



FRIENDS OF LESOTHO

# METSOALLE ea LESOTHO

Second Quarter 2015  
Newsletter

## Peace Corps Connect 'Basotho' in Berkeley

By **Aparna Jayaraman**, RPCV 2011-13, [aparnajay.jay@gmail.com](mailto:aparnajay.jay@gmail.com)

On Friday, April 5, during the opening ceremonies for 2015 Peace Corps Connect, we were posed a question: "Stand up if you served in 1961."

A noticeable group of returned Volunteers stood up. I looked behind me, impressed by the number.

The question was repeated, "Stand up if you served between 1961 and 1965," and a large number of the audience, perhaps a fifth, stood up. Then "1965 to 1970," and "1970 to 1975" and with each group, the number of people standing was fewer. Finally, my turn, "2010 to 2014." I proudly stood and just 4 or 5 others stood with me. Here we were, the "recently returned" Volunteers.

I wasn't really sure what I was signing up for when I registered for this year's Peace Corps Connect at UC-Berkeley. I simply thought, "Oh, it's only an hour away; maybe I'll meet some other RPCVs." While my expectations were minimal, I was excited to network, reminisce, but mostly, to be surrounded by others who believed in the impact they could have in this world. The theme was, "Oh, the Stories We'll Tell," and in that regard, it didn't disappoint.

Senator Sam Farr (Rep D-CA, RPCV Columbia 1964-66) welcomed the 500+ attendees. He spoke about the hardships he faced during his service and how that inspired him to a lifetime of advocacy for Peace Corps and for those with less. I attended a film about Senegal, *Feast and Sacrifice*, as well as sessions where RPCVs presented research they had conducted and sessions on storytelling, writing memoirs, environmental issues, and post-PCV life.

And of course, the stories. I met a South African Volunteer, Lily, who was now a member of the Northern California Peace Corps Assn. (NorCal), as I am, and who COSed a few months after I did. We talked about ShopRite, Cape Town, police stops, and of course life back in the states (how expensive rent is in this area). I met fellow Lesotho RPCVs for lunch and we talked about ways in

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Newsletter Features Clickable Links!!

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



Photo courtesy: Betty Hiebert

## Meet Seattle RPCV Jennifer Rafalski



My Response Volunteer roommate and I (L) were guests at wedding of our landlord's nephew in Cameroon. We are wearing the wedding *pagne* (pron. pawn-yah), which is the patterned fabric unique to each family. All our family members had *pagne* made especially for the occasion.

*Ed: Thanks to Tori Raymond, current 2013 Healthy Youth (HY) Volunteer in Lesotho for this RPCV interview, reprinted from Khotso, 03/2015. Email contact for Tori is [toramo@gmail.com](mailto:toramo@gmail.com) and Jennifer's is [jraf07@gmail.com](mailto:jraf07@gmail.com).*

I currently live in Seattle, WA. I was an Education Volunteer in Roma in 2002-03. After serving in Lesotho I pursued a Master's degree in public health and moved to Seattle to work at independent contracting company doing health outcomes research. Most recently I returned from doing six months of PC Response in Cameroon, as the Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist at Malaria No More, a non-profit organization working on malaria intervention programs and behavior change messaging.

1. **What was your favorite thing about Lesotho?** I loved the music that taxi drivers played in their busses—always a vibrant

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## Peace Corps Connect: 'Basotho' in Berkeley (continued)

which Lesotho and the area had changed over the years: the location of the Peace Corps office, rules, and lifestyles. And what seems eternal: the people we remember and the dust.

My take away? During the welcome, there was a session on corporate leadership. One of the panelists, Meg Garlinghouse (RPCV Niger 1989-1992, visionary behind LinkedIn for Good) said something that stuck: leverage the Peace Corps network. If there is an industry or company you are interested in, find an RPCV who works there and request an informational interview. Most likely, they'll be happy to help.

Perhaps this seemed powerful to me because I struggled to find a job after COS and the solution could have been simpler. I need to start taking advantage of this wide and diverse network.

Lily, the RPCV from South Africa, told me that her husband (also a South Africa RPCV) occasionally complains about Nor-Cal. When he does, she reminds him that their current apartment and her job would have never happened without this network. The Peace Corps network has power!

In September, 2016, Peace Corps Connect will be in Washington D.C. I'm considering attending; how about you? 

*Ed: Friends of Lesotho has 53 members on its California list. Aparna was joined at the 2015 Peace Corps Connect Conference and West Coast Career Conference by:*

**John Bigelow** (1976-78, Butha Buthe), sydneyrocklin@hotmail.com

**Mary & Richard Howard** (1975-77 - Maseru, Thaba Bosiu), mhowarduu@gmail.com

**Jesse Barrack Schofield** (2010-11 Lesotho and 2014 PC Response, Philippines), jebascho@outlook.com Jesse presented two pre-conference sessions.

**David Song** (2005-07, Berea, Ha Makhoroana), davidsong03@yahoo.com

A member of the NorCal host group, David staffed a table for First Solar at the pre-conference RPCV West Coast Career Conference.

**Sally Vogl** (1980-82 Maseru, St. Catherine's HS), sjvogl@pacbell.net



*L-R: John Bigelow, Aparna Jayaraman, Rich Howard, Sally Vogl, Mary Howard. "It was great getting an update about Lesotho from Aparna. Sally and Mary discovered they taught some of the same blind students three years apart. In light of the Girls Can Learn initiative, we all agreed that girls in Lesotho get an equal, if not better, education than boys, so Lesotho is a front-runner in this area." ~ M. Howard*


## Meet Seattle RPCV Jennifer Rafalski (continued)

and exciting adventure getting from one location to the other, near or far.

2. **What was one of your most memorable moments of PC service?** Welcoming new Volunteers to the country was always very inspiring.

3. **You currently finished serving as a PC Response volunteer. What did you do? How was it different from serving as a PCV? Would you recommend PC Response?** I would recommend PC Response to anyone mid-career or later who is seeking to continue working or expanding their work in an international environment. Response positions typically, but not always, require RPCV status and approximately 10 years of experience. People are assigned to professional positions with organizations, often in the capital, which is very different from most types of Volunteer posts.

4. **How did PC/PC Response prepare you for what you wanted to do after service?** It was great experience working on-the-ground with a health program, using French language, and having the opportunity to work with community health workers, ministries of health, and other people working in malaria prevention. This is directly related to the kind of work I'd like to continue doing here in the States within my local community or with an organization that works on programs abroad.

5. **Have you stayed connected with other RPCVs?** Yes! There is a whole network here in the Pacific Northwest of Volunteers who are either from my group or groups directly before me. In fact, I live with one of them. We all meet fairly regularly and just had our group's 10-year reunion last year. Yes, it was one year late but that's what worked for our group. 



## Funds and Cooperation Spring from Qholaqhoe Water Project

By Lynn Minderman, RPCV 2007-08, Butha-Buthe

*Ed. This article is reprinted from the May 2015 newsletter of the impressive village sustainability project called Qholaqhoe Mountain Connection, [www.qmconnect.org](http://www.qmconnect.org). Qholaqhoe is about 50 km from Butha-Buthe township. Minderman and a fellow QMC Board member made their annual trip there in March 2015.*

For five years, Qholaqhoe Mountain Connection (QMC) has been aware of the fresh water shortages at Qholaqhoe High School and two nearby villages. Their only source of water is a small spring at the high school that provides an insufficient supply of water. When there is too little water, the high school closes and villagers are forced to travel long distances for their water, causing tension between school and community. Over the years, proposals have been made for QMC support but because they held no evidence of cooperation between school and community, and thus were not sustainable, we could not provide funding.

This year, with drought conditions worsening, a school/community collaboration created by village and school leaders yielded a proposal that promises, with the support of QMC, to sustain a fresh water supply for both QHS and the villages.

On Qholaqhoe Mountain, there are three “eternal springs,” known for generations to herdsmen who travel high on the mountain to graze their animals. Water rights to these springs, controlled by Qholaqhoe Chief Thabo Matela and the elected Qholaqhoe counselor, can only be accessed if water is to be provided to many people equally and if money is found for pipeline and storage construction. Chief Matela, Counselor Me Mampho Mokuininihi and QHS Deputy Principal Andreas Khakhane, brought the villages and the school together to design a permanent solution to the water problem.

At a community meeting in early March, 2015, in which QMC Board member Linda Gorham and I participated, it was agreed that the 25 families living in two villages would each contribute 100 *maluti*, an extraordinarily large sum of money for subsistence farmers, to the project. In addition, residents committed to providing all the labor to dig trenches, carry pipe and construction material up the mountain and to build storage tanks. QHS agreed to contribute 20,000 *maluti* and to coordinate parents to help with construction.



Qholaqhoe photos by Lynn Minderman

Once these funds are collected and certified by Chief Matela, QMC will contribute 156,000 *maluti* (\$15,300) in two installments to cover upfront costs and the balance when work is complete and water is running. A construction firm with experience providing water systems for rural villages and that shares in the belief that all should join in the labor and maintenance, has signed on to the project.

The initial QMC funding has been sent and work has begun. People are carrying bags of cement, steel pipe, cement blocks and tools on their backs up the steep, mountain trails. Men and women from the two villages, helped by their children, are digging the long trenches. All thank QMC donors for their support of the Qholaqhoe Mountain peoples’ efforts to overcome the challenges their fragile environment. Follow the progress of the project through photographs and reports at [www.qmconnect.org](http://www.qmconnect.org).

Donations are welcome. Contact Lynn Minderman, [lminderman@yahoo.com](mailto:lminderman@yahoo.com) 



## Litaba tsa Lesotho (News from Lesotho)

Compiled by Ella Kwisnek, RPCV 1992-94, Lesotho Agricultural College, ekwisknek@msn.com

### Tourism Potential

Lesotho Tourism Development Corporation (LTDC) hopes to improve facilities to increase the contribution that tourism makes to the national economy. Currently, just 2.5% of the national GDP is derived from tourism.

Read more at: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201505112746.html>

### February 2015 Elections Result in Coalition Government

In February 2015, Basotho voted in snap elections called two years early in an effort to restore political stability. After the elections failed to produce an outright winner, five opposition parties in Lesotho formed a new coalition government.

With 47 seats, Pakalitha Mosisili's Democratic Congress was narrowly ahead of the All Basotho Convention party of outgoing Prime Minister Thomas Thobane, which came in second with 46 seats. The Democratic Congress formed a majority of 61 with other smaller parties.

#### Election Results Break-out

- Democratic Congress (DC): 47
- All Basotho Convention (ABC): 46
- Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD): 12
- Basotho National Party (BNP): 7
- Popular Front for Democracy (PFD) - 2
- Reformed Congress of Lesotho (RCL) - 2
- Four other parties (BCP, LPC, MFP, NIP) - 1 each

Unfortunately, the underlying tensions which led to the crisis and the snap elections still need to be resolved. Specifically, the role of the police, the army, and the role of the opposition in parliament need to be clearly delineated. This is unlikely to occur because the coalition would need a 2/3 majority to amend the constitution and they would likely face strong opposition from the All Basotho Convention



Photos courtesy of (L-R): AP Photo, Reuters Photo, BBC Photo

Articles / photos from:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-31671896>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-31733059>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-31671926>

### Former Prime Minister Flees Country

The former prime minister, Dr. Motsoahae Thabane, and Basotho National Party (BNP) leader Chief 'Thesele Maseribane are reported to have fled Lesotho in May, 2015, after an alleged attempt on Thabane's life. Read more at <http://www.publiceyenews.com/site/2015/05/22/thabane-maseribane-flee/> and <http://mg.co.za/article/2015-05-26-former-lesotho-prime-minister-flees-to-south-africa>

### Former Secretary to Minister Convicted of Forgery

Former personal secretary to ex-communications minister, Tsëlisio Mokhosi, was convicted of forgery in the Magistrate Court. The secretary forged his Cambridge Overseas School Certificate (COSC) as well as the National University of Lesotho (NUL) transcripts and certificates in order to obtain his position. <http://www.publiceyenews.com/site/2015/04/10/mohlahlhi-convicted-of-forgery/>

### Extended Internet Coverage

Vodacom Lesotho has broadband internet service (3G) across all its towers and provides Internet coverage to the majority of the country. This means that any part of the country that has a Vodacom signal in Lesotho now also has Internet coverage. <http://www.publiceyenews.com/site/2015/04/17/vodacom-extends-internet-coverage/>



**Shopping?? Please use [Smile.Amazon.com](http://Smile.Amazon.com). Be sure to select Friends of Lesotho as the organization. Amazon donates part of your purchase to Friends of Lesotho year round, with no extra charge to the customer, if you use [Smile.Amazon.com](http://Smile.Amazon.com). So, SMILE while you shop!**



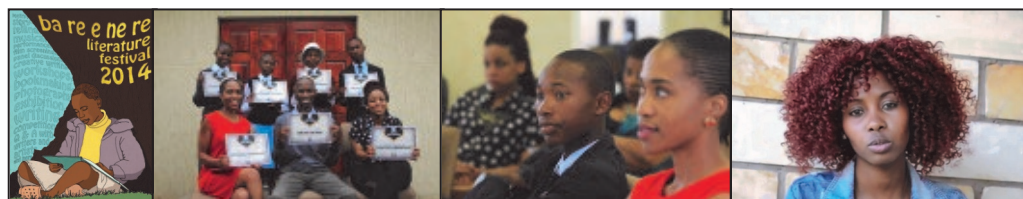
## Literary Festival Now on YouTube: Reclaim Your Story

From Notes by Zach Rosen, RPCV 2010-11, Millennium Challenge, Maseru, zach.rose@gmail.com

You can glimpse the exciting and successful 2014 Ba re e ne re Literary Festival on YouTube: [http://youtu.be/eFUM7m\\_bHRw](http://youtu.be/eFUM7m_bHRw), including sessions with poets in the Peace Natives Series and outstanding Basotho authors.

Ba re e ne re Literary Arts Organization, with support from Friends of Lesotho, hosted an awards ceremony in Maseru on February 13th, 2015, for contestants who participated in two writing contests which were run in August 2014 and January 2015, respectively.

The first contest was facilitated with Peace Corps Lesotho at host high schools, with participants contending at the district level. Five winners representing Forms A to E were selected by a panel of judges. The second contest was run online through the [Ba re e ne re Facebook page](#) and [website](#). All Basotho living in Lesotho were welcome to enter by submitting a story based on the theme:



From L to R: Festival poster. Award winning writers. Writers enjoyed listening to fellow writers. "Native Poet" Thato Ts'oeute on YouTube. "Listen to the Drum" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ajqCm76dHFw>

Freedom of Creative Expression. Three winners were selected. All eight winners were recognised at a special award ceremony at Alliance Francaise. The event included opening remarks by Lineo Segoete, the festival director, a screening of festival highlights, a poetry reading by Sekete Lesaona, a musical performance by Chino Khomari Makakole, and readings from contest winners."

Event photos at: <http://bareenere.com/february-2015-prize-giving/> Photo credits: the late Hlompho Letsielo

On-line writing winners: <http://bareenere.com/category/short-story/>



## RPCV Opens College Gateway

"Exchanging Daughters" between Kentucky and Maseru

Notes from Mary Beth Bird, RPCV 2012-14, Butha-Buthe, bird.maryelizabeth@gmail.com

"In Lesotho, I worked as a Math/Physics teacher at Linokong High School in Ha Selomo, Butha-Buthe, and several years ago, met Kabelo, now 18 years old, who lives in a village called Abia, near the capital of Maseru. In 2013, Kabelo graduated from high school with a coveted First Class pass in her exit exams, in addition to distinguishing herself in a young women's church group, being the Head Girl at her boarding school for two years, and celebrating music.

I was staying with her family when Kabelo told me she'd always dreamed of going to America for university. She talked about travel, and her desire to learn about business and economics. She dreamed of the kind of education that isn't available in Lesotho. But I'm a dreamer, and I recognize a bit of myself in Kabelo. So we embarked on a truly crazy adventure.

We've been through countless challenges over the last year, from completing online applications in a country where electricity (no less Internet) is a rarity, to shouldering the stress and financial burdens of getting her all the way to Johannesburg, South Africa, for international entrance exams.

In April 2015, however, Kabelo and her family received incredible news. She has miraculously been accepted to a fully-funded work-study program at Berea College in Kentucky! This one-of-a-kind program will fund all of her expenses and tuition to achieve a four-year Bachelor's Degree in Business.

From more than 700 applications from around the world, Kabelo was one of only 35 students selected. For the family, this miracle is utterly transformative.



Daughter and proud Mother, Kabelo and Makabelo.  
Photo Mary Beth Bird

**Africa Tomorrow will pay 50% of the expenses to get Kabelo to the US, but Kabelo's friends and our families must raise funds for her flight ticket, visa fees, university deposit, etc. Please help us!**

**To donate, visit <http://www.africastomorrow.org/2014-students.html>. Click on "DONATE TO KABELO."**

Both my and Kabelo's families are incredibly excited to be "exchanging daughters" this coming year: two weeks after I take Kabelo to school at Berea in August, 2015, I will fly to Lesotho from Richmond, VA, where I am now living, and move in with her family in Ha Abia, Maseru District. I've been awarded a nine-month Fulbright Research Grant to conduct an ethnographic interview study with HIV+ Basotho mothers, examining issues of informed consent and prenatal HIV testing policies. I'm planning to begin pursuing my MD/PhD in Medical Anthropology upon my return to the U.S. in June, 2016."





## Discovering the Arts in Lesotho

by **Christina Balch**, RPCV Lesotho 2007-09, Qacha's Nek, [christina.balch@gmail.com](mailto:christina.balch@gmail.com)

When I was a Peace Corps Volunteer, I thought Lesotho had no arts culture. A multi-media artist, I recently returned to Lesotho in early 2015 as an artist resident at the Morija Art Centre, hoping to prove myself wrong. I spent 10 weeks in Morija, the self-proclaimed cultural heart of Lesotho, creating art, working with Basotho artists, and discovering visual art in Lesotho.

After working on a long-term photo project in Boston, I planned to paint during my Lesotho residency. As is often the case though, Lesotho had other plans for me. When I arrived, Patrick Rorke, the director of the Morija Arts Centre, had begun to teach stop-motion animation to curious, young Basotho. With a background in animation and computer design, I quickly jumped in to help teach and create animations. I hadn't worked in animation for 10 years, but fell in love with the medium all over again. Soon I found myself experimenting with stop-motion animation alongside the young Basotho students. I made people out of paper and animated them, drew landscapes in charcoal and animated them, like William Kentridge (South African artist) does, and even created effects using a white bathroom tile and dry erase marker. I still painted, but the most valuable experience during the residency was reconnecting with animation.



From L to R: Animated short by Lesotho artists. "Lifariki" (pigs). Christina Balch at work on story boards. Exhibition of local artists and potters

The U.S. Embassy approached me about doing an American-funded art project at the Morija Arts Centre, and together with Patrick Rorke, we decided to make a short animated film with the new Basotho animators. I spent much of my last weeks in Lesotho producing a children's animated short called *Lifariki* ("pigs"). The short film is geared towards children, but anyone who knows Lesotho will appreciate it. The film was created in Lesotho by Basotho. Four Basotho animators, plus Patrick, and I storyboarded the film, created characters and background designs, animated the film, and edited it in post-production. Mampolai Thahe, Relebohile Monkhe, Beauty Thahe, and Puseletso Qhoai were the four talented animators chosen to work on the film. I have never seen Basotho work so hard on a project. Amazingly, the short film was completed in 4 weeks! The film was screened during my art exhibit at the Maeder House Gallery in Morija.

During the residency, I also got to know local painters in Morija. They led me to paint portraits of Basotho as many of them were doing. I was thrilled to meet Basotho artists and inspired by their passion for art and improving their techniques. Basotho also created pottery at the Morija Arts Centre, and many school-age children came by the studios every day to draw and create. The collaborative, encouraging and often chaotic environment at the Morija Arts Centre showed Christina that the arts are blossoming in Lesotho, if you know where to look.

Check FOL Facebook page for the animated short *Lifariki*. <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfLesotho>

See the *Lifariki* trailer here: <https://youtu.be/jd-JMkUqEW0>

Learn more about the Morija Arts Centre here: <http://www.morija.co.ls/arts-and-culture/maeder-house/>

## THANKS!!

### With thanks for contributions:

Christina Balch, Mary Beth Bird, Kevin Caughlin, Kevin Freer, John Hollister, Mary Howard, Aparna Jayaraman, Ella Kwisnek, Kathy Jacquart, Jan Kalnbach, Kathy Keenan, Michelle and Jessica Lee, Lynn Minderman, Tory Raymond, Richard Rowan, Zach Rosen, Scott Rosenberg, Lebohlang Ranooe, Zoe Schroder, David Song, Sally Vogl, Wendy Vandamme, Dyann Van Dusen





## Basotho ‘Hats off’ to Kathy Keenan & Taipei American School Two Decades of Fundraising Net \$115,000



Kathy Keenan

World wanderers know that global threads stretch far. In the case of Kathy Keenan, there’s a thread that links secondary school students in Lesotho to 7th graders at the Taipei American School in Taiwan. Over the years, these far-away 7th graders’ annual Walk-a-Thon has raised \$115,520, all of which has been donated to Peace Corps Lesotho’s Tuition Assistance Program (TAP). Peace Corps Volunteers identify motivated Basotho students whose families cannot afford their school tuition, and these students receive either a one- or two-semester scholarship to continue their education.

Kathy Keenan came to Taiwan in August 1990 and was planning to stay for only two years before heading on to a new adventure. She fell in love with the school, with Taiwan, the Taiwanese people, Taiwanese food, and all of Asia, so she stayed for 25 years, teaching middle school science.

In 1993, a Lesotho RPCV (1972-74) named Sandy Puckett came as the school’s new art teacher, and proposed the idea of the Walk-a-Thon as a Middle School Service Project. Sandy told colleagues he was sure all the proceeds would directly benefit Basotho students, which appealed to them.

After 16 years of teaching, Sandy died of a heart attack in 2009, leaving a legacy not only of the Walk-A-Thon but of hundreds of students inspired by his art projects, children’s books, optical illusions and animorphs. In his honor, colleagues

voted to continue the Walk-a-Thon, and Kathy continued to coordinate it.

The Walk-A-Thon, now called the Sandy Puckett Walk-A-Thon, has generated many good memories. “One year,” writes Kathy,” a student’s father pledged 1000 NTD (about \$30) per lap that his son completed. However, the student had to leave early, and could only participate for 20 minutes. Maybe his father had known this. Nonetheless, teachers cheered him on, urging him to run as fast as he could, so they could cash in as many laps as possible at the generous rate.”



Photo: Taipei American School Home page

Looking back on her decades at the school, her friendship with Sandy, and the success of the Walk-A-Thon, Kathy writes, “ It has been my honor and privilege to work with the grade 7 faculty, current and former, and the students of Taipei American School in this service project helping the children of Lesotho. It has been a group effort.”

Basotho would say, “*Re mo rorella khaebana*” (we take our hats off to her).



Sandy’s colleague, teacher Peter Stanley, is Friend of Lesotho’s new contact for the Walk-a-Thon.



Photo M. Uraneck

## Africa Library Project Features Lesotho

Lesotho has been selected by the Africa Library Project as the focus for its fall 2015 book drives. All libraries must be shipped to their warehouse in New Orleans by December 10, 2015 and registration is already open for persons willing to coordinate a local book collection drive. Donors need to raise money to ship the books, but the project organizes the shipment and distribution once it reaches Lesotho. Go to <http://www.africanlibraryproject.org/book-drives/start-a-book-drive> for more information on how successful this volunteer-powered, non-profit organization has been in sending books to countries in Africa for use in schools.





# METSOALLE ea LESOTHO

## Lessons for Lesotho ~ via Iran

By Madeline Uранеck, RPCV 2007-09, Quthing, globalmaddy@gmail.com

I sniffed out a cool conference about Iran – Peace Corps Iran Association (PCIA) was meeting at U of Texas in Austin for their third-ever conference. I fell in love with Iran when I traveled home from my Peace Corps staff assignment in Turkmenistan. With 265 attendees at the conference, I felt envious, wondering if Friends of Lesotho could ever pull off such an event. This conference was unlike any I’d ever been to.

**No Peace Corps in Iran:** Peace Corps exited Iran in 1976, having been there a total of 14 years. Unlike many other “Friends of” Peace Corps groups, “Iran” doesn’t have new returnees fusing youth and inspiration.


**America loves to hate Iran:** Since these RPCVs left Iran, the Shah has been deposed and the Islamic Revolution, hostage-take-over, and recent Green Movement elections have taken place in Iran. These RPCVs love Iran, but they live in a nation that loves to hate Iran. They have for years wrestled with this juxtaposition. During this conference, Iran was again in the headlines and speakers ventured hopeful optimism for the on-going negotiations over nuclear power.

**Aging RPCVs:** Most conference attendees were in their 60s, 70s, and 80s. This was PCIA’s strength and weakness. As a weakness, members were literally dying off. PCIA has created a lovely set of Memorial Books and, with painstaking research, has been able to document every single individual and cohort group that served in Iran. On the other hand, they cannot wait for young people to carry the flame. If anyone’s going to do it, it’s got to be them. As older RPCVs, they looked back not only on their service to Iran and how it had influenced their lives, but they also reflected on five decades of American politics, foreign policy, and the paths of their own professional and personal lives. It gave the conference a certain depth.

These 60s to 80s were healthy. One speaker, Margaret Bateson, apparently told them (I didn’t attend that session), “Don’t say retire. You have 30 good years ahead of you. Get with it!”

**A Different Kind of Membership Strategy:** For a membership strategy, PCIA does not require any dues. It puts out two newsletters by e-mail, has a Facebook page, encourages travel to Iran, and asks for donations. 1,800 individuals were Volunteers; PCIA has succeeded in researching 1,400 contacts. This ranks it high, compared with memberships of other “Friends of” groups.

**Authors Galore:** With five decades behind them, these Iran’s RPCVs have produced an impressive number of books, and several members are actively collecting additional Iran Peace Corps stories for publication.

I was inspired by this conference, learned a tremendous amount about Iran’s history and culture, and was, once again, proud to be an RPCV, even if a ‘Mosotho’ minority of one. 




Bazaar in Shiraz, Iran. Photo M. Uранеck

## What are you folks doing with my money? 2014 Annual Report

The 2014 annual report has been uploaded to the Friends of Lesotho homepage: <http://www.friendsoflesotho.org/wp-content/uploads/FOL-2014-Annual-Report.pdf> and posted as a news item there. Thanks to Board Member Zach Rosen and FOL President Scott Rosenberg for showing the organization in the light it deserves.

Thanks to all who remembered to pay their annual FOL dues, to FOL’s many donors, and to its Lifetime Members, whose names are listed in the Report. *Rea leboha* to FOL’s long-time, devoted Treasurer, John Hollister, for maximizing donations to Lesotho and minimizing expenses.

Read about NPCA’s choice of Friends of Lesotho as one of two “Friends” groups to receive honors in 2014, and about President Scott Rosenberg being named as an Honorary Consul to Lesotho. 



Kevin Caughlin, RPCV 1972-1974 (R) with the English teacher (L) at Thabana Morena Secondary School





## Obituary, Rose-Marie Paradise, 1943-2015

### *Global Citizen with Passion for Lesotho's Orphans*

Friends of Lesotho mourns the loss of RPCV 2003-05, Rose Paradise, known to many for her dedication to developing and supporting the Little Angels Pre-School and Orphanage from 2006 until the time of her death there, from a heart attack, last month.



Rose Paradise, RPCV 2003-05

Together with RPCV friend Dyann Van Dusen, Rose completed a round-the-US trip last summer 2014, and visited numerous fellow RPCVs enroute, including Kevin Freer, Nicole Potsane, Amy Sindler, and Amy Hewett (all in FL), Texys Morris (AL), Hazel Domingue (IL), Mary Ann Feutz and Maddy Ura-neck (WI), Richard and Tlotlisang Rowan (MN), Chuck Kuehn (WA) and Dick and Pam Nystrom (OR).

At memorials in Lesotho and in Virginia, friends and colleagues spoke of her work and generous spirit. In her obituary, Rose's family wrote that Rose-Marie Paradise was born in Germany on August 15, 1943. She married and moved to the United States in the 1960s. Rose had three children, three grandchildren, and her adopted Lesotho family. She had friends worldwide, including her beloved Peace Corps friends.

Rose had college degrees and worked in various professions including computer programming, tailoring and business administration. But it was in her work in Lesotho that she found her calling. In 2001 she joined the Peace Corps hoping to get

placed in Latin America. To her surprise, she was assigned to the tiny kingdom of Lesotho, Africa in the village of Masianokeng. During her tenure as a Peace Corps volunteer, she witnessed the suffering caused by HIV/AIDS, and decided to start the *Manyeloi a Manyane* (Little Angels) Daycare Center for children orphaned by the disease.

With the help of many friends and organizations, she realized her vision of a Day Care Center to alleviate the burden on families by providing the children with a nurturing environment, a pre-school education, food, clothing, and healthcare. The hundreds of children that were a "Little Angel" thrived in the loving and encouraging environment where they learned and played. By caring for the youngest children, Little Angels benefits the whole community; grandparents are able to earn a living, and older children who would otherwise be caring for the little ones are able to attend school themselves.

Her adventurous, live-every-day-to-the-fullest spirit led her to travel to Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Swaziland and South Africa, and across the U.S. and Europe. She believed in living with passion and enjoying life. Condolences may be sent to Rose's daughter, Michelle Lee, 133 Robinson Road, Hampton VA 23661, [michelelee0@gmail.com](mailto:michelelee0@gmail.com)



Rose with children at Little Angels Pre-School and Orphanage





# METSOALLE ea LESOTHO

## Pictures from the Past ~ by Kevin Caughlin, RPCV 1972-1974

Kevin was a maths and science teacher at Thabana Morena Secondary School and is on the Board of Directors for Friends of Lesotho.

Pictures clockwise from top left: Festivities on King Moshoeshoe Day; Kevin's living/kitchen/dining room in his apartment, which was the back half of an old school building; a snowstorm in the winter of 1973.



Want to share your photos in the newsletter?  
Send them to editor  
Madeline Uranek at  
globalmaddy@gmail.com



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## TREASURER'S REPORT

Request detailed report from Treasurer John Hollister,  
[JohnHollister@friendsoflesotho.org](mailto:JohnHollister@friendsoflesotho.org), RPCV Thaba-Tseka, 1986-1988

Updated 5/13/2015:

<b>Total Checking &amp; Savings Accts</b>		<b>\$67,641.63</b>
Total project donations sent:		\$2,560.00
Qabanyane ACL Primary School Roof	2/25/2015	\$2,000.00
Qhalaghoie Mountain Connections	4/13/2015	\$560.00

**Newsletters Past and Present**—The FOL Newsletter, *Metsoalle ea Lesotho* is posted on our website homepage (<http://friendsoflesotho.org>) 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**—Pass on RPCV updates. Recommend a Mt. Kingdom movie, music, book or Website. Share new or old photos. Been to Lesotho lately? Share it!

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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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- Basic--\$250 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
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- Greatest Need (default option)
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Name \_\_\_\_\_

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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.

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## FRIENDS OF LESOTHO

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## METSOALLE ea LESOTHO

Second Quarter 2015  
Newsletter



FRIENDS OF LESOTHO

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