



FRIENDS OF LESOTHO

METSOALLE ea LESOTHO

President's Message

Welcome to the June issue of the Friends of Lesotho newsletter. Members tell FOL that there are several reasons they join the organization, but there are a couple of reasons that get mentioned most often. The first is that FOL provides a way for them to continue to be involved in helping Lesotho by donating to grass roots projects and promoting education in Lesotho. A second area of importance is that membership helps them stay connected to Lesotho and the Peace Corps community.

In the area of donations, Friends of Lesotho has made several financial contributions to programs in Lesotho this year. Some of these include \$6,500 sent to the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) to pay school fees for Basotho students. Another \$4,200 was sent to the PC Lesotho Volunteer Advisory Committee (VAC) to support a wide range of projects sponsored by current PCVs, such as HIV/AIDS prevention and school improvement projects. Twenty-eight hundred dollars was donated to buy building materials for self-sufficiency projects at the Little Angels day-care orphanage run by RPCV Rose Paradise. Scott Rosenberg, one of the FOL board members, is the organizer of that effort. One thousand dollars was also sent to the African Libraries Project to foster community involvement in the establishment and operation of local libraries in Lesotho.

In addition to making direct contributions to those projects mentioned above, FOL also supported and helped facilitate fundraising efforts on behalf of the Lesotho Child Counseling Unit, Georgann Gall's Village Hope project, and a project established by PCV Madeline Uraneck that provides desks, chairs and other educational materials for mountain schools in Lesotho. FOL's assistance helped these projects raise over \$15,000.

We have also been looking at other ways to help Lesotho. There is a severe shortage of nurses in Lesotho, and the board is starting to look at the possibility of providing tuition assistance to nursing students.

There have also been developments in the area of 'staying connected'. Friends of Lesotho spends a relatively small amount on administrative costs, but most of that spending goes towards printing and mailing the newsletter. About half of the FOL membership receives their newsletters electronically, but we still print and mail 250 copies. The FOL board has decided that it is important to do as much as possible to eliminate those costs, and has started to focus on ways to 'go green'. We are encouraging all members to sign up to start receiving their newsletters electronically.

The board has also established a website task force that has begun work on redesigning and updating the website. You will hear more about that over the next few months and we look forward to any input you have. The Membership Committee would also like to start making more use of social networking on the web, and has established an FOL group on the Peace Corps Connect site. Check it out at peacecorpsconnect.org.

If you have other ideas about how FOL could help members stay more connected, or would like to become more involved with Friends of Lesotho, please contact one of the board members or other contacts listed in this newsletter or on the website. We look forward to hearing from you!



Richard Rowan
FOL President

Second Quarter 2009
Newsletter



Photo courtesy:
Joseph M. Thompson

Inside this issue:

<i>President's Letter</i>	1
<i>News from FOL</i>	2
<i>Membership News</i>	3
<i>Litaba tsa Lesotho</i>	4
<i>FOL Grant News</i>	5
<i>Treasurer's Report</i>	6
<i>Bits & Pieces</i>	7
<i>FOL Marketplace</i>	8
<i>Membership Form</i>	9



METSOALLE ea LESOTHO

News from Friends of Lesotho

SAVE THE DATE:
2009 FOL Annual Meeting Notice
Oct 4th 2009
Via Teleconference
More information to follow with the publication of the 2009 Annual Report

Donations Committee Report

The Friends of Lesotho continues to support activities and projects of current Peace Corps Volunteers in Lesotho, through the Tuition Assistance Program and Volunteer Advisory Committee, as well as individual applications of PCVs and others working in Lesotho. Funds distributed so far in 2009 total almost \$30,000 including the following:

- \$6,500 to TAP;
- \$500 for PCV's HIV projects;
- \$4,200 to VAC;
- \$1,000 for the African Library Project;
- \$9,502 to Madeline Uraneck's Desks for Mountain Schools project;
- \$1,886 to LCCU;
- \$2,800 to Wittenberg University student work projects; and
- \$3,134 to Village Hope

It is our pleasure to support these varied endeavors for the benefit of the Basotho.

The Donations Committee has also been busy with administrative matters. Two Committee members have visited Lesotho this year and graciously spent some of their precious time meeting with both PCVs and PC staff to better understand the logistics and coordination necessary for project funding. This has provided an opportunity to set up more diligent distribution and monitoring procedures for FOL project funds.

A reminder to those interested in receiving a donation from FOL, the Donations Committee meets on the 3rd Sunday of even-numbered months and requests for consideration should be emailed to the Committee Chair by no later than the Wednesday before meetings. More details are available on the web at:

<http://www.friendsoflesotho.org/applications.html>.



IT IS EASY TO BE GREEN...contrary to what Kermit would have you believe.

Nearly half of our members know this because they have made the decision to enjoy the rewards of reading the newsletter in all its colorful glory via the FOL Website. They get an e-mail from FOL providing a direct link to the newsletter as soon as it is posted on our website.

And, they have the added satisfaction of knowing their decision to Go Green provides more money for projects benefiting the people of Lesotho.

The cost to produce and mail the FOL newsletter is approximately \$1.00 per member (postage and printing). This amounts to approximately \$1,000 per year based on the number of members still receiving their quarterly newsletter by mail.

So, please join your fellow FOL members and take the leap--GO GREEN!.

Simply log on to the FOL website Member page and check the box to receive your news via e-mail. While you are at it, please also check the box to be listed on the Website Membership Directory.



Photos courtesy:
Pam Rogers



Membership News

Marty Smith, 2004-2006 RPCV recently accepted an invitation to join the Membership Committee. Marty served as a CHED volunteer, teaching computer skills and coaching basketball at St Mary's High School in Roma. He now lives in DC with fellow RPCV and wife, Marion, (another PC romance kindled in Lesotho) and dog Kuena. Marty works in Alexandria, VA at the Society for Human Resource Management where he is in charge of, to quote Marty, "a most excellent Help Desk team".

In addition to serving on the Membership Committee, Marty will play a key role as a member of the recently formed Website Task Force--specifically he will implement the redesign of the website and oversee its on-going management.

Welcome New Members: Brianna Buehler, Allison Pranger, Nicole Potsane and Sara Pugh.

Lifetime Membership Up-Date: The following long-time members recently made the Lifetime Membership commitment.. Theresa M. Faix Williams, Lloyd & Jean Greenway, Mark Mellbye, Joyce Richardson, Sydney Rocklin, Deena Rowe-Krumdick and Timothy Spanier.

Thanks to all of you and to all our other FOL members who renew their membership each year.

Support for New Peace Corps Trainees (PCTs): By the time you receive this newsletter a new group of 15 CHED Peace Corps Trainees will have arrived in Lesotho, having completed their stateside orientation on June 3rd.

They don't know it yet, but they will have some extra support from FOL. A special Membership Directory has recently been sent to Lesotho for use as a resource to PCVs. The

directory is organized alphabetically by district and village with FOL member name, PC assignment and contact information listed therein. The directory also includes a cross-reference by state and city.

PC Lesotho institutional memory of who did what, when and where in Lesotho has many information gaps, as many of us learned. FOL hopes this new resource will help fill some of those memory gaps. We plan to provide up-dates of the directory at least twice a year.

We want your feedback--if you are contacted by a PCV now serving in the district or village you served in, please let us know. Please also provide us with the full details of your service (district, village name and work assignment) if you haven't already done so. It is easy--just log on to the FOL website Member page "up-date information" section.

Walk-a-thon Information

The Membership Committee would like to take an opportunity to invite teachers, principals, school board members and anyone else involved in education to consider using an FOL Walkathon to raise funds for the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), the arm of FOL funding that provides school fees scholarships directly to primary and secondary school students nominated by current PCVs.

A walkathon is a great way to raise funds for TAP, but it's also a wonderful way to introduce students to Lesotho's culture and history and a wonderful opportunity to teach a group of students more about a part of the world that few Americans know as well as you.

The school year has just wrapped up, but we hope you'll keep the walkathons in mind for the 2009-10 school year. Full details are available on the FOL website at http://friendsoflesotho.org/fundraising/walkathon_resources.doc or else by emailing Charles Fogelman at fogelmania@gmail.com.



PLEASE PAY YOUR
MEMBERSHIP DUES

In Memoriam

FOL member Sandy Puckett passed away in March 2009. Sandy was a Peace Corps Volunteer from 1972 to 1974. Although his service as a PCV in Lesotho was only two years, he always maintained his connection to Lesotho. From 1991 until his death Sandy was a much-loved math teacher at the Taipei American School in Taiwan. After he started teaching in Taiwan, Sandy began organizing an annual 'Lesotho Walk-a-Thon' which combined learning about Lesotho with fundraising. In one letter to FOL, he wrote about how much he enjoyed seeing his Taiwanese seventh graders doing their walks and greeting people in Sesotho.

Over the years Sandy and his students raised many thousands of dollars which were donated to the Friends of Lesotho Tuition Assistance Program (TAP). Sandy's generous efforts helped hundreds of Basotho students pay their tuition and he helped many toward a better life. There were many years when Sandy's donations made up more than half of all the donations received by FOL. We are very thankful for everything that Sandy did over the years as a PCV, teacher and philanthropist.

You can see photos and memories about Sandy in the 'RIP Mr. Sandy Puckett' Facebook page set up by his students and colleagues in Taiwan.





METSOALLE ea LESOTHO



Litaba tsa Lesotho

The Lesotho Government has undertaken several initiatives to improve roads and open tourist accommodations to help Lesotho take advantage of the 2010 World Cup. In addition to opening guesthouses and improving parks, the government is hoping to encourage mountain villages to provide housing for tourists and is hoping to provide training and funding for micro and small businesses.

In April, Lesotho Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili survived an assassination attempt after gunmen opened fire on his home. According to news reports, four men were killed in the attack and ten have since been arrested in South Africa. Several of the attackers were from South Africa and Mozambique, as well as Lesotho. There is speculation that they were attempting to overthrow the government.

The Lesotho Government has begun to implement grants to help support orphans and vulnerable children. The grants will supplement other forms of aid and will be paid to households caring for orphaned children. This initiative is an attempt to improve the well being of vulnerable children, such as those in child-headed households and those orphaned by HIV/AIDS. This year the government hopes to roll the program out to 1200 households in three districts, and gradually expand the grants to the rest of the country. There are an estimated 160,000 orphans in Lesotho, and half of the families in the country have taken in at least one orphan.

The Lesotho Government has entered into an agreement with the Southern African Development Bank to build a new hospital in Lesotho. The hospital will replace Queen Elizabeth II Hospital and is scheduled for completion in 2011. As part of the agreement, four clinics around the country will also be upgraded.

Many families in Lesotho are reported to be suffering from escalating food costs; more than half of urban households admitted borrowing food to get by, and more than 40 percent said they had been forced to cut down on meals. In rural areas families have been struggling with drought for the last several years.

The BBC has done an extensive piece on Lesotho and the AIDS pandemic. It is called the Lesotho Aids Diary and includes several pieces written by Basotho about how their lives have been affected. You can access it at:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/7697831.stm>.

The film industry in Lesotho has been expanding. Several films have been produced there this past year, all of which deal in some degree with HIV/AIDS. Mapule's Choice is one of nine Southern African films produced recently that deal with "Untold stories in a time of HIV & AIDS." San Rise, San Set is a 30 minute film about the San/Bushmen/Baroa in Lesotho produced by the Lesotho Government Department of Culture with support from Unesco. Kau la Poho is a feature length film produced completely by Basotho is a drama that incorporates messages about HIV/AIDS. Mampoli was filmed in Leribe and examines positive and negative approaches to living with HIV.

The Lesotho Parliament recently passed four statutes that eliminated the legal basis for discriminatory practices against women and youth.

Finance Minister Dr. Timothy T. Thahane outlined the how the global economic crisis is having an impact on Lesotho. Clothing exports to the U.S. have slowed to a trickle, putting at risk thousands of jobs. Export financing from Southeast Asian banks has been severely limited. The mines in South Africa, the largest employer of Basotho

men, are laying off workers. Development aid by wealthier nations is being cut back.

Molimo-Nthuse Lodge has been closed for the last 6 years but is re-opening under the management of an investment group. They are hoping to expand pony trekking activities, open a conference center and establish a golf course in the area.

Limokokwing University of Creative Technology has opened a campus in Maseru. The new campus already has 1,210 students. Limokokwing University was started in Malaysia and has established several campuses world wide, including campuses in Botswana and London. It offers areas of study such as gaming technology and marketing. It also offers a 6 month course of study for students who did not have good enough high school results to prepare them for college level work. Most students attending the university are sponsored by the government.

In October the Lesotho Evangelical Church celebrated its 175th anniversary of the arrival of the first missionaries in Lesotho. In conjunction with the celebration, the LEC opened a radio station, KEL Radio. The festivities were attended by both the King and Prime Minister.

Basotho men won the first 3 places in the Soweto Marathon. In the women's division, the first 2 places were won by Basotho.

There has been a resurgence of TB, including Multi-Drug resistant TB (MDR-TB) in Southern Africa. Lesotho had already established a MDR-TB hospital and has now opened a MDR-TB laboratory in Maseru. This laboratory specializes in returning quick results using advanced technology. It is only the second such laboratory in Africa.





FOL Grant News

Dear Friends of Lesotho,
Thank you for the R500 grant you provided to my youth group last year (Underbellies Youth Club in Ha Manteko, Qacha's Nek). The group is slowly growing in numbers and importance in the village. It's the talk of the town among the youth. They have written and performed several dramas with themes like HIV/AIDS, gender violence, and youth leadership, and raised funds for the events with raffles and drama events. The Youth Center is coming along nicely. The walls have been painted, windows fixed, and the floor is almost finished! Attached are a couple photos of the youth group. Copies of the receipts have been given to the DAR Committee. The break-down of costs is as follows:

R85.00 cement
R20.00 transport for cement
R75.50 glass for windows
R21.90 putty for windows
R45.00 lock set
R10.00 extra key
R150.00 PVA paint
R40.00 paint tints
R20.00 thinners
R25.00 brush
R7.00 sand paper
TOTAL: R499.40

Thank you again!
Khotso Pula Nala!
Christina (Ausi Karabo)

For anyone who is interested, Christina just recently finished her PC service. She kept a blog while she was there. You can view it here:

<http://pcbalch.blogspot.com/>



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.



METSOALLE ea LESOTHO

Bits & Pieces

Friends of Lesotho - Treasurer's Summary for Board Meeting of: May 17, 2009

	<u>2/21/2009</u>	<u>5/13/2009</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Current Bank Balance (checking):	\$7,154.70	\$3,291.17	-\$3,863.53
Current Bank Balance (savings):	\$41,150.54	\$35,242.08	-\$5,908.46
Total (both accounts)	\$48,305.24	\$38,533.25	-\$9,771.99
Interest Earned CY to Date (incl. above)	\$139.86	\$231.40	
Paid Membership (Incl. 18 Adv for 2009):	46	74	28
New members this Year to date:	13	15	2
Non-member cash donors Year to date:	8	84	76

2009 Extra Donation Fund Status:

<u>Donation Fund</u>	<u>Amount in Fund</u>	<u>Amount sent to Lesotho (*)</u>	<u>Amount Pending Future Disbursement</u>
Undesignated Fund (\$250 min balance)	\$10,221.37	\$7,546.87	\$2,674.50
Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) Fund	\$22,351.43	\$6,542.40	\$15,809.03
HIV/AIDS Fund	\$950.89	\$500.00	\$450.89
Morija Museum Fund	\$150.53	\$0.00	\$150.53
Orphanages Fund	\$525.84	\$0.00	\$525.84
Memorial Scholarship Fund	\$2,496.09	\$1.50	\$2,494.59
PCV Projects	\$325.00	\$0.00	\$325.00
Pachela School (NGO)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Village Hope Project (PCV)	\$5,410.38	\$3,134.00	\$2,276.38
LCCU (Lesotho Child Counseling Unit)	\$1,886.00	\$1,886.00	\$0.00
Uranek PCV projects (Mountain Schools)	\$9,502.37	\$9,502.37	\$0.00
Totals	\$53,819.90	\$29,113.14	\$24,706.76
<i>Difference from Prior report:</i>	<i>\$11,496.92</i>	<i>\$23,872.54</i>	<i>-\$12,375.62</i>

Note (*) - These include donation collection fees from Just Give and transfer fees in sending funds.

2009 Operating Expense Status:

Current Cash in Accounts (as above):	\$38,533.25	
Subtract out:		
Project Expenditure Obligations (per above, incl. interest)	-\$24,706.76	Incl. interest
Future Dues for Carryover	-\$15.04	Incl. interest
Life Membership Fund (incl. interest)	-\$5,291.71	25 = total members (incl intr)
Cash Available for FOL Expenses =	\$8,519.74	
Unused Expenses in 2007 Budget -	-\$4,494.64	
Current Cash Reserve =	\$4,025.10	
(Total operating cash expenses, incl. NPCA pass thru):	\$845.36	
(Total operating inkind expenses to date):	\$0.00	

Sign up for FOL Online Store News

Did you know that you can sign up to receive updates from the FOL Online Store? Just go to the store home page, www.cafepress.com/lesotho,

Enter your email address in the box at the bottom of the "Store Newsletter" section, and click <Subscribe>. We promise not to fill your inbox with a lot of junk. We will send out store newsletters no more than three or four times a year, and only to announce new items or product lines, or when there are great deals available in the store.

Go directly to www.cafepress.com/lesotho

You can help FOL earn up to 10% extra from CafePress by going *directly* to the FOL store rather than getting there via the CafePress home page. So, remember to add "/lesotho" to the website address to do your shopping.



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.

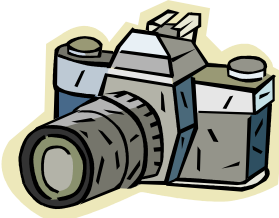


Bits & Pieces

Got Photos??

We would love to showcase your pictures of the people, places, and things of Lesotho and Peace Corps in our various publications, including this newsletter.

Please email your photos to Faye Farmer at f_e_@hotmail.com



www.friendsoflesotho.org

You can now PAY your dues and make donations with a

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Fundraising

Seeking Newsletter Sponsors

FOL members, would you like to help spread news of Lesotho to other members and friends? If you're at a loss for words, chelete will do. Each issue of this newsletter costs about \$400 to publish and mail (even with our growing number of email subscribers). At 3 issues per year and the annual report, that's \$1,400 for the year. So, if your employer or other organization you belong to would like to sponsor an issue -- or part of an issue -- we'll shower them with thanks and make sure their generosity is properly acknowledged and recognized. For more information or to contribute, contact Bill Moore, Fundraising Chair, moowag@scc.net.

amazon.com
and you're done.™

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

Friends of Lesotho is now 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 Donations Page on our website and use the link there to Amazon.com.

www.friendsoflesotho.org/fundraising/stuff.html

Photos on this page courtesy:
Jane A. Hale
Director, Family Literacy Lesotho
Associate Professor of French
and Comparative Literature
Brandeis University

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MEMBERSHIP FORM

Friends of Lesotho



Please mail your completed form to:

**Friends of Lesotho, 4110 Denfeld Avenue
Kensington MD 20895, USA**

If you prefer to pay your dues or make donations online, go to

• <http://friendsoflesotho.org/dues.html>
and follow the instructions there.

Name:

Address:

Phone:

home
or cell:

work:

Email:

List your email on FOL website? Yes No

Information for FOL Directory

Current Occupation/Employer:

Family Members:

Years in Lesotho:

from:

to:

District:

Village:

Work Project:

Check to receive the newsletter via email only.

(This saves postage costs and results in more money being available to be sent to Lesotho!)

I would like more information on other ways to give, such as wills, estate planning, IRAs, or listing FOL as an insurance policy beneficiary.

I would like to receive information on Lifetime Membership in FOL

FOL Annual Membership (\$15/person)

\$

☞ Additional Contribution to FOL

+\$

☉

Total to FOL

\$

☉

National Peace Corps Assn
Annual Membership (\$35/person)

+\$

☉

TOTAL ENCLOSED

\$

☞ If you wish, you may designate where your additional contribution goes; however, this is not necessary.

Greatest need (default)

HIV/AIDS

Orphanages

Tuition Assistance Program

Volunteer Advisory Committee

Morija Museum

Memorial Scholarship Fund – in honor of:

- ① Privacy Policy: FOL will not release member information to any organization, except to the National Peace Corps Association, upon implied request when a member joins both FOL and NPCA. FOL will share membership information with other FOL members and prospective PCVs seeking information about Lesotho.
- ② 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.
- ③ Friends of Lesotho is a registered 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.
- ④ 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. NPCA multi-year discount available, see www.rpcv.org.

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.

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

ver. 05/08

Check # _____ Amount \$ _____ Member Since _____ New _____ Source _____ Renew Date _____

Expires _____ No. of Members _____ NPCA _____

Friends of Lesotho

Friends of Lesotho
4110 Denfeld Avenue
Kensington, MD 20895

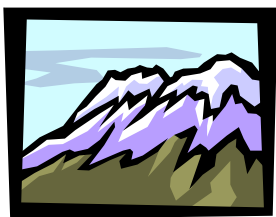


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www.friendsoflesotho.org

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Second Quarter 2009
Newsletter



FRIENDS OF LESOTHO

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Bill Moore (moowag@scc.net)

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Nicole Potsane, Layout & Design