



FRIENDS OF LESOTHO

# METSOALLE ea LESOTHO

Fourth Quarter 2013  
Newsletter



Basotho crowds in Maseru for Mandela speech in 1995  
Photo credit: Juda Ngwenya/Reuters

## Nelson Mandela 1918-2013



### A Historian Tied Head and Heart to Lesotho



By Madeline Uraneck, [globalmaddy@gmail.com](mailto:globalmaddy@gmail.com)

Peace Corps Volunteers' awareness of Lesotho advances from searching for it on the map to being delighted, for the rest of their lives, when they meet authors, ambassadors, and academics with extensive knowledge and deep love of the region. Professor Robert Edgar, who has taught at Howard University since 1977, and who has adopted a Basotho son with a disability, is a person with both heart and mind bound to the Mountain Kingdom.

**"Africa has no history,"** said Edgar's undergraduate Oklahoma State University European history professor, when the young Edgar announced he wanted to study about Africa. But faculty at Indiana University and UCLA knew otherwise, and soon Bob Edgar was dissertating in South Africa, traveling throughout Africa, and becoming an active voice in the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa. Banned from obtaining a visa to South Africa from 1977 to 1990, Edgar discovered Lesotho – which was temporary



Photo Courtesy: James Stolen

home to many South African activists, exiles, and NGO ex-pats. Lesotho in those years was fomenting with ideas, struggle and dissent, and Edgar easily met important politicians, intellectuals, and African National Congress (ANC) organizers. From 1984 to 1986, he was Fulbright Professor and Chairman of National University of Lesotho's History Department in Roma. "South African police periodically raided the country. We always felt under siege."



Edgar & son Leteane pose with celeb Harry Belafonte

In the process of research about South African political activist Edwin Mofutsanyana<sup>1</sup> in a remote village in Butha-Butha, Edgar met a young neighbor named Leteane with a crippling disease. As he was already 13 years old, but with no schooling and weighing only 20 pounds, it was clear his family had no way to give him opportunities he needed. "There was some connection between us. I got him a wheelchair. Eventually, I took him with me to the university, where he lived in my house. Over time, we got attached to one another."

**Adopting a Mosotho Child.** "In those days", continues Edgar, "a non-Mosotho could not adopt a Mosotho child, so when my Fulbright was finished, I set up a guardianship for Leteane, and moved him to the US. When he turned 18, according to US law, Leteane was able to decide whether he wanted to be adopted by me. It was not the sanest thing I've done. It was my heart speaking, but I've never looked back."

Leteane, traveling together with his adopted father, has maintained his ties to Lesotho and his Sesotho mother tongue, often visiting sisters, nieces and nephews near Butha Buthe. In his Virginia and Washington DC neighborhoods, he gets around adroitly with a motorized wheelchair and works and sends money to his family in Lesotho.

**Most admired Basotho - then.** Bob Edgar's resume lists pages of books, monographs, textbook chapters, awards, and conferences organized, many of them focusing on Baso-

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<sup>1</sup>The Making of an African Communist: Edwin Mofutsanyana and the South African Communist Party, 1927-1930 (U. of South Africa Press, 2005)

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## President's Message

Lumelang Metsoalle ,

Despite my concerns about whether I would be able to follow in the footsteps of Kevin Freer (the last FOL president), I am happy to state that this has been a very positive year for Friends of Lesotho. However, I must acknowledge that the credit belongs to our dedicated board and committee members as well as the many individuals who support and partner with FOL. I think I speak for all of us when I state that this is a labor of love, for a people and country that have become part of our lives.

We have been fortunate to continue to help children and orphans in Lesotho through our continuing partnerships such as the TAP program, which will send over 100 children to secondary school next year. Furthermore, we have been able to help some of the neediest children in Lesotho through donations to Little Angels and the Qholaqhoe Mountain Connections. FOL was also able to help facilitate a large grant of 25,000 dollars to Phelisanong School for orphans, disabled and vulnerable children to help build a new dorm. FOL has maintained its long history of assisting volunteers with their projects, helping fund both a piggery and library project.

Friends of Lesotho has also embarked on some new partnerships and projects which will help FOL further its mission. In partnership with the Lesotho Embassy and others, we have begun work on designing a website which will help those doing projects in Lesotho work together to maximize their efforts.

We have begun discussions with Peace Corps Lesotho about developing a mentoring program between FOL members and newly returned RPCVs. I believe the former will benefit those doing projects in Lesotho by providing a forum to learn from each other, prevent duplication of efforts, and hopefully help connect projects with possible sources of funding, while the latter should help in the transition back home.. We all remember those difficult months after we returned, not only the culture shock, but trying to find ourselves and a new direction. I hope that those of us who have already been through this can lend our experience and skills to the next generation of RPCVs and maybe even steer some towards FOL! Lastly, I once again have to note the impressive work of the social media committee, including Megan Kelly and Christina Balch, in helping raise the profile of FOL and helping us all stay connected to Lesotho.

In ending, I wish to take this opportunity to once again thank Editor Faye Farmer for her years of work on this *Metsoalle ea Lesotho* newsletter and the seamless transition that has been made from her to Madeline Uraneck. I would also like to thank our new intern, Kieran Conway, for her efforts assisting various committees as well as the hard work she put in on our Friends of Lesotho 2014 calendar, which has nearly sold out!



*Khotso, Pula, Nala,*  
Dr. Scott Rosenberg  
President, Friends of Lesotho  
RPCV, Lesotho 1989-1991

Newsletter Features Clickable Links!!

Download the newsletter from the FOL website [www.friendsoflesotho.org](http://www.friendsoflesotho.org) and you can click on all the website addresses.

By Eric Williams, [ewilliams0507@yahoo.com](mailto:ewilliams0507@yahoo.com)

Do you need a quick trip to Lesotho over the holidays? Check out this You Tube video.

**Title: Lesotho, My Homeland** ~ [http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_detailpage&v=MIODPC5yLqY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=MIODPC5yLqY)

Uploaded by Gary McNutt on May 7, 2007. 4:08 minutes. 3,500+ views.

This video was taken in 2007 in Leribe district at Molapo High School, where Greg Felson was a Peace Corps Volunteer. It was shot by Gary McNutt, who was working as part of a Canadian development organization. It captures the eloquence and talent of a young student, reciting his own poem about his homeland.

QUICK REVIEW: INSPIRING - Young Mosotho poet beautifully describes his love for his country and the challenges it faces.

*Eric Williams was a CHED Community Development Volunteer from 2005-2007, working with Phelisanong, a village-based group of, by, and for disabled people and those affected by HIV in the Pitseng area of Leribe district.*



## Holiday Shopping?? Please use FOL's link to Amazon.

Amazon donates 6% to Friends of Lesotho year round, with no extra charge to the customer, if you access their site through Friends of Lesotho's Web page, <http://FriendsOfLesotho.org>



## 2014 Calendar Available Now



This beautiful photo is from the calendar

It's time to order Friends of Lesotho's **2014 Calendar**, highlighting Ohio's Wittenberg University student projects in The Mountain Kingdom. Each month features a full-size color photo of Basotho people and projects in action. Friends of Lesotho has been pleased to support student projects in Lesotho during the past several years, including helping orphans and vulnerable children, HIV-positive children, and schools where Peace Corps Volunteers work. Proceeds will help Friends of Lesotho support similar worthy projects.

Make checks (\$20/calendar) payable to "Friends of Lesotho" and mail to:  
Scott Rosenberg, FOL President  
115 Monteray Avenue  
Oakwood OH 45419 USA

Postage is included for single copies. Add \$5 postage for air mail international orders. Inquire about additional postage costs and bulk order discounts to Scott Rosenberg [rosenberg@wittenberg.edu](mailto:rosenberg@wittenberg.edu)



## A Historian Tied Head and Heart to Lesotho (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

tho, Swazi, and South African resistance to colonial rule, World War conscription, and the reign of apartheid. He admires many courageous activists, citing two of whom Friends of Lesotho readers may be unaware: Josiel Lefela and Edgar Motuba.

"Josiel Lefela was from Mafeteng. He started an anti-colonial political group after World War I, and was a real pain in the a\_\_ to the British. He persisted in raising challenges to British colonialism all the way from 1920 to 1960, and was a forerunner to modern political groups in Lesotho."

"Edgar Motuba, in Morija, was editor of a Protestant newspaper, *Lesedinyana*, in the late 1970's. He was very critical of Lesotho's government. I got to know him in 1980, and he talked with increasing worry about receiving death threats. Sure enough, he was kidnapped and killed that same year. I think of him often, and have dedicated work to his courage, his willingness to put his life on the line, and to challenge what's not right in a country."

**Most admired Basotho - now.** Not only people in the past, but individuals today help mold a strong Lesotho out of its challenges. Edgar admires Dr. Edith Mohapi, a pediatrician who was immensely helpful to him during Leteane's early years in Washington DC, where she worked at the time. Now she is back in her Lesotho homeland, working with dedication in Baylor University's program with children who face HIV/AIDS.

For a person truly savvy on the current state of Lesotho politics, Edgar says there are few who can measure up to the knowledge of his former National University political science colleague Dr. Sehoai Santho, who today writes about and consults in the area of conflict management.

To Peace Corps Volunteers and RPCVs, Edgar recommends two favorite autobiographies to fill Lesotho's long rondavel hours or the USA's cold winter nights:

**A Chief is a Chief by the People. The Autobiography of Stimela Jason Jingo**es (b. 1895), Recorded and compiled by John and Cassandra Perry, 1975. "I'd recommend this to anyone!"

**Sometimes there is a Void – Memoir of an Outsider** by Zakes Mda, 2010 (author of award-winning *Ways of Dying* and *The Whale Caller*), "A delightful, wonderful read."

Rather than a part of the world with "no history," Bob Edgar has found Lesotho rich in stories. "Just stick your finger in the ground and out they burst." His careful and substantive research has cut important roads for others to follow. His and Leteane's bonds are reminders that warmth and caring can mutually expand two worlds and can melt political borders, and that our professional work, done from the heart, sometimes reaps magnificent personal bounties.



Katse Dam. Photo Courtesy: James Stolen



# METSOALLE ea LESOTHO

## TAP Says 'Rea Leboha' to Friends of Lesotho / Scholarships Make Schooling Possible

By Lynn Minderman, [lminderman@yahoo.com](mailto:lminderman@yahoo.com)

There is nothing more sustainable than an education! This year donations from friends and members of Friends of Lesotho have made it possible for 322 students in Lesotho to attend school for the second semester of high school. This scholarship program began in 1989 with three students, and this year over \$16,000 was allocated.

Thirty-three current Peace Corps Volunteers submitted applications for students who were in the top 33% of their class in school, were motivated to learn and were in need of financial assistance. The application process includes two essays written by the student, parent and school principal approval, and an official copy of the student's 2012 final marks.

Primary education in Lesotho became free in 2000, but secondary (Forms A-C) and high school (Forms D-E) continue to be financially difficult, if not impossible, for students and their families. Orphans can attend school for free, but it is especially the so-called single orphans (one parent deceased) who are often unable to continue their education after primary school. In many cases, the remaining parent often must go away to find work, may struggle even to provide food, and has little income available for school fees, uniforms, or books. Too often single orphans live alone or must take care of younger siblings. Double orphans (both parents deceased) can receive 100 rand per month, if AIDS is listed as a cause of death, and free schooling at primary and secondary levels.

The Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) scholarship program has been needed and appreciated for almost 25 years and is a joint partnership among Friends of Lesotho, Peace Corps Lesotho staff and Volunteers, and parents and community members.



Anne Brewer's students 'Malikoro, Teboho, Tsêkelo and Maletsatsi say *Rea leboha*



Ramaopane wrote directly to the Director of the US Peace Corps

TO: United State Peace Corps  
Washington, D.C. U.S.A.

RE: THANKS FOR HELPING ME.

I hope everything is alright for you. As for me I am super fine. It is with great excitement to write this letter to you to tell you that I am honoured for the gift you offered me. I appreciate it a lot because I was not able to pay for my school fees. I really thank you for helping me to continue with my studies. I really thanks for your help and I pray to God that he could bless you and you could be able to help more other people like you did to me.

Yours faithfully,  
Kealeboho, Ramaopane

TO: Director  
United States Peace Corps

Dear Sir/Madam,


I hereby appreciate the scholarship that I have been offered and I hope this opportunity will be given to other students, so that they could get educated. This offer helps me to attend school because I could have been home doing nothing and again I will benefit a lot after I have completed my studies. I again appreciate the scholarship because it cut my school expenses and I will be able to learn like other students.

Yours Faithfully,  
Toka

Thank you letters from two of the TAP recipients.

Thanks to participating Volunteers for putting forth the names of deserving students!

Alyssa Abruzzo	Nancy Feraco	Josh Shawn	Heather Mangan	Brendan Rosen	Morgan VanBaleen
Kim Aren	Caitlin Fisher	Peggy Kang	Nicholas Mas	Zoe Schoeder	Caitlin Vincent
MaryBeth Bird	James Forte	Kevin Koryto	Sadie Nelson	Teresa Severson	Annie Whitley
Katie Buechel	Shanelle France	James Kruger	Tishina Okegbe	Michael Solano	
Rachel Edmons	Aparna Jayaraman	Jesse Lofland	Kyle Oney	Wendy Stein	
Mishelle Eysallenne	Johnson Laura	Keegan Mackin	Lauren Parks	Gerad Thornton	

Lynn Minderman was an Education Volunteer in 2007-08, in Qholaqhoe, Butha-Buthe. 



## Living and Leaping in Lesotho



By **Graham Corridor**, [grahamrichardhall@hotmail.com](mailto:grahamrichardhall@hotmail.com)

I finished my service at the end of 2008, but it seems like just yesterday I was sitting in my rondavel doorway at sunset, feeling the warm summer breeze, looking out at the green fields and pristine blue mountains, thinking, “Why the hell did I come here?”

But there were good times too!

I miss having fun with total strangers. One time on a steep taxi ride up into the highlands, I pulled out a bag of peanuts. The lady in front of me asked me for some. I poured a handful and held it up high. She tilted her head back and let me drop them into her mouth. We repeated it a few times and had a good chuckle. You don’t see that kind of thing in the states. Maybe in a hippie town.

I don’t miss BBC radio. It was the only option I had on my battery-powered shortwave. One day I really wanted to find out if my NBA team had advanced in the playoffs. When it got time for the one hour per day of decent-enough reception, I waited for the international sports scores. There were four NBA games to report, and the guy reported three games, leaving out the ONLY one I cared about, before moving on to twenty minutes of in-depth cricket coverage. What the hell kind of reporting is that? Would that extra eight seconds have screwed up the entire broadcast? I didn’t find out the score until days later. Thinking about that still pisses me off. But that was six years ago. I guess it’s time to let it go.

Honestly, I kind of miss latrines. There’s more freedom with a latrine. You can really let loose and not worry what people at the party think. It’s just accepted that there’s a giant stinkbox a few yards away. It’s not like here where bathrooms are supposed to smell like flowers. Latrines smell bad always, regardless of who walks out of them, so nobody’s a suspect. Plus they’re uncloggable to anyone, even a giant trucker with no fiber in his diet.

I miss the day I advanced to the finals of a high school high jump competition at a Butha-Buthe regional track meet. They let me compete even though I was a 22-year-old American teacher. Back in the USA, I’d always had a good vertical, but failed at the traditional high jump because I couldn’t do the Fosbury Flop, where you arch your back to get over the bar. However, Lesotho had a whole different version. The bar wasn’t as high, but there was also no mat to break your fall. Just a thin layer of dirt. The Fosbury Flop would have been suicide. The rule was to get over the bar using whatever tactic you could think of. I came up with a flying scissor-kick technique that was like nothing the Basotho had ever seen. A large crowd cheered me on as I ran up to the bar, leaped off one foot, got one leg over, then the other leg, and landed on both feet on the other side. They kept raising the bar until it was too high for me to safely attempt a jump. I would have won if not for the daredevil kid who risked paralysis by doing a running back flip and landing flat on his chest.



Graham Hall in high jump competition. Butha Buthe

Ah, those were the days!

*Graham Hall (@grahamcorridor) is a Lesotho RPCV who's been performing stand-up comedy in the Washington, D.C. area for the last five years.*



## Remembering Thomas Maresco, 1986-2010 (excerpted from Oct 2013 Khotso)

On September 25, 2013, Peace Corps Lesotho coordinated with Berea High School, in the community where Volunteer Tom Maresco lived as a trainee and at the school where he did practice teaching to hold a remembrance event. More than 200 people assembled in the school courtyard. Gracious words, poignant stories and memories of Tom were shared. After pausing for a moment of silence, Peace Corps explained to the students, teachers and community friends gathered that we wanted to remember Tom through action, through service. We were there to paint a classroom in his honor. Staff headed to a classroom and dug into the work for the next couple of hours. Filling cracks, painting stained and faded walls and ceilings, all of us worked side by side. The strength of this team was heart-warming, and working together in honor of Tom reminded us of our shared commitment to service and why Peace Corps matters. *Khotso*, ~ Wendy Vandamme, Peace Corps Lesotho Country Director



For more information about Volunteer Thomas Maresco’s service, see *Fallen Peace Corps Volunteers Memorial Project* Webpage: <http://fpcv.org/volunteers/thomas-maresco/>





## Who Am I? Being “Diverse” in Lesotho



Shanelle France with 'Me Faso, teaching colleague in Qacha's Nek

By Shanelle France, Peace Corps Volunteer, [sfubuntu8@gmail.com](mailto:sfubuntu8@gmail.com)

Reprinted from October 2013 *Khotso* newsletter, Peace Corps Lesotho

*It's in the act of having to do things that you don't want to that you learn something about moving past the self. Past the ego.* ~ bell hooks, American feminist and author

As I move closer and closer to my imminent return to the States, I can't help but reflect upon the past two years that have been incredibly challenging at times yet ultimately rewarding in all regards. One of my challenges was a surprising identity crisis. I've never been one to fit in, so to speak; my mother raised me to believe that fitting in is highly overrated. I've lived by that mantra for several years now, but there have been times in Lesotho when I would have given anything to go unnoticed.


It was extremely frustrating for me during my first few months of integrating into my community because I absolutely despise being called *lekhoaa*. Not only because it's geographically incorrect, but because of its implications. The word *lekhoaa* in our handy-dandy pocket dictionary defines it as meaning *European*. The word in Sesotho has evolved from its proper meaning to a broader definition of White/light skinned foreigner.

Now here's where my identity crisis comes in: I've never self-identified as a White woman. In simplest terms, my mom is White and my dad is Black. It was a bit jolting to hear my host family during Pre Service Training call me their White daughter. It kind of hurt at first because I've never really been black enough or white enough to fit in anywhere, hence the reason I embraced the mantra of 'fitting in is highly overrated', but now I found myself in a place where explaining my background was even more difficult.

I eventually grew desensitized to being called *lekhoaa*, and with time word spread in my community that —*ha se lekhoaa. Haeso ke America, kahoo, ke Americana.*

It wasn't until after I decided to let go of the sensitivity of my identity that I grew stronger as an individual. Letting this go was painful and something I didn't want to do at first, but just as the quote by bell hooks states at the beginning of this article, when we move past ourselves, that's when we learn more about not only who we are but who WE, collectively, are.

It no longer matters if I'm mistaken as *lekhoaa* or correctly referred to as an American. What I have found most important is that I'm a piece of the woven fabric of my community. I am part of them, and they are a part of me. I am always humbled when I look at my left wrist and see Desmond Tutu's script of *Ubuntu* forever tattooed on my body. It reminds me to ask, —Who am I? Who am I to be so selfish? Who am I to think myself apart from the greater connectivity of my community?

So whether or not you have been called *lekhoaa* or if you have ever struggled with your identity, ask yourself — Who am I? 

### Help fund Holiday Happiness



#### Nativities and Holiday Cards from Nyene

*Nyene Crafts*, a woman's cooperative near Maputsoe, makes nativity sets with support of two Irish NGOs. You can buy the tiny wool figures as a nativity scene, or the photo itself as a holiday card. Each card pack contains 6 identical cards and envelopes. The inside of the card reads, "Happy Christmas" in both English and Sesotho. Information about the women in the co-op is printed on the back of the cards, which measure 6 inches by 4.25 inches. With 100% of profits going back charity, the sets are offered through World Nativity, [www.worldnativity.com](http://www.worldnativity.com) — a family endeavor out of Utah.

#### Lesotho Featured in RPCV Calendar

Lesotho is the featured "January" photograph on the 2014 calendar by Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Madison, Wisconsin. The breath-taking photo was taken by Karrin Parker, RPCV in Motsekuoa 2008-2010, and the rondavel is that of Volunteer Oscar Sinclair in Bobete. The calendars sell in the thousands, and a dedicated RPCV committee works on them year round, researching holidays, movies, recipes, and books that pepper the spicy pages of the ever-changing countries featured. Order calendars as well as note cards and "We all need peace" posters at [www.rpcvcalendar.org](http://www.rpcvcalendar.org)





## Litaba tsa Lesotho (News of Lesotho)



Compiled by Ella Kwisnek, [ekwisnek@msn.com](mailto:ekwisnek@msn.com)

### More Unique Diamonds from Letseng

In early October, two special diamonds were discovered at Letseng Diamond Mine - a 12.47 carat blue diamond and an 83.8 carat white diamond. Gem Diamonds Ltd, based in London, owns 70 percent of the shares in the mine while the Lesotho government owns the remaining 30 percent of the shares. The blue diamond recently sold for \$7.5 million (\$603,047 per carat) and the exceptional quality white diamond fetched \$4.8m.

Letseng mine has produced some of the world's biggest diamonds, including the 603-carat Lesotho Promise in 2006, the largest diamond unearthed this century, and a 550-carat diamond unearthed in 2011.

Read the full stories online at <http://publiceye.co.ls/?p=3931> and [http://www.livecharts.co.uk/share\\_prices/Gem-Diamonds-sells-12-47-carat-blue-diamond-f-news21217730.html](http://www.livecharts.co.uk/share_prices/Gem-Diamonds-sells-12-47-carat-blue-diamond-f-news21217730.html)

### Lesotho to Host COSAFA - U-20 Tournament

Lesotho will host the 2013 COSAFA Under-20 Youth Championships in December. Matches will be played in both Maseru and Mafeteng. Find the full story online at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201309201227.html>.

### Snow Falls In Lesotho

A very late spring snow fell in Mokhotlong and the surrounding areas in northern Lesotho on October 22.

Read more online at <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/Snow-falls-in-Lesotho-WeatherSA-20131022>

### Minister Faces Fraud and Bribery Charges

Dr. Timothy Thahane, the Minister of Energy, Meteorology and Water Affairs, is facing charges of defrauding government of more than M19 million. Thahane was finance minister at the time of the alleged theft. He is charged along with the ministry of finance principal secretary Mosito Khethisa, and Civa Innovations Management (Proprietary) Limited Director Mokhethi Moshoeshe.

The fraud and bribery charges stem from a contract awarded to Civa Innovations for a wool and mohair project that did not comply with Public Procurement regulations.

Read the full story online at <http://publiceye.co.ls/?p=4210> 



Snowfall in Lesotho  
Photo Courtesy: Anne Marie Jackson

## YOU'RE INVITED!!

Sunday, March 16, 2014

### Friends of Lesotho's Annual Meeting

Special Guest Speaker (to be confirmed)

4 pm Eastern Standard Time

by Telephone Conference Call

Contact John Hollister ([johnh@zapdoodat.net](mailto:johnh@zapdoodat.net))  
for call-in information.

### Positions now open on FOL Board of Directors

If you've ever wondered how you could give more than your annual dues, **now (by Jan. 14)** is your chance to volunteer your time and special skills. Board directors are FOL members in good standing who are elected on their ability and willingness to support the purpose of FOL. Complete a [Nomination Form](http://www.friendsoflesotho.org/how-to-support-fol/board-and-committee-service/) found at <http://www.friendsoflesotho.org/how-to-support-fol/board-and-committee-service/> and email it to FOL President Scott Rosenberg. Contact Scott for more info: [srosenberg@wittenberg.edu](mailto:srosenberg@wittenberg.edu)

### Photo Archivist Wanted

FOL Board is seeking an individual to help expand the organization's archive of photos.

Contact President Scott Rosenberg: [srosenberg@wittenberg.edu](mailto:srosenberg@wittenberg.edu)



## Across the Decades – A Millennial Volunteer Interviews a 1980's RPCV

The following interview, highlighting the work of RPCV Bill Boeddiker, who taught Clement Lephoto's high school class in the 1980's, is excerpted from the October 2013 *Khotso* newsletter.

By **Heather Mangan**, Peace Corps Volunteer, [heathermmangan@gmail.com](mailto:heathermmangan@gmail.com)

You will not change the world.

That is the first thing Peace Corps staff tell us when we arrive at staging. Still, it's hard not to hope we will make a difference in the world. Even if we can just help one person, everything we endure - two years away from family, pit latrines, hot taxis - is worth it. We like to think that, 20 years from now, one of the youth who we work with will be a doctor, administering HIV tests, or a community leader, helping her village build pumps for clean water. We want just that one person.

**Bill Boeddiker** taught mathematics from 1982-1983 at Christ the King High School in Roma. He taught one very serious student who would later go on to earn his PhD. That young man today is Education Associate Peace Corps Director (APCD) Ntate Clement Lephoto. In his position with Peace Corps, he helps strengthen education across the country. Ntate Clement acts as an inspiration for many volunteers - so that maybe we will inspire a student to continue to work hard and grow into a career that will contribute to the betterment of Lesotho.

I contacted Bill to find out more about his experience in Lesotho.

### **What did you learn the most from being a teacher in Lesotho?**

That the Basotho are kind and determined people. And great students.

### **What was the most challenging thing about your service?**

Being away from home and family in the U.S., but not much else. I felt very well supported at my school and built some great friendships with local students and staff members.

### **When you think about Lesotho 30 years later, what sticks out the most?**

How welcoming the people were to me and my fellow volunteers. So many times local Basotho would offer us food, shelter, or transportation during our travels around the country. One time on a three-day backpacking trip in the mountains, a local village woman walked with us through the rain for over 3 hours just to make sure we got to the next village safely.

### **One of your students was Education APCD Ntate Clement. What memories do you have of him and what kind of student was he?**

It has been over 30 years but I do remember Ntate Clement as a very serious and strong student. It was a pleasure to have him in my class.

### **What does it mean to you to know that one of your students, Ntate Clement, went on to receive a full education and take a job that impacts Basotho all over the country?**

Knowing that he has made such a success of himself makes my experience all the more worthwhile. I am sure that my contribution was just a piece of the entire support system from which Ntate Clement benefited. But he is the one who deserves credit for achieving his own success.

### **What kind of contact do you have with your former students and community members?**

Sad to say that I have not been able to return to Lesotho as of yet. And even sadder is that around 10 years after service, I fell out of touch with most of my fellow teachers and students from Christ the King. One thing that does remain is my lifelong, very close relationships with many other Peace Corps volunteers that I served with. I visit with them regularly back here in the states.

### **What do you miss about Lesotho the most?**

Teaching. And the travel, adventure and freedom we did enjoy between school semesters.

### **What is your favorite story from your service that you find yourself still telling?**

So many, but the best stories are about our travels during school breaks. We were very fortunate and enjoyed road trips to Cape Town, The Transkei, Namibia, Botswana and most of Lesotho and South Africa.

### **What do you do now?**

My partner and I own and operate a small hotel in San Francisco. (Ed: Great looking place - check out *Parker Guest House*, [www.parkerguesthouse.com](http://www.parkerguesthouse.com))

### **What role does your service play in your life 30 years later?**

I feel because of my service that I am closer to being a member of the world community instead of just an American. I feel I am able to engage fully with people from all backgrounds and all corners of the world.

### **If you could do your service again, what would you do differently?**

I would try to be better about speaking Sesotho. Mine was never very good.

### **What piece of advice would you give to current PCVs?**

The two years go so fast you won't believe it. Do great work. And have as many adventures as possible.

Bill Boeddiker's e-mail is [Napa1247@yahoo.com](mailto:Napa1247@yahoo.com) Clement Lephoto's e-mail is [clephoto@ls.peacecorps.gov](mailto:clephoto@ls.peacecorps.gov)



Bill Boeddiker, lower right corner, with his 1981 training group.







## Bits and Pieces



### RPCV's book garners rave reviews

We forgot to give order information in the last newsletter when we featured RPCV-Lesotho author Courtney McDermott's first book of short stories, *How They Spend Their Sundays*. There have been lively reviews since then! Here's one from Whitepoint Press: "Set in Lesotho and South Africa, Courtney McDermott's debut story collection unveils a perspective of African life that is both startling and intimate. An Afrikaner woman sleeps with a shotgun because she fears black Africans, an undead garbage man "saves" lives by taking them, a modern day Cinderella struggles to escape the bitter residual constraints of colonialism. These twenty-two tales embrace graphic realism, energetic bursts of truths that may otherwise go unnoticed, and magic."

DON'T CLICK ON AMAZON! Order through Friends of Lesotho's own Amazon portal:

<http://friendsoflesotho.org> – You can write to Courtney at [CourtmcDermott@gmail.com](mailto:CourtmcDermott@gmail.com)

### Lesotho Heritage Network ~ A Who's Who of Cultural Activists in Lesotho

<http://www.lesothoheritage.org/people.php>

Are you interested in Lesotho's cultural heritage? Check out the Lesotho Heritage Network Internet page, a Who's Who of Cultural Experts in Lesotho who are currently working on important projects. The A-Z list already goes from A to S, and includes CV's of Steven Gill, Curator of the Morija Museum and Archives, Tlaleho Maloro, Field Archaeologist for the Metolong Cultural Resource Management Project, and anthropologists, historians, researchers, Ph.D. students, museum professionals and others interested in Lesotho's cultures.



Students dance at the regional contest in Thaba-Tseka.  
Photo 2007 by James Stolen, [james.stolen@gmail.com](mailto:james.stolen@gmail.com)

### Memorable Moments ~ Naked Truth

I met Megan Kelly (RPCV Qacha's Nek 2008-11) in Maseru, and we were having an afternoon drink together at Ooh La La Café, when a Mosotho man, with very proud stature, but completely buck naked, walked calmly down the sidewalk along Kingsway in front of us. Except for a few turned heads, nobody reacted to him. One of those memorable Lesotho moments.

Sala hantle, Janissa Balcomb, RPCV Leribe & Qacha's Nek 1977-80, [janissa@silverstar.com](mailto:janissa@silverstar.com)

### June 1, 2014 Deadline for next Friends of Lesotho newsletter

June Weddings – Were you a Peace Corps romance? Still married? Or not? Send us the date and a photo.

### Greetings in Sesotho

Happy New Year – *Mahlohonolo a selemo se secha.*

Happy Holidays *Phomolo e monate*

Peace on earth in 2014 – *Khotso e aparele le fatse lohle ka 2014*

### Special Dates:

March 11 Moshoeshoe Day

March 16 FOL's Annual Meeting (Call in & join us)

April 2 International Children's Book Day

May 10 Nelson Mandela Inauguration 1994



### June 20-21, 2014 Peace Corps Connect Wants You in Nashville, Tennessee

Plan now to be part of next year's conference in Nashville, Tennessee, and recruit the friends you'd like to see once you get there!

Keep an eye on the Facebook page of the Tennessee RPCVs:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/271557542984383/>



# METSOALLE ea LESOTHO

## Bits and Pieces

Friends of Lesotho - 2013 Treasurer's Summary for Board:		September 15, 2013
	9/15/2013	
Current Bank Balance (checking):	\$20,232.33	
Current Bank Balance (savings):	\$38,164.32	
Paypal (pending transfer):	\$0.00	
<b>Total (both accounts)</b>	<b>\$58,396.65</b>	
<i>Pending confirmation &amp; breakout:</i>	<i>\$791.84</i>	<i>(included in total above)</i>
<b>2013 Extra Donation Fund Status:</b>		
	Amount sent	Amount Pending
<b>Donation Fund</b>	to Lesotho	Future Disbursement
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$9,458.00</b>	<b>\$32,268.67</b>
Project cash sent (other than online fees) since last Board meeting:		
ck2214 Richard Weisfelder-reimb Morija Museum funds deliv'd	85.00	8/5/2013
ACH ck 2215 via PCPP - E.Pagan Pig Coop	1000.00	8/5/2013
<b>2013 Operating Expense Status:</b>		
Current Cash in Accounts (as above):	58396.65	
<b>Subtract out:</b>		
Project Expenditure Obligations (per above, incl. interest)	-32268.67	
Life Membership Fund (incl. interest)	-18472.29	
<i>Pending confirmation &amp; fund breakout:</i>	<i>-791.84</i>	
<b>Cash Available for FOL Expenses =</b>	<b>6863.85</b>	
Unused Expenses in 2013 Budget -	4414.67	
<b>Current Cash Reserve =</b>	<b>2449.18</b>	
Total operating cash expenses, incl. NPCA pass thru	1083.33	
Total operating inkind expenses to date	35.86	

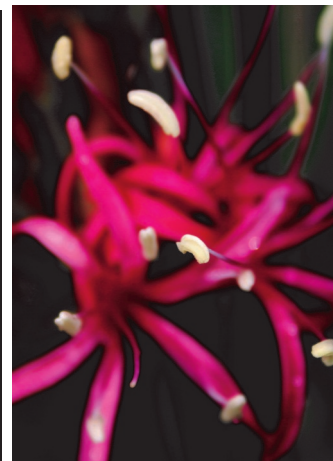


Photo Courtesy: James Stolen



### Corrections from September 2013 Newsletter

- "Support Peace Corps Equity Act" is an NPCA initiative, not an FOL initiative. For updates: <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/support-equity-act>
- Kate Swensen, RPCV Maseru 79-81, apologies for misspelling
- Mamoetsi & Tim Spanier, RPCVs Hlotse 1975-78, sorry for spelling errors
- Author RPCV 2007 Courtney McDermott's e-mail is [CourtmcDermott@gmail.com](mailto:CourtmcDermott@gmail.com)
- Current PCV 2012-14 Zoe Schroeder's e-mail is [zoeschroeder@gmail.com](mailto:zoeschroeder@gmail.com)

## THANKS!!

Thanks to contributors to this newsletter:

Professor Robert Russell Edgar. Peace Corps Volunteers Shanelle France, Heather Mangan, Elizabeth Pagan. RPCVs Janissa Balcomb, Bill Boedikker, Faye Farmer, Graham Hall, Anne Marie Jackson, Jan Kalnback, Ella Kwisnek, Lynn Minderman, James Stolen, Eric Williams. Lesotho Staff Wendy Van Damme, Eric Goldman, 'M'e Lebohano Ranooe.

Board members Christina Balch, Kevin Caughlan, Kevin Freer, John Hollister, Megan Kelly, Bill Moore, Peter Neumann, Peter Quella, Scott Rosenberg, Richard Rowan. FOL intern Kieran Conway. Indefatigable newsletter team Nutty Nicole P., Miraculous Mary H., Dedicated Deena R-K, and Magnificent Mailers Marisa E., Bill D., Pete N. & Marty S.

**Newsletters Past and Present**—The FOL Newsletter, *Metsoalle ea Lesotho* is posted on our website homepage (<http://friendsoflesotho.org>) under Recent News each quarter of the year. The complete set of newsletters is available on our website from Issue Number One, Summer, 1987 to the present. Go to Membership->Newsletters for the archives.

**Peace Corps Lesotho in-country Khotso Newsletters are also available on our website.** *Khotso* is the official monthly newsletter published by Peace Corps Lesotho and distributed to current Peace Corps Volunteers. Read it and be prepared for some nostalgic memories and a unique reconnection with your own experiences in Lesotho.

**Submit Newsletter Articles**—Do you know a great website? Have you given a talk about Lesotho? Have an opinion, blog, or want to write a column? Have you visited Lesotho recently? Do you have photos from Lesotho to share?

Submit articles, photos, or information of interest to our members to:

Madeline Uranek, FOL Newsletter Coordinator ([globalmaddy@gmail.com](mailto:globalmaddy@gmail.com)) or send hard copies to her at 2995 Gannon Street, Madison WI 53711, USA



# FRIENDS OF LESOTHO

Making a difference at the grassroots level

4110 Denfeld Avenue  
Kensington, MD 20895  
(301) 942-2751  
[www.friendsoflesotho.org](http://www.friendsoflesotho.org)

\*Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

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

\*Yrs in Lesotho: \_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_: \*District: \_\_\_\_\_

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

CHED  ED Project(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation/Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletters will be sent by e-mail as part of FOL's "GO GREEN" effort. If you prefer postal service, check here .

FOL's Website Member Directory is accessible to members only by use of 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 .

**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 membership information with other FOL members and prospective PCVs seeking information about Lesotho.

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](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.

*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.*

## Membership Form

Complimentary--PCVs during service up to 12 months after COS.

### Dues Are Per Person

Annual Membership--\$15 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Lifetime Membership Options

- Basic--\$250 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Bronze--\$500 \$ \_\_\_\_\_\*\*
- Silver--\$750 \$ \_\_\_\_\_\*\*
- Gold--\$1,000 \$ \_\_\_\_\_\*\*

\*\*Payable in annual installments of \$250

Additional Donation to FOL \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for:

- Greatest Need (default option)
- Tuition Assistance Programs
- Memorial Scholarships Fund *In memory of:*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Yrs \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ Dist/Village/Job \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL to FOL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NPCA Membership--\$35 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*\*FOL will forward to NPCA for you.*

TOTAL CONTRIBUTION: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail your check and completed form to Friends of Lesotho at the address above or pay by credit card by Clicking on Join/Renew from our website at [www.friendsoflesotho.org](http://www.friendsoflesotho.org) and select JustGive or Razoo.

For FOL use only. Please do not complete the information below.

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Member Since \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Source \_\_\_\_\_

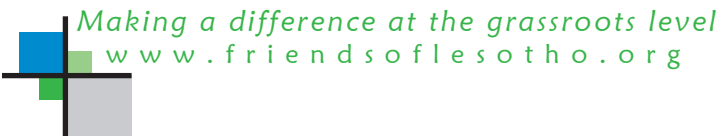
Renew Date \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Members \_\_\_\_\_ NPCA \_\_\_\_\_ 11/01/2010



## FRIENDS OF LESOTHO

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## METSOALLE ea LESOTHO

Fourth Quarter 2013  
Newsletter



FRIENDS OF LESOTHO

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**Membership Co-Chairs:** Jan Kalnbach & Peter Quella

**Newsletter:** Board member Uraneck, Editor (globalmaddy@gmail.com)  
Nicole Potsane, Layout & Design  
Mary Howard, Kevin Freer, Deena Rowe, Editing & Proofing  
Marisa Ernst, Mailing