender in Antwerp.

\*\*View previous story online at www.stockmarketsreview.com/news/63061/.

### **United Arab Emirates Explores Business Opportunities in Lesotho**

United Arab Emirates Ambassador to South Africa Ismail Obeid Al Ali recently attended a reception hosted by King Letsie III of Lesotho and discussed potential joint cooperation with the ministers of foreign affairs and international cooperation, agriculture, finance, and tourism, as well as the chancellor of the University of Lesotho. During his time in Lesotho, the ambassador also met with World Bank representatives and a number of businessmen and investors to explore prospects of trade and economic cooperation.

\*\*View this story online at www.wam.ae/servlet/Satellite?c=WamLo cEnews&cid=1289830756732&pagenam e=WAM%2FWAM\_E\_Layout&parent= Query&parentid=1135099399852.

### Government Moves to Close Unregistered Schools

For a school to be registered under the Education Act 2010, it must have a board of directors and a constitution approved by the Ministry of Education. The school must also show proof of title to the land on which it is located, and the buildings and facilities must meet the government's standards. Also, the school must show its financial position at the time of registration and proof that it has money to sustain itself. The government recently took steps to notify unregistered schools that they will be shut down. Many of these schools are operating from run-down structures and have no proper

bathrooms. A number are also operating without qualified teachers. The Lesotho Teachers' Trade Union (LTTU) spokesperson, Vuyani Tyhali, said the unregistered schools deserve to be closed because they are "spoiling the education sector." "Some schools open today and close overnight because they are not formally registered and nobody is accountable for their wrongdoing," Tyhali said. "They open with the sole purpose of enriching their proprietors and they charge exorbitant fees. By so doing, they are defrauding the nation."

\*\*View this full story online at http://panafricannews.blogspot.com/2010/11/lesotho-news-update-government-to-close.html.

### **Unrest at Limkokwing University of Creative Technology**

In October of 2008, Limkokwong University of Creative Technology opened a campus in Lesotho. The new campus, which was launched by Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili, marked the first entry of a Malaysian university into Lesotho and the establishment of Limkokwing's second campus in Africa (the other is in Botswana). Recently, however, the campus has seen unrest as the students protested the dismissal of the Students' Representative Council president and demanded the dismissal of four administrators.

\*\*View this story online at www.publiceyenews.com/2010/12/08/li mkokwing-unrest-continues/.

# Check out the new FOL website

www.friendsoflesotho.org



Update on Peace Corps 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration, Friends of Lesotho 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and Lesotho Reunion for September 2011

The Lesotho Reunion Planning Committee has identified Friday, September 23, in the evening for a welcome reception and Saturday afternoon, September 24, for an informative update on Lesotho for volunteers, staff, families, and friends.

**The Research and Sleuth Committee** (Sherry Hellenkamp (80-82), Dana Kenney (79-81), and Dyann Van Dusen (03-06)) are working on:

- Tracking down volunteers to be point persons to inform members of their group about the celebration and reunion.
- Create updated database of volunteers to be used by point persons and for disseminating information

Our Program Committee Rich Rowan (79-83), Joan Legallo (00-02), Lorrie Beck (81-83), and Dyann Van Dusen (03-06)) is working on:

 Setting up a program with activities and speakers for the reunion, including volunteer displays, nametags, and registration

The Accommodations Committee Tom Carroll (67-69), Dana Kenney (79-81), and Madeline Uranek (07-09)) is completing the following:

- Selecting a hotel and a meeting room and negotiating rates
- Determining food and estimating cost

In addition, the **Planning Committee** is working with Friends of Lesotho (Kevin Freer, 76-78) on using the FOL Facebook page to post pictures from

volunteers and the latest information on the reunion, including a link to register for hotel accommodations. FOL also provides assistance on communicating reunion information through this newsletter and e-bulletins.

Other members of the **Planning Committee** include Becky Banton (05-10) , Jennifer Drobylen (98-00), Tracy Lane (96-97), Christine Madaio DiStasio (76-78), Allison Pranger (05-07), Bridget Shanahan (03-05), and Bill Reed (67-69).

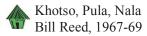
Right now we have 78 volunteers and staff who plan on attending, but the goal is 225 volunteers/staff. In addition, many of us will be bringing spouses, partners, family members, and friends.

What you can do:

- Continue to let others from your group know about the reunion and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
- If you have not already responded and would like to attend or want more information, contact Bill Reed at wc44reed@gmail.com.

For more information about the events being organized for the 50<sup>th</sup> by NPCA, go to their website at www.peacecorpsconnect.org. Register for the celebration or go to the bottom of the page for 50<sup>th</sup> information. If you register, they will send you updates and announcements.

I will continue to keep you posted on our All Lesotho Reunion.



### Membership Committee News

#### Welcome New Members:

Lisa Labella, Alexandria, VA

#### **New RPCVs:**

- Darrin Adams, 2007-2010, served as both an ED and CHED volunteer. His first 2 years were in Mafeteng/Makena. His extension year as a CHED volunteer was in Maseru/Mazenod.
- Ashley Wierzbicki, 2008-2010, served as a CHED volunteer in Mafeteng/Thaba-Tsoeu.

FOL welcomes Darrin and Ashley as new complimentary members for their first year after COS.

**New Lifetime Members:** Special thanks to the following members who expressed their lifetime commitment to helping the people of Lesotho by converting to Lifetime Membership:

Bill Boeddiker Larry Buss Don Hanni Becki Krieg Bill Reed Richard Rowan David Ruch

#### **Renewing Members**

As we approach the end of our 24<sup>th</sup> year in existence, FOL extends its appreciation to all our members who have faithfully renewed their membership each year. And to those of you who make an extra contribution when renewing, a special thanks.

We hope you will be able to participate in the FOL 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations planned for September 2011, to be held in conjunction with the Peace Corps 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events in Washington, D.C.



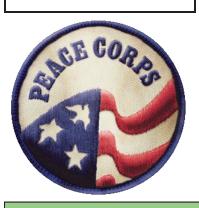
### Bits & Pieces

# **FOL Board Nominations 2011**

If you've always wondered how you could give a little more than your annual dues, now is the chance to volunteer your time, special skills, and enthusiasm!

- Directors are members in good standing who are elected on their ability and willingness to support the purpose of FOL
- Nominations are welcome year round
- Elections are held at the Annual Meeting in March
- Directors serve for two-year terms

For more information, go to www.friendsoflesotho.org and click Contact Us.



Friends of Lesotho - 2010 Treasurer's Summary for E				November 21, 2010
Corrections to Board report shown in red text (11/21)	/10)			
	9/19/2010	11/21/2010		<u>Difference</u>
Current Bank Balance (checking):	\$13,477.44	\$10,902.23		-\$2,575.21
Current Bank Balance (savings):	\$44,394.30	\$44,464.50		\$70.20
Total (both accounts)	\$57,871.74	\$55,366.73		-\$2,505.01
Interest Earned CY to Date (incl. above)	\$267.07	\$337.27		\$70.20
Paid Membership (Incl. Adv Dues - 16 for 2010):	90	116		26
New members this Year to date:	5	5		0
Non-member cash donors Year to date:	25	26		1
2010 Extra Donation Fund Status:				
2010 Extra Dollation 1 unu Status.	Amount in	Amount sent		Amount Pending
Donation Fund	Fund	to Lesotho (*)		Future Disbursement
Undesignated Fund (\$250 min balance)	\$12,984.33	\$3,906.76		\$9,077.57
Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) Fund	\$24,989.82	\$16.342.25		\$8,647.57
HIV/AIDS Fund	\$632.79	\$1.35		\$631.44
Morija Museum Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
Orphanages Fund	\$1.600.99	\$0.00		\$1.600.99
Memorial Scholarship Fund	\$12,734.46	\$24.75		\$1,000.99
PCV Projects	\$330.24	\$0.00		\$330.24
Peka Classroom Completion (Thompson PCV)	\$2,700.00	\$2,700.00		\$0.00
Village Hope Project (PCV)	\$1,807.15	\$0.00		\$1,807.15
LCCU (Lesotho Child Counseling Unit)	. ,	\$1,000.00		\$0.00
,	\$1,000.00			\$0.00
Uraneck PCV projects (Mountain Schools)	\$194.00	\$194.00		1
T. Veiga PCV Project (scholarship)	\$25.00	\$25.00		\$0.00
Lesotho I Reunion (Fundraiser event)  Totals	\$15,090.00 <b>\$74,088.78</b>	\$14,041.03 <b>\$38,235.14</b>		\$1,048.97 <b>\$35,853.64</b>
Difference from Prior report:	\$1.033.03	\$5.020.81		-\$3,987.78
Note (*) - These include donation collection fees from Ju	, ,	, -,	g fui	
2010 Operating Expense Status:				
Current Cash in Accounts (as above):		\$55,366.73		
Subtract out:				
Project Expenditure Obligations (per above, incl. interest	t)	-\$35,853.64		Incl. interest
Future Dues for Carryover		-\$135.18		Incl. interest
Life Membership Fund (incl. interest)				= total members
Cash Available for FOL Expenses =		\$9,300.46		
Unused Expenses in 2010 Budget -		\$4,321.00		
Current Cash Reserve =		\$4,979.46		excluding unspent budget
(Total operating cash expenses, incl. NPCA pass thru):		\$1,462.95		
(Total operating inkind expenses to date):		\$96.79		

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 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.



### Bits & Pieces



### FOL Annual Meeting March 12, 2011 Watch for mailings in late February 2011!!

www.friendsoflesotho.org

You can now PAY your dues and make donations with a

CREDIT CARD 1234 5678 9012 3456

Making a difference at the grassroots level



Sign up for email-only delivery of your FOL newsletter and you'll help FOL send more money to Lesotho. Sign up at the membership page at www.friendsoflesotho.org

### PLEASE PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES ANNUALLY

Your membership expiration date is located on the mailing label.





### FOL Marketplace

#### Customized Peace Corps Lesotho Clothing Now Available

FOL sells a variety of clothing with the Peace Corps logo in our online store. Now you can get customized PC/L clothing with your name, service dates, location, or other customized text on it. There will be a \$1.00 fee added for this service. Go to www.cafepress.com/lesotho/3031772 to see the clothing options.

Email questions or customization requests to janissa@silverstar.com. Include the text you'd like added and any color/font preference. You will be allowed to preview the item(s) before placing an order, there is no commitment to buy, and we guarantee 100% satisfaction or your money back!

### Find Friends of Lesotho as a Cause on Facebook: http://www.causes.com/causes/505986



Whenever you shop at Amazon.com, start at FOL first.

Friends of Lesotho is an Amazon.com affiliate.

Access Amazon.com from the FOL website and a portion of the price of your purchase will be donated to FOL by Amazon.com.

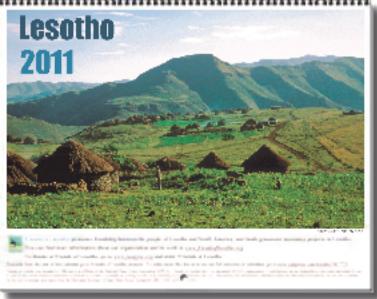
Go to the FOL website, click on the "Shop" tab, select "FOL Amazon," and click on the Amazon link.

http://www.friendsoflesotho.org/shop/amazon/



# FOL Marketplace SHOP TO HELP









## Shop at Amazon.com amazon

Use this link www.friendsoflesotho.org/shop/amazon to reach Amazon.com. A percentage of the purchase price of anything and everything you buy will be donated by Amazon.com to FOL. It costs vou absolutely nothing.



# **FOL Special Stock**



www.friendsoflesotho.org/shop/fundraising-items/

Bookmarks and luggage tags with one-of-a-kind artwork, and a music CD.



### FRIENDS OF LESOTHO

Making a difference at the grassroots level

4110 Denfeld Avenue

membership information with other FOL members and prospective PCVs

seeking information about Lesotho.

Kensington, MD 20895 (301) 942-2751	Dues Are Per Person					
www.friendsoflesotho.org	Annual Membership-\$15	\$				
*Name(s):	Lifetime Membership Options					
Address: State: ZIP:	[ ] Basic-\$250 [ ] Bronze-\$500 [ ] Silver\$750 [ ] Gold\$1,000	\$ \$ \$				
Phone/Home Cell	**Payable in annual instal	lments of \$250				
*Email:	Additional Donation to FOL					
*Yrs in Lesotho: to:*District:	[ ] Tuition Assistance Programs					
[ ] CHED [ ] ED Project(s):	Name					
	YrstoDist/Village/Jo	b				
Occupation/Employer:						
Newsletters will be sent by e-mail as part of FOL's "GO GREEN"	TOTAL to FOL	\$				
effort. If you prefer postal service, check here [ ].  FOL's Website Member Directory is accessible to members only by use of	I NPCA Membership-\$35 \$ *FOL will forward to NPCA for you.					
a secure ID and Password. The fields marked above with an * will be included in the directory. Check here if you do not want to be listed [ ].	TOTAL CONTRIBUTION:	\$				
Privacy Policy: FOL will not release member information to any organization, except the National Peace Corps Association, upon implied consent when a member joins both FOL and NPCA. FOL will share	Mail your check and completed form to Friends of Lesotho at the address above or pay by credi card by Clicking on Join/Renew from our					

Membership Form

Complimentary--PCVs during service up

website at www.friendsoflesotho.org and select

JustGive or Razoo.

Friends of Lesotho (FOL) is a registered 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. A copy of the current financial statement of Friends of Lesotho is available by writing 4110 Denfeld Avenue, Kensington, MD 20895, or by emailing 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.

FOL is affiliated with the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA).\* If 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.

For FOL use only. Please do not complete the information below.						
Check #	Amount \$	Member Since	New	Source		
Renew Date	Expires	No. of Members	NPCA		11/01/2010	



#### FRIENDS OF LESOTHO

4110 Denfeld Avenue Kensington, MD 20895

301.942.2751 board2@friendsoflesotho.org

Membership expiration date.



#### Metsoalle ea lesotho

Fourth Quarter 2010 Newsletter



Friends of Lesotho

This newsletter was printed at a reduced cost by The Alternative Copy Shop

in Tempe, Arizona.

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Secretary: Kevin Freer (board1@friendsoflesotho.org)

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Finance & Audit: VACANCY

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Website & Database: Bill Dunn

Martin Smith

Memorial Scholarships: Bill Reed

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