



FRIENDS OF LESOTHO

METSOALLE ea LESOTHO

Second Quarter 2022
Newsletter

A Word From Our President

Lumelang Metsoalle,

First, I wanted like to thank our members who continue to support our work and the board members for all the hours they have put in. I am pleased to report that FOL continues to fulfill its mission to promote positive change and to assist the people of Lesotho.

This year we were lucky enough to be able to hold our Annual Meeting on March 13th, just two days after Moshoeshoe's Day. This year our speakers included Dan Kobayashi, an African analyst for the State Department and Thabo Mosoeunyane, a senior project officer with the United Nation Development Programme in Maseru. Both speakers provided tremendous insight into the current political climate in Lesotho, the current political situation leading up to this year's elections and the ongoing impact of COVID on the nation. Both speakers were very knowledgeable and informative and were gracious enough to answer all the questions members had for them.

At the meeting we also elected three new members: Thomas Lindner who served in Leribe from 2014-15 (and who will be taking over as our new treasurer), Kenneth Tucceri, who served in Thaba Tseka from 2017 to 2019 and Kathryn Larimore who also served in Thaba Tseka from 2017 to 2019. I would also like to thank all of the members who choose to return to the Board, all of whom were re-elected (Kevin Freer, Cayla Anderson, Danielle Sharp and Meghan White).

I just returned from Lesotho on March 11th after a ten-day visit to the mountain kingdom. The three years away from Lesotho was the longest I had been away since the early 1990s and I was so happy to get to return. Perhaps the most startling thing was how green Lesotho was and how much it rained during my visit. After all these years of drought, the rain is welcome, however it has rained so much that many fields are under water which is threatening this year's harvest. This June fellow Board member Ali Kukovich and I will be returning to Lesotho for 3 weeks, as she will be joining a group of Wittenberg University students that I am taking to Lesotho to do service projects in Ramabanta and Sebiring.

In some very exciting news, according to the Peace Corps website volunteers will be returning to Lesotho in September! Lastly, I would like to thank Marty Smith who spent the last ten years serving as the webmaster for FOL and outgoing treasurers Rory Pulvino and Rachel Edmunds for their service and dedication to FOL.



Sincerely,
Dr. Scott Rosenberg
President, FOL
Honorary Consul, Kingdom of Lesotho

Newsletter Features Clickable Links!!

Download the newsletter from the FOL website www.friendsoflesotho.org and you will be able to click on all the website addresses.

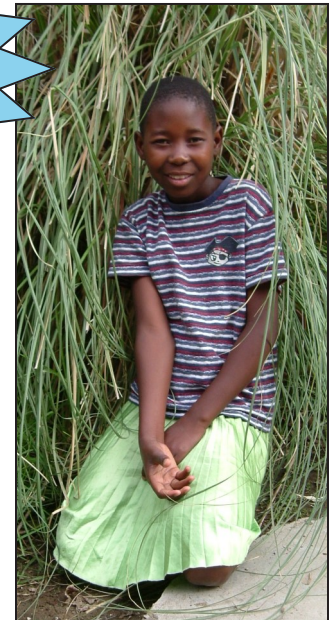


Photo courtesy Dyann Van Dusen. RPCV

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Friends of Lesotho Organizational News

Annual Meeting

The Friends of Lesotho held its Annual Meeting on March 13th via a Zoom call. Three new Directors were elected to the Board – Kathryn Larimore, Thomas Lindner, and Kenneth Tucceri. Two guest speakers joined the call: Thabo Mosoeunyane, Senior Governance Specialist UNDP and Dan Kobayashi, Foreign Affairs Analyst, Office for Africa Analysis, Former Political/Economic Officer at U.S. Embassy Maseru. The 2021 Annual Report is posted on our website at <https://www.friendsoflesotho.org/>

Board Transitions

Welcome, new Board members. Thanks to those retiring from service.

Seven Friends of Lesotho members were elected to the FOL Board at the 2022 Annual Meeting, on March 13. Three of the electees are new to the Board: Kathryn Larimore, Thomas Linder and Kenneth Tucceri. Cayla Anderson, Kevin Freer, Danielle Sharp and Meghan White are continuing their service.

Kathryn Larimore of Denver, CO worked as a PCV, 2017-2019, in Khohlo-ntso, near Katse/Bokong. Among other undertakings, she taught English, English phonics and life skills to grades K thru 7, and helped a group of women start a successful and still going craft collective with which she is still engaged. Aside from working as a mental health professional, she runs her own business as a free-lance writer, editor and proofreader.

Thomas Linder, of Corvallis, OR taught Math at Makhobalo High School in Ha Khabo, Leribe, 2014-2015. He has 30 years' experience working as a scientist/manager at Hewlett Packard and has served 10 years on the board of the Oregon Flying Club.

The third new board electee is **Kenneth Tucceri** of Tewksbury, MA. He served as a primary school English Teacher in Ha Makoko, Thaba Tseka from Oct. 2017-Nov. 2019, and remains active in the community. He's a noncommissioned officer in the U.S. Army, with communications and planning experience and a degree in graphic design.

Thomas has also stepped up to take on the duties of FOL Treasurer. In that capacity he will maintain up-to-date financial records, submit financial summaries to the FOL Board, prepare annual federal and state tax returns and transfer funds to FOL grantees.

Thanks are due to five Board members who have now completed their terms and chose to step down: Rory Pulvino, Rachel Edmonds, Emma Mcevoy, Jennifer Jiggetts and Tishina Okeqbe. Your service is very much appreciated.

Also worthy of appreciation are the continuing Board members whose terms did not expire this year and whose service thus continues. They are Marisa Ernst, Ali Kukovich, Emma Mcevoy, Scott Rosenberg, Richard Rowan, and Andrew Steele.

Re lebohile haholo, Bill Moore, Vice President 

Submissions wanted!!

Help us create our awesome newsletter! We are looking for photographs, articles, news from the front, creative writing, reflections from your volunteer experience, travel essays, and anything else Lesotho-related.

Please send your submissions for the next FOL Newsletter to Kevin Freer, kfreer49@gmail.com.

The next deadline is August 15, 2022



Expanding Our Circle of Friends

FOL wishes to extend opportunities for its Committee membership by recruiting RPCVs and individuals who may not have served as PCVs in Lesotho but share our goals in “promoting friendship between the peoples of Lesotho and North America.” The Board believes that by expanding our pool of Committee members, we will also increase our talent base and organizational effectiveness.

FOL needs members with specific skill sets, including legal expertise, accounting and finance, fundraising, database management and computer skills, website management, newsletter, membership, and various project work. We need help to do the committee work and participate in the discussions and decision-making e.g., deciding on which projects to fund each year.

In addition to the RPCVs who serve on the Board and various committees and task forces, we welcome applications and referrals from family, friends and colleagues of our members. Applicants may also include representatives from projects funded over the years or from individuals who were not able to serve in the Peace Corps but wish to make a contribution through FOL. We’re looking for people with a few hours a month to dedicate to a committee.

Committee Chairs are members of the Board. You do not have to be a board member to serve on a committee or task force. The Board meets bi-monthly via conference calls and completes committee assignments between meetings. There are also committees and task forces that help carry out the Board work. These committees include Donations, Membership, Fundraising, Website & Social Media, and Newsletter.

Thank you to Nicole, Mary and Deena for serving on the Newsletter Committee as non-board members. Ella Kwisnek, a former board member, has also been a contributor of *News From Lesotho* for several years.

If you are interested or know of someone interested in serving on one of FOL’s Committees, please feel free to contact any of the Board members listed in the following committee descriptions or contact Scott Rosenberg, President, at srosenberg@wittenberg.edu.



FOL Fundraising Committee

The FOL Fundraising Committee’s task is to devise and implement activities to raise financial resources that the organization can channel into locally initiated projects in Lesotho.

At present, our fundraising activities mainly concentrate on an end-of-year appeal, as well as one crowd-funding campaign per year. We would like to increase our donation receipts, however, and are looking for new members with fresh ideas. You do not need previous fundraising experience.

Our committee meets about every two months by Zoom, generally one or two weeks before regular board meetings. In-between meetings, we communicate via email or phone, as needed.

Working on the Fundraising Committee requires approximately 1 hour/month, with a somewhat higher demand on your time during a special campaign. Please contact Richard at qhomaki@mac.com for more details.



FOL Donations Committee

The Donations Committee receives applications for funding from PCVs, RPCVs, and organizations both in the US and in Lesotho. Committee members then review the applications and make recommendations to the chair of the committee to present to the full board for approval. Reviews may indicate approval as written, further information needed from the applicants, or non-approval if outside the scope of what FOL supports. Committee work is typically done via emails sent out by the chair and may be variable in any given month. Timely responses for reviews are expected of all committee members. Please contact Scott Rosenberg, Committee Chair, at srosenberg@wittenberg.edu for more details.






FOL Membership Committee

The Membership Committee's tasks are to maintain membership records. The committee also engages in outreach activities to encourage interested people to join FOL. For instance, the committee develops programs to let new Peace Corps Volunteers know about FOL and how FOL can help them during their service in Lesotho. The Committee also reaches out to newly returned Peace Corps Volunteers to encourage them to remain involved with Lesotho by joining FOL.

The committee sends out donation receipt letters, helps RPCV groups that are organizing reunions and other gatherings to contact those who might be interested in attending those events. It also produces end of year reports for the FOL Annual Report.

FOL uses a Microsoft Access database. Normal use of the database does not require a high degree of expertise, but the committee would love to have someone who has some knowledge of Microsoft Access to join the committee. However, most membership committee activities do not require the use of the database.

The committee meets about every two months by Zoom. In-between meetings we communicate by email or phone as needed. We anticipate that working on the committee would require about 1 hour/month, although occasionally a little more time might be needed when producing membership reports for the FOL Annual Report and when entering data after FOL fundraising campaigns. Please contact Richard Rowan at qhomaki@mac.com for more details. 

FOL Social Media/Website

The social media team has been working hard to unveil a new website for FOL! We are incredibly grateful for our previous Webmaster, Marty Smith, who created and maintained our previous website for so long. He took us from paper to the web, helping to grow our mission, and for that we are appreciative!

As always, we are requesting that you send us any posts or news you'd like to see on our Facebook page. Current events, nostalgia, development opportunities- share them with us!

Visit our [website](#) that's being worked on every week! Contact Meghan White and Ali Kukovich at white.meghan0@gmail.com and ali.kukovich@gmail.com. 

Peace Corps Volunteers Resume Duties in Lesotho



The United States (US) Peace Corps Volunteers are set to resume services in Lesotho later this year after the 2020 suspension of their programme due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

This was confirmed by the new US Ambassador to Lesotho, Maria Brewer, after she presented her credentials to His Majesty King Letsie III.

Read more at <https://lestimes.com/peace-corps-volunteers-resume-duties/>

Volunteer Openings in Lesotho

- Primary Education Teacher
- HIV/AIDS and Adolescent Health Advocate

Visit <https://www.peacecorps.gov/lesotho/> 



Donations Committee Report

The following donations were approved by the Board at our May meeting and are not yet reflected in the financial report prepared for this newsletter.

Kick4Life \$3,500



Kick4Life is a multi-award-winning charity and social enterprise within the Sport for Development sector. Based at the Lesotho Football for Hope Centre – a hub of social and economic development in the heart of Maseru, Lesotho’s capital - the organisation aims to transform the lives of orphans and vulnerable children through sport. Kick4Life has extensive experience in developing and delivering interventions across an integrated approach to participant well-being.

<https://www.kick4life.org/k4l-centre/centre/>

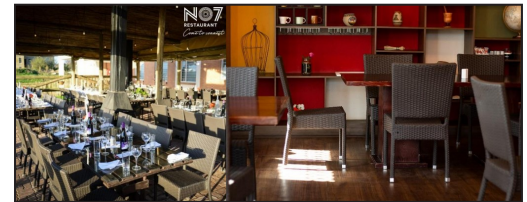
FOL funding will enable Kick4Life to replace indoor chairs for the No.7 Restaurant – one of our social enterprises. The primary objective of the

Kick4Life Social Enterprises, which includes the No.7 Restaurant, is to generate revenue to support Kick4Life programmatic work. The funding request to FOL is to help us rebuild our sustainability efforts so that we can be able to rely on ourselves, moving on. Currently, we have too many needs that need instant attention and those needs are throttling the speed of recovery.

100% of profits are reinvested in Kick4Life Programs

Pergola and restaurant look prior to deterioration of chairs

To ensure this investment is optimized and sustained for the duration of its economic life, the Kick4Life Social Enterprises will set aside funds for annual maintenance of equipment to ensure that we do not send out any funding requests related to SE equipment.



Pergola and restaurant look prior to deterioration of chairs

Molete Reading Club \$1,000



The Molete Reading Club is sponsored by the Molete Foundation. The project is intending to instill in children a culture of reading by bringing children from different schools together to discuss what is taught or read outside classroom in order to socialize positive in a team spirit. The reading club will help children to improve standard of English listening, speaking and self-actualization. The reading club will give the children an opportunity to discover books of their interest. Through reading the children will think critically, be accountable and responsible citizens. We read with children from Primary and High School from Grade 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and around Khubetsoana, Mabote and Foso area, every Saturday from 10:00AM to 1:00PM.

The Reading Club uses the classrooms at Mejametalana Primary School. The classrooms only have desks which are not enough nor suitable for reading. Therefore FOL will help purchase chairs and tables for now. Later on the stage when we have land we will again request FOL to help us in building a community Library. <https://www.facebook.com/moleteprincess23/>



(Continued on page 6)



Donations Committee Report (continued from page 5)

Maluti Adventist Hospital \$2,000



Maluti Adventist Hospital

Maluti Adventist Hospital located in Mapoteng, Lesotho, is one of two district hospitals in Berea, serving a population of 100,000 people. Maluti Adventist Hospital has hosted a number of Peace Corps Volunteers over the years. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, funding was provided to the hospital to create a six-patient intensive care unit. The hospital did not previously have an ICU, so patients requiring ICU care had to be transferred to Maseru, a one-and-a-half-hour drive. When the

ICU was created, funds were not provided to upgrade the existing hospital beds in the ICU wing. The beds are very basic, lacking electric controls for raising and lowering the bed and positioning the patient based on clinical needs. Lesotho has one of the lowest ratios of nurses to population in the world, so easing their workload is vital.



ICU Beds to be purchased

<https://malutisdahospital.org.ls/>

The goal is to purchase five (5) of the five-function electric beds needed for the ICU at Maluti Adventist Hospital. FOL will donate funds for one of these beds. FOL will host a “donate” button/webpage on our website and Facebook page that can be used by donors to further support the ICU bed project.

Wittenberg Community Project \$3,000



House built by Wittenberg students in 2019

Partnering with Habitat for Humanity Lesotho, the Wittenberg Community Project volunteers will be building one house in Ramabanta for an Orphan Headed household. While in Ramabanta, volunteers will also be working on a community center built by previous trips that includes painting and adding shelving. The center serves roughly 40-60 children daily. The community center provides meals and activities for children in the community.

<https://www.wittenberg.edu/blogs/lesotho/we-built-house>

Wittenberg volunteers will spend the next 14 days working in the area around Molimo N'Thuse Lodge. The projects in this community were brought to Wittenberg through Mme Mamothe (former APCD for PCL) in conjunction with the chief and members of the VDC. The first project is to build a new building

which will house the community kindergarten (the current one barely qualifies as a structure) which will improve the atmosphere and safety of younger learners. Volunteers will also be repairing an old run-down building to serve as a center for local crafts and businesses. One of the rooms will be used by local weavers to make, store and sell their product to travelers headed up to the lodge. The second room will be used as an office for local pony trekking. The building will be painted to let travelers know that these services are located here. Both of these projects will help bring money into the community. Lastly, if time allows the Wittenberg volunteers will do educational painting at the local primary school.





Lindner Introduction

Hello FOL Members,

In the last FOL board meeting I was voted in as treasurer.

I served as a PCV in Lesotho from 2014 to 2016, teaching Math at Makhobalo High School in Ha Khabo, Leribe.


The picture on the right was taken at the end of my service when the staff gave me a Lesotho T-shirt for my farewell. It shows me and my counterpart, M'e Sepanya Molefi. She teaches Development Studies and was key to welcoming me in as part of the staff at Makhobalo. In return she became a strong partner for the Peace Corps and the PCV who replaced me. The image says more than words that we had become friends and that we interacted at eye-level. We are still in regular contact, just the other day she sent me pictures of a Grassroots Soccer refresher camp, where she participated, which means when PC service resumes she will be there and ready to engage.

In a previous life I worked for Hewlett Packard in Corvallis, Oregon. Born and raised in Germany I once was a scientist at a Max-Planck Institute in Berlin. I stood on the Berlin Wall the day it came down, and I know what "Ich bin ein Berliner" means. There is a line of sight to serving in the Peace Corps and being sworn in next to the image of JFK was a great day for me.

During my time in Ha Khabo I saw an opportunity in planting quinoa on the school fields at Makhobalo. Serendipity had it that I had become friends with an executive at Care for Basotho Associates who also had an interest in pursuing this idea. After successful initial experiments she reached out to the Ministry of Agriculture, who also ran experiments and in a meeting in 2019 we were given permission to disseminate. We assembled a group of 10 farmers who not only had a successful first harvest, but we were also able to demonstrate the viability of second generation seeds. Unfortunately the project was slowed considerably by Covid, but given its promise and initial success I would love to see it come back to life.

Also during my service I saw postings on Facebook from "Africa's Tomorrow" and in 2018 I reached out to the teachers to select a student for this program. At this point I want to acknowledge the leadership of the principal, Ntate Kita, who had also been instrumental in making my service an overall positive experience. The selection committee picked a student who then was accepted into Africa's Tomorrow in 2019. Again, Covid has placed constraints on the plan but the student is currently attending Lerotholi Polytechnic in Maseru.

The close connection between education and nutrition is described by King Letsie III when he gave the key-note address at a World Bank event in 2019 which launched the Initiative "Building Human Capital in Africa". The video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qaliFBzX910> is worth watching.

I'm excited to join FOL. Looking forward to working with all of you. Thomas Lindner 



The Deadly Accordion Wars of Lesotho

By Tim Whewell, BBC News

Rivalry between stars of a unique accordion-based style of music in the southern African kingdom of Lesotho has sparked years of deadly gang warfare that has turned the tiny country into the murder capital of the continent.

Read more at <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-61097386> 





Litaba tsa Lesotho

(News from Lesotho)

Compiled by Ella Kwisnek

Litaba tsa Lesotho (News from Lesotho)

New US Ambassador Brewer Speaks Out In First Interview

Maria Brewer, the new US Ambassador to Lesotho was recently interviewed by Lesotho Times Editor Herbert Moyo and Deputy Editor Silence Charumbira.

She discussed three projects under the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) compact II: the health systems strengthening project, the market-driven irrigated horticulture project, and the business environment and technical assistance project. She noted that the projects have been designed with sustainability in mind.

She further noted that the United States Government has consistently stressed the importance of meaningful trafficking in persons (TIP) investigations, including those involving high-ranking officials, and the importance of meaningful action against gender-based violence.

Regarding the increase in homicides in Lesotho, she noted that the US signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Minister of Police and Public Safety late last year to assist in building more professional, capable, and accountable security services and to help address the high crime rate in the country. She also noted that Lesotho's growing partnership with the FBI is an example of how the Government seeks to close the capability gaps among law enforcement personnel. One of the main gaps we have observed is the capacity of law enforcement to conduct credible investigations. For example, fingerprint records were not digitized, which made it difficult for officers to identify criminals. At the request of the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS), the FBI scanned and digitized nearly 70 000 criminal fingerprint records to begin the first phase of creating a national database system. The FBI also held a FBI-led biometric investigation training course.

Regarding delayed reforms, she noted that with the omnibus bill heading to the National Assembly this week, the process appears to be moving forward. We hope that members of parliament continue to focus on issues of national interest, including adopting key reforms, and election related laws are prioritized as the country prepares for elections this fall.

Regarding AGOA and the MCC, Ambassador Brewer reported that in 2021, US\$333, 7 million worth of goods were exported to the US under AGOA. Lesotho is ranked number two in terms of value of goods exported and number three in terms of the volume of goods exported under AGOA. While there is still a lot of room for growth, this amount of trade is a great achievement. AGOA has created over 45 000 jobs in the textiles industry since its inception, even as the COVID-19 pandemic negatively impacted the sector recently.

Lesotho currently exports textiles and garments to the United States. Lesotho's main imports from the United States include machinery and optical and medical instruments.

In addition to textiles, she noted that Lesotho has the potential to export handicrafts, bottled water, canned food, fruits and vegetables, wool, mohair products, and leather products to the United States under AGOA. Read the full interview at: <https://lestimes.com/new-us-ambassador-brewer-speaks-out-in-first-interview/>

Cervical Cancer Vaccine Launched

Queen Masenate Mohato Bereng Seeiso recently spoke in Butha-Buthe, Likileng during the launch of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, targeting girls aged between nine and 14 years.

World Health Organization (WHO) representative, Richard Banda, said the vaccination program is an important milestone in the country's quest to eliminate the cancer scourge and attain its sustainable development goals.

The Queen also noted that women should seek cervical cancer services as early as possible because it is one of the most treatable forms of cancer when detected early and managed effectively. Read more at <https://lestimes.com/cervical-cancer-vaccine-launched/>

Army Sued for M17, 5 Million

In fall of 2021 soldiers who had been assuming roles normally handled by police allegedly tortured men they had stopped at a roadblock and suspected of smuggling wool into South Africa. A police officer who was among those stopped subsequently died. Now, the family of the officer and the victims are suing the army for M17, 5 million in damages. Read the full story at: <https://lestimes.com/army-sued-for-a-staggering-m17-5-million/>



News from Lesotho (continued from page 8)

Matekane Wants To Go It Alone

Business mogul-turned politician, Sam Matekane, leader of the fledgling Revolution for Prosperity (RFP) party hopes to win the elections outright and not need to form a coalition in the elections scheduled for October this year. Excitement around the new party and defections from other parties have bolstered Matekane's confidence. To read more about Matekane's goals for Lesotho and to read his response to allegations that he formed a party to protect his business interests read the full interview at <https://lestimes.com/matekane-wants-to-go-it-alone/>

Mon-Tech Institute Awards Qualifications to Graduates

MON-TECH Institute has held its first graduation since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic with 14 students receiving diplomas in Occupational Health and Safety.

Their qualifications were recognized by the South African Qualification Authority (SAQA) which will enable them to gain admission in many higher learning institutions in South Africa. Launched in 2015, Mon-tech also offers culinary and accounting studies. Read more at <https://lestimes.com/mon-tech-institute-awards-qualifications-to-graduates/>

Licensing Abolished For Non-Risky Businesses

Ministry of Trade and Industry chief information officer, 'Mantletse Maile noted that certain business enterprises that previously required licensing before operating will no longer need it, due to a new law to be implemented soon. The Business Licensing and Registration Act, 2019, allows the government to use a risk-based approach in licensing businesses. Those deemed to be harmful to the public and environment will be licensed while those not considered to be posing any harm will not be licensed, just registered.

The new law is expected to speed up the process of starting a business and reduce associated costs such as license fees. Despite being enacted in 2019, implementation of the legislation was delayed as the ministry's systems were not ready to accommodate the associated changes.

Businesses that may be seen as not risky include graphic designing, dress-making, beauty parlors, media companies and supermarkets among others.

Those that are risky include establishments in the food and drinks industry such as restaurants and hotels, petroleum fuel industry businesses and medical products among others. Read more at <https://lestimes.com/licensing-abolished-for-non-risky-businesses/>

New Law to Protect Women's Economic Rights

The National Assembly has approved a new law aimed at economically empowering women married under customary law. Entitled the Laws of Lerotoli (Amendment) Bill, 2022, the legislation has been referred to the Senate for deliberations. If it passes the Senate, it will then go to the King for royal assent before becoming law.

Passage of the legislation is a pre-conditions of the country entering the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)'s US\$300 million development compact.

The Bill would end widows being considered as minors and permit them to have "ownership and control of the property of the joint estate after the death of her husband."

Read more about the proposed legislation at <https://lestimes.com/new-law-to-protect-womens-economic-rights/>. Read about the continuing gender gap, especially in rural areas, at <https://publiceyenews.com/gaps-found-in-gender-equality-policy/>

Taxi Fare Hike

To avert a taxi strike, the government is considering transport operators' demands for a 30 percent fare hike.

The new fares would be M12.00 for a taxi ride for a distance of up to 10 kilometers (currently M8.50) and minibus riders would pay M12.50 (currently M9.00). If approved, they will go into effect on June 1. To read more about proposed changes, visit <https://lestimes.com/taxi-fare-hike-looms/>

BEDCO Awards M5 Million to Entrepreneurs

Fifty entrepreneurs were awarded M100,000 each in seed capital to develop their business projects. The entrepreneurs were winners in a business plan competition conducted by the Basotho Enterprise Development Corporation (BEDCO). The project was supported by the African Development Bank (AfDB) under the Economic Diversification Support Project (EDSP). Winners will receive business training, mentoring, and incubation support. Read more about these prizes that are aimed at youth and women at <https://lestimes.com/bedco-awards-m5-million-to-youth-entrepreneurs/>



Litaba tsa Lesotho

(News from Lesotho)

Continued from page 9

60 Basotho Arrested in SA Clampdown on Illegal Mining

Sixty Basotho were arrested by South African police for illegal mining at Orkney Mine in the North West province. They were arrested after needing to be rescued out of one of the mine shafts where they were trapped. Read more about the illegal mining and deaths online at <https://lestimes.com/60-basotho-arrested-in-sa-clampdown-on-illegal-mining/>

Quthing Runs Out Of HIV Medication

HIV-positive mothers in Quthing have been struggling since February to access pediatric cotrimoxazole suspension. The drug is used to protect uninfected infants from being exposed to the HIV virus while nursing. Both the hospital and the pharmacies in the district have run out of the drug. Read the full story at <https://lestimes.com/quthing-runs-out-of-hiv-medication/>

Lesotho phases out one-size-fits-all curriculum

Although primary education is now free in Lesotho, many children drop out in middle school because their families are unable to afford school fees. However, Lesotho has been selected with other four other countries in the SADC region to champion the Education Plus Initiative, a project which will ensure free secondary education for all. Chairperson of Education Plus Initiative Technical Advisory Committee, 'Mabakubung Seutloali, said through the initiative Lesotho will, among others, offer free secondary education and review educational policies so that children are able to choose the educational stream they want to follow. Rather than just having an academic options in secondary schools, children will have freedom to choose from academic, vocational and technical streams. The Education Plus Initiative is a project supported by UN agencies including, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNFPA and UN Women

The Ministry of Education has drafted policy with the help of UNFPA that will ensure that children are not expelled from school because of unintended pregnancies or unintended and early marriages. She said once passed by the Parliament, the policy will ensure that there is a re-entry route in schools for such children. The Ministry of Education will also draft a Retention Policy with the help of UNESCO. Read more about this new initiative at <https://publiceyenews.com/lesotho-phases-out-one-size-fits-all-curriculum/>

Majoro reshuffles cabinet

Prime Minister Moeketsi Majoro recently reshuffled some of his cabinet:

- Keketso Sello has been moved from the Ministry of Public Service to the Ministry of Agriculture,
- Moshe Leoma moved from the Ministry of Labour and Employment to Local Government,
- Lehlohonolo Moramotse has moved from Local Government to Public Service,
- Deputy Minister of Local Government Selemo Mangobe has become the new Minister of Labour,
- 'Mathabo Phafoli is the new Deputy Minister of Local Government.

The changes come just a few months before an anticipated parliamentary dissolution in the build-up to the September 2022 general elections. Read more at <https://publiceyenews.com/majoro-reshuffles-cabinet-2/>

FAMO gangsterism fuels HIV, drug abuse

FAMO music-related gangsterism has been linked to substance abuse and to increased risk of HIV/Aids infection.

FAMO is an accordion-based popular Sesotho music, which is associated with murderous vendettas between rival gangs, with the musicians and their followers being the victims. The country has been rocked by FAMO-related killings and violence due to a bloody turf wars among the genre's various gangs. The groups often ridicule and insult each other in their songs, resulting in violent and often fatal clashes.

In Mafeteng, FAMO gangs in the district are said to be a major contributing factor in making the Mafeteng district the highest hit in HIV infections in the country. According to a LePHIA 2020 report, Mafeteng is at 24% of HIV infections, followed by Quthing with 23.9%. A member to the local health sector said in some places where FAMO gangs are found, healthcare workers are not allowed to enter the villages to provide HIV services.

The gang members allegedly discourage HIV-positive women from taking medication, and demand that their wives be given only pregnancy and postnatal services, and not HIV services." Read more at <https://publiceyenews.com/famo-gangsterism-fuels-hiv->

(Continued on page 11)



News from Lesotho (continued from page 10)

[drug-abuse/](#). For an in-depth story on FAMO, read *The deadly accordion wars of Lesotho* by Tim Whewell of BBC News at <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-61097386>. The story included great photos and a link to a podcast.

Basotho Embrace Covid-19 Vaccination but Find Government Assistance Lacking

More than one in three Basotho say their household lost a primary source of income because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but only about one in seven say they received pandemic-related assistance from the government. A majority of citizens say pandemic-related assistance was distributed unfairly, and most think that a lot of the resources intended for the COVID-19 response were lost to corruption.

Most respondents report having been vaccinated against COVID-19, and fewer than one in 10 express a reluctance to accept the vaccine. Read more at <https://allafrica.com/stories/202205050186.html>

Lesotho Football Association (LeFA) Invests in Women's Football

The National Women's Football Committee will start distributing to 81 women's developmental teams across the country. The Lesotho Football Association (LeFA) purchased equipment, including, jerseys, bibs, and soccer balls for the teams. LeFA spent M426 000 on purchasing the equipment.

Since the 2019/20 season, the number of fully registered women football teams has increased from 81 to 318. Read more at <https://allafrica.com/stories/202204200717.html>

Lesotho Faced with Plastic Waste Problem

The Director of the Department of Environment, Mr. Stanley Damane, reports that Lesotho is facing an imminent and serious plastic waste problem.

According to Africa Institute Representative, Ms. Thandeka Mbatha, the SADC region has not undertaken significant coordinated action addressing plastic waste. Read more at <https://www.gov.ls/lesotho-faced-with-serious-plastic-waste-problem-director/>

Seven Judges Sworn-In

Seven new Judges were recently sworn-in by Chief Justice Sakoane at the Royal Palace in Maseru. The Judges are Hopolang Nathane, Makamong Mokhoro, Mabatsóeneng Hlaele, Tséliso Mokoko, Moneuoa Kopo, Mafelile Ralebese and Maliepollo Makhetha.

The Registrar of the High Court of Lesotho, Mrs. Mathato Sekoai, said the new Judges will add to eight Judges making a total of 15 Judges in the country. Read more at <https://www.gov.ls/seven-judges-sworn-in/>

Women of Lesotho's garment industry lose jobs, hope in COVID

Lesotho's clothing industry is the country's largest private employer, and more than 80% of its workers are women, according to government officials. In 2001, Lesotho signed on to an American trade deal: the African Growth and Opportunities Act, which guaranteed it duty-free imports to the U.S. of clothing manufactured in the country. Chinese and Taiwanese companies built factories on the industrial edges of Maseru. Today, textile products account for nearly half of Lesotho's exports.

Due to the pandemic, more than 11,000 of Lesotho's 50,000 garment workers have lost their jobs since March 2020.

Read more about the impact on women and the families they support at <https://apnews.com/article/covid-business-health-lesotho-africa-b621dc8cd5354f212d37ef90884e8702>

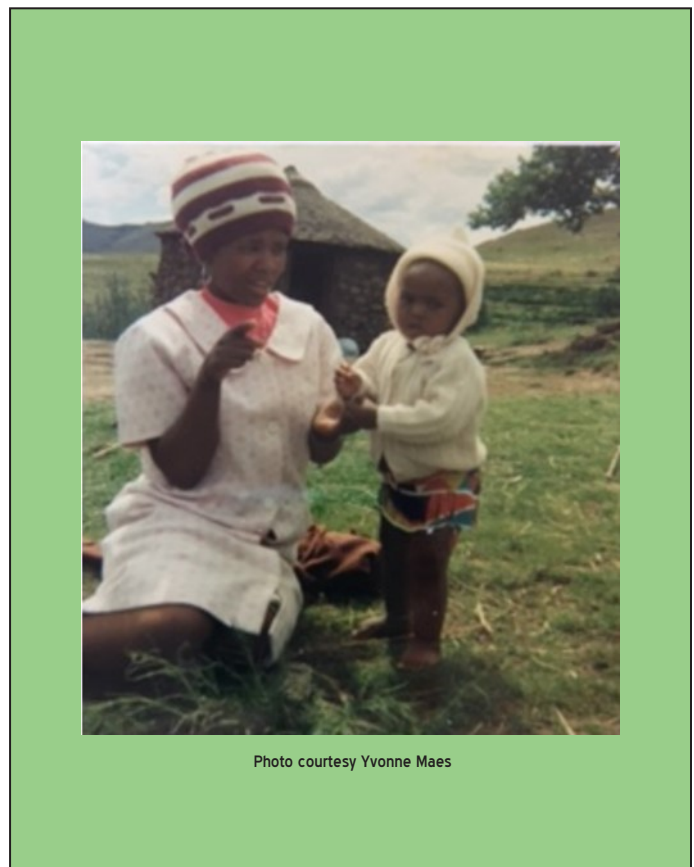


Photo courtesy Yvonne Maes



METSOALLE ea LESOTHO



Welcome to Lesotho by KS Kadesh


There is a new album on Amazon Music and also Apple Music called *Welcome to Lesotho* by KS Kadesh. It's a really nice album of contemporary Sotho music.

[https://youtu.be/fbbd305mXE?](https://youtu.be/fbbd305mXE?list=OLAK5uy_mj6wbscvgyujXbpeI0Fg3IaLCMF0JUq3o)

[list=OLAK5uy_mj6wbscvgyujXbpeI0Fg3IaLCMF0JUq3o](https://youtu.be/fbbd305mXE?list=OLAK5uy_mj6wbscvgyujXbpeI0Fg3IaLCMF0JUq3o) 

Lesotho Firm First in Africa to be Granted EU License for Medical Cannabis



Breakthrough could create thousands of jobs for villagers and help exports to other markets. Lesotho women harvest cannabis leaf inside a greenhouse operated by MG Health, which grows legal cannabis near Marakabei. Photograph: Guillem Sartorio/AFP/Getty Images Read more at <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2021/apr/21/lesotho-firm-first-in-africa-granted-eu-licence-for-medical-cannabis> 

Turn on AmazonSmile to Support Friends of Lesotho!!

Amazon Smile Is now available on the Amazon website and in the Amazon app!!



Amazon will donate a small percent of your purchases year round, with no extra charge to you, if you access their site through the AmazonSmile page or turn on AmazonSmile in your mobile app. One extra click by you enables FOL to send hundreds of dollars of donations to Lesotho each year.

<https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/homepage?orig=%2F>



Earrings



Unisex Watch



Bracelet



Pendant Necklace



Ways to Support FOL

HELP FOL WITH YOUR EXPERTISE AND TIME

Board Service

- ◆ If you've always wondered how you could give a little more to FOL, now is the chance to volunteer your time, special skills, and enthusiasm. The members of the Board of Directors of Friends of Lesotho are elected based on their ability and willingness to contribute to the achievement of the organization's goals and objectives.
- ◆ Directors are members in good standing who are elected on their ability and willingness to support the purpose of FOL
- ◆ Nominations are welcome year round
- ◆ Elections are held at the Annual Meeting in March
- ◆ Directors serve for two-year terms

Committees and Task Forces

FOL members who do not wish to make a long-term commitment to the board are encouraged to:

- ◆ Join standing committees, or
- ◆ Work on special projects which match their skills and interests to the needs of the organization

There are also committees and task forces that help carry out the Board work. These committees include Donation Distribution, Membership, Fundraising and Board Nominations & Development.

Check out the [Board Information](#) page. Also, for a summary of the expected level of commitment see the [Board and Committee description of work](#). If you're interested in application or nomination, please complete the [Nominating Form](#) and email it to the address shown within the form. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of the committee members.

ATTEND FOL MEETINGS

Board Meetings

- ◆ Zoom meetings are held at 8pm Eastern on the third Sunday of odd numbered months.
- ◆ Meetings are open to all FOL members, please contact Kevin Caughlan (caughlan@earthlink.net) for call-in information.

FOL Annual Meeting

- ◆ Scheduled close to Moshoeshoe Day in March, via Zoom more information to follow on our website. Be on the lookout for your FOL Annual Report posted on our website following the Annual Meeting.





Be an FOL Member for FREE!

Richard Rowan, RPCV Lesotho, qhomaki@mac.com

Hello, Bakhotsi! Your friendly FOL Membership Committee Chair Richard here.

Membership in Friends of Lesotho is free. Friends of Lesotho stopped collecting the mandatory \$15 yearly membership dues starting in January 2017.

[What do FOL's free dues mean for you?](#)

If you're currently a member of Friends of Lesotho:

You don't have to do anything. Your membership automatically renewed.

If you used to be a member but are no longer a member:

Take two minutes to fill out the updated [membership form online](#).

If you've never been a member:

What are you waiting for? There's never been a better time to start getting involved!

With membership fees in the rear view mirror, we need your help more than ever to continue doing the amazing work Friends of Lesotho does in Lesotho.

Amazon will donate money to Friends of Lesotho when you shop. Join Amazon Smile (smile.amazon.com) and add Friends of Lesotho as a beneficiary. Remember to use Amazon Smile when you shop on-line.

Get involved with one of the many committees in FOL.

Donate generously to our many projects, using the [form online](#).

And Remember :

We couldn't do and support the work, have the impact, and save the lives we do without your financial support. Your contributions support our work in:

- ◆ HIV/AIDS
- ◆ Orphanages
- ◆ Tuition Assistance including Memorial Scholarships
- ◆ The Morija Museum
- ◆ Peace Corps Volunteer Projects
- ◆ Community Development Projects
- ◆ Other types of projects as new opportunities arise

We work because you give.

Whether it's \$5 or \$5,000, all donations help us reach further and save more lives and because we're a registered 501(c)3, your donation is tax deductible!

If you'd like to give, please go to: <http://www.friendsoflesotho.org/donate/>

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 Newsletters at the bottom of the home page for the archives.

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:

Kevin Freer, FOL Newsletter Coordinator kfreer49@gmail.com



Follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofLesotho>



Share your photos!

Send to editor at:

kfreer49@gmail.com



Visit our website:

<http://www.friendsoflesotho.org>





Treasurer's Report

| Year: | 2022 | | |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Last Update: | 5/9/2022 | | |
| DONATIONS | | | |
| Donation Type | Total Donation (Including Fees) | Related Fees | Total Net Donation |
| | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Amazon Smile | \$99.57 | \$0.00 | \$99.57 |
| Check | \$8,105.00 | \$0.00 | \$8,105.00 |
| Interest Earned | \$7.89 | \$0.00 | \$7.89 |
| Other - see Description | \$100.00 | \$0.00 | \$100.00 |
| Paypal Transfer | \$5,550.00 | \$134.52 | \$5,415.48 |
| Grand Total | \$13,862.46 | \$134.52 | \$13,727.94 |
| Project Expense Type | (All) ▼ | | |
| Transfer Status | (All) ▼ | | |
| EXPENSES | | | |
| Expense Type | Total Expenses | | |
| Fundraising Fees/Initiative (incl. online payment fees, other) | 80.61 | | |
| Misc. Supplies | 312.53 | | |
| Project | 18195 | | |
| Wiring Fees | 240 | | |
| Grand Total | 18828.14 | | |

| Account Type | Year Starting Balance | Current Balance | Returned Wire Transfers |
|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Checking | \$32,419.00 | \$27,341.52 | 50.00 |
| Savings | \$23,961.76 | \$23,969.65 | |
| Total | \$56,380.76 | \$51,311.17 | |

| MONTHLY CHECKING ACCOUNT ACTIVITY | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| SUM of Amount | Activity Type | |
| Date - Month | Deposit | Expense |
| Jan | \$7,814.39 | \$17,960.00 |
| Feb | \$3,100.00 | \$787.53 |
| Mar | \$1,809.80 | |
| Apr | \$940.00 | \$50.00 |
| Grand Total | \$13,664.19 | \$18,797.53 |

| PROJECTS OVERVIEW | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| Project Name | Project Expense | Total Project Expenditures |
| Malaleng Community | Project Donation | 2000 |
| | Wiring Fee | 40 |
| Malaleng Community Total | | 2040 |
| Matsopa Rotary Club | Project Donation | 4120 |
| | Wiring Fee | 40 |
| Matsopa Rotary Club Total | | 4160 |
| Mohloli Youth | Project Donation | 2000 |
| | Wiring Fee | 40 |
| Mohloli Youth Empowerment | | 2040 |
| Monica Letosha | Project Donation | 1000 |
| | Wiring Fee | 40 |
| Monica Letosha Total | | 1040 |
| Rotary Club of Maloti | Project Donation | 3175 |
| | Wiring Fee | 40 |
| Rotary Club of Maloti Total | | 3215 |
| Rotary Club of Maseru | Project Donation | 5900 |
| | Wiring Fee | 40 |
| Rotary Club of Maseru Total | | 5940 |
| Grand Total | | 18435 |



GOT PHOTOS?

Do you have photos from Lesotho?
We would love to feature them in the newsletter!

Send your photos to the editor
kfreer49@gmail.com



FRIENDS OF LESOTHO

115 Monteray Avenue
Oakwood, OH 45419



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Second Quarter 2022
Newsletter



FRIENDS OF LESOTHO

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