



FRIENDS OF LESOTHO



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Second Quarter 2021
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. It has been 15 months since PCVs were evacuated from Lesotho due to COVID, hopefully they will be able to return by 2022. Over the years PCVs have been FOL's major partner and conduit to assisting the Basotho people through funding community projects and schools to the TAP program and their absence has posed some significant challenges for FOL to continue its mission and be faithful stewards of your support. Last year we managed to supply over \$15,000 in emergency relief, funded the construction of three classrooms, one community project and 75 TAP scholarships. In some ways, I think the second year will pose even greater challenges, but I am confident that FOL will find new ways to continue our mission. So, I appreciate all the trust and support that you continue to show us.

We held our Annual Meeting this year on March 7th, and it was perhaps the most successful meeting that I have been a part of since joining FOL in 2007. First, I want to thank Kevin Caughlin for setting up our new Zoom format for this year's meeting. I know that we are all tired of Zoom, but nearly 40 people attended this year which is the most in recent memory. Second, it was wonderful to have some of FOL's founding members join the meeting as well as to be able to put faces to the voices that I have been hearing for years. I would also like to thank our Guest Speaker, Dr. Andrew Pelletier (RPCV, Lesotho and current CDC desk officer for Lesotho) for an incredibly informative presentation.

FOL is also pleased to announce that we were able to support Thaba-Tseka Farmer's Cooperative Society Project to empower women through egg production. This project will benefit 47 women and 13 youth. This project will benefit the project members as well as being a source for eggs for the local community. A special note of thanks to RPCV Teresa Straffin for helping put the TTFCS in touch with us.

I know that these have been difficult times for all of us, and I would like to once again thank all of our members for their continued support of the mountain Kingdom during these stressful times.

Sincerely,

Dr. Scott Rosenberg

President, FOL

Honorary Consul, Kingdom of Lesotho



Photo courtesy Dyann Van Dusen, RPCV

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Friends of Lesotho Organizational News


Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting for the Friends of Lesotho was held on March 7, 2021. The meeting began with the playing of Lesotho's National Anthem. President Scott Rosenberg opened the meeting with a welcome message which was followed by the Treasurer's Report given by Rachel Edmonds and Rory Pulvino. Scott announced the election results of all board members remaining in office for the coming year. The Guest Speakers included Lesotho's Ambassador to the United States: Ambassador the Honorable Gabriel Maja and the CDC Desk Officer for Lesotho: Dr. Andrew Pelleteir. Over forty members attended this meeting due in large part that we are now conducting business via Zoom. Anyone wishing to access the recording of this meeting can contact Kevin Caughlan at caughlan@earthlink.net.

Annual Report

A copy of the FOL 2020 Annual Report is posted on our website at <https://friendsoflesotho.org/wp-content/uploads/20210326-2020-Annual-Report-Final.pdf> Thanks to Marisa Ernst for compiling this Report.

Board Elections

The following were re-elected to the Board of Directors for another term of office: Scott Rosenberg, Kevin Caughlan, Richard Rowan, Bill Moore, Andrew Steele, Tishina Okegbe, Ali Kukovich, and Marisa Ernst. 



In Memoriam Joan Lerol Eckberg

We received a notice that Joan Eckberg,
RPCV 2002-2004 (Moriya Museum) died this past August.

<https://www.startribune.com/obituaries/detail/0000365645/>



Friends walking to Ha Makebe, Berea. Photo courtesy Nicole Potsane, RPCV



Local Leaders: Kemnet Networks

One institution that has maintained community viability during the COVID-19 pandemic is Kemnet Networks. In an interview with organizational leader, Leoma Mohaneng, he relays the organization's efforts and future goals to serve Lesotho's youth.



In 2018, Leoma Monaheng, Nomahlubi Mbangamthi, and a group of volunteers created Kemnet Networks, a social-developmental organization. Kemnet's mission strives to empower youth through strategic initiatives; such as, life skills programming and linkages to material resources and networking opportunities.

Kemnet currently sustains three programs: 1) Kemnet Cares; 2) Kemnet Sessions; and 3) Kemnet Talks. Kemnet Cares oversees general food and clothing drives and Aid a Child, in which patrons can directly sponsor a child's food and/or clothing. Kemnet Sessions provide a networking and learning space for the country's experts to share tangible skills and expertise with youth. In Kemnet Talks, important conversations are facilitated regarding often culturally sensitive topics, such as coping mechanisms and mental health, black tax, and traditional healing. Kemnet has adapted to the COVID-19 restrictions by hosting these important conversations on Facebook Live.

Events and conversations serve as a learning experience for Kemnet; which further stimulates and strengthens the organization. Proud of Kemnet's achievements, Monaheng states:

One of [the] greatest successes was a Kemnet Session held at Café Ouh Lala. Youth were able to work directly with financial advisors, entrepreneurs, technology specialists, and more to learn how to save money, start a business, and integrate and create innovative technology...a lack of education is a challenge; [however,] providing links to resources can improve job diversity and reduce gender based violence, homophobia, etc.

Kemnet provides credible strategies and resources for youth. In the youth's journey to pursue knowledge, opportunity, and innovation, Monaheng states, "The youth are tenacious, always looking for opportunities....youth have opened their own markets in Lesotho, especially within the creative industry." He further explains how a non-fungible token (NFT) is now utilized to sell digital works.

Kemnet is devoted to collaborating with key community leaders to inspire Lesotho's youth. Monaheng relays that "[we must] appreciate the legacies and pay homage to the people before us, [but] older people need to listen, believe, and trust in youth." He explains, "Connecting old and young creates opportunity for both to thrive."

To view Kemnet Talks, become involved, and to stay up-to-date on Kemnet Networks, follow on: **Facebook:** <https://web.facebook.com/KemnetLes> and **Instagram:** @kemnet_networks.

Danielle Sharp 



Leoma Monaheng

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, 2021



A Poem to Friends of Lesotho by Monica Letsoha

Theha Tsebe o mamele hake bua ka Mestsoalle ea Lesotho
Metsoalle ea Lesotho ho tsoa libakeng tse fapaneng tsa America
Ea fihla ka hare ho naha ea Lesotho ho etsa mesebetsi e fapaneng ea
boithaopo
Leho emela naha ea bona Lesotho

Re bone bana babasoeu metseng le metsaneng Lesotho kabo phara
Ba ithukhubetsa, ba itahlela ka setotsana ho ithaopa ho ruta, ho hlabolla
Lehofa chaba sa Thesele bophelo bo bottle. Ba entse lintlafatso tsa
thuto,
Mesebetsi ea matsoho joalo joalo.

Ma Amerika a khabane ka kotloloho reka bua tsatsi laba la likela
Hobane le entse tse ntle tse tsuileng matsoha naheng ea Moshoeshoe.
Rena le lipetlele/clinics, rena le likolo le libaka tsa tlhabollo tseo le
lihaetseng Basotho.
Hona ke bopaki ba lerato, le setsoalle sa nnete.

Metsoalle ea Lesotho nna ke le Monica Letsoha ke btl'a ho qoola tsohle
tseo le lientseng
Hakane ke beha nkho selibeng ho Mora Rosenberg, haaka nqhalla
matsoho oitse ho nna
Ketla fetisetsa kopo ea hao hobo mphato baka pele, eitse haa khutla
Ngaka Scott a fan ka chelete.
Kele Monica Letsoha le morumuoa oa Metsoalle ea Lesotho are
Monica Metsoalle ea Lesotho ere Basotho baseke ba bolaoa ke tlala le
corona, eaba ban aba thari ents' o ba fumana makopokopo a Phoofo ea
papa, linaoa, moroho, mafura le letsoai. Joale la bona hore bana ban
Rants' o baa hloeka, kaho fumana sesepa.

Ha kele bitse metsoalle feela empa likhahitso baena le baholoane baka,
bana beso, bo rakhali, malome
Hobane le tseba mekhoa le meetlo ea rona, le ananetse mabitso ao lea
fuoeng metseng le metsaneng eneng le phela ho eona halele Lesotho,
Kele rata haholo metsoalle hobane hale boela
Hae le hoopla moo letsoang, ka ho thusa metse le metsana ea lona ka
lintlafatso le ho thus aba malapa
A lona Lesotho mona, tsoarang joalo ban aba borona, tsoelang pele
kaho etsa mesebetsi e tsuileng matsoho.

Metsoalle, kea le leboha, ke lerata ka lerato la nnete
E itse hake kokota kekopa thuso ke lla kekopela chaba sa thari ents' o
Lijo le ile la bula, la nkamohela ka mofuthu, eaba lere lijo tsena hase
Moshelella, eba Basotho baka lifumana kanakong ena, ea tlakotsi,
Eaba lere, lea lumela, kea leboha, etsoe Mosotho ore,
Sejo-se-nyane hase fete molomo, hona joale ka likhutlo tsohle
Ho tloha Tele hoesa Mochachane Basotho baa tseba ka
metsoalle ea hobane e aba fepa, bare ke ba lebohele ka mehla e
bile bare habajaa baa lehlohonolofatsa. Hlohonofang hlee bana babo
rona.

KHOTSO !!! PULA !!!! NALA!!!

Listen and Listen careful everyone, when I recite a poem about Friends
of Lesotho
Friends of Lesotho from different States of America, I thank you and I
love you so much
You came in different parts of Lesotho and do different volunteering
work representing your country very well to us Lesotho and Basotho.

Basotho saw you, my beloved Americans, we saw you in all the
districts in our villages
You work tirelessly voluntarily in developing our villages.
You gave Basotho Nation integrity by bringing many developments in
remote areas.

My beloved American, allow me to talk without ending, when I
appreciate and thank you for your good deeds, they are uncountable
and unmeasurable, well done Friends of Lesotho
You did outstanding and unspeakable things to us in this country of
Moshoeshoe.
We have many things you have done for us, such as; clinics, schools,
orphanage/deaf/blind centers to name a few through your generosity
and love
These are signs of love, family hood and true friendship

Friends of Lesotho I, Monica Letsoha, from Lesotho, Pitseng in Leribe,
District. I want single out things you did for me
When I put my requisition/plea of food parcels via proposal to Dr.
Rosenberg, during COVID-19 Pandemic, He did not send me away,
instead, he listens with a heart of a friend of Basotho

By taking my requisition to his team members, Dr. Rosenberg, came
back to me with a positive response from his team, by agreeing to give
food parcels to people who were poor, jobless or vulnerable during
lockdown. Money was sent to my personal account, only a true,
trustworthy friend who has a true love, can do what you have done,
As a Mosotho I Monica Letsoha, I thank you because my people did
not die due to jobless stress or hunger, because you fed the children of
Moshoeshoe/Thesele. My people were fed and clean during a turbulent
time, thank you. You gave them mealie meal, beans, cooking oil, salt,
and soup. Thank You

I am not just calling you Friends, but brothers, sisters, aunt and uncles,
my family because you have done more than enough, we are families,
because when you stayed in our villages you learnt our traditions,
culture and norms and you practice them. We gave you our family
names, because we love you as you have adopted our cultures. One
thing that I have also seen is that even when you left Lesotho after
staying with host families, you do not forget them, you send them all
resources and develop families in many ways, that is what a family
does, keep it up doing good deeds. I love you

Friends I thank you so much, I love you so much. You open a door
when I knock, When I cry my tears fall on your beautiful hands. You
called the food, or help relief because it is not forever, but you will be
forever in my heart and the heart of every Mosotho you fed, Basotho
always blesses you and your family when receiving food. Basotho have
a saying, that 'half a bread is better than nothing, that month when
people received food, is better than not having a meal at all, what a
wonderful job you are doing, you need a pat on your shoulder, from all
the districts that received food, Basotho are saying thank you, friends
of Lesotho, and be blessed and have more in everything you put your
hands on.





Mary Howard RPCV Lesotho 1975-1977

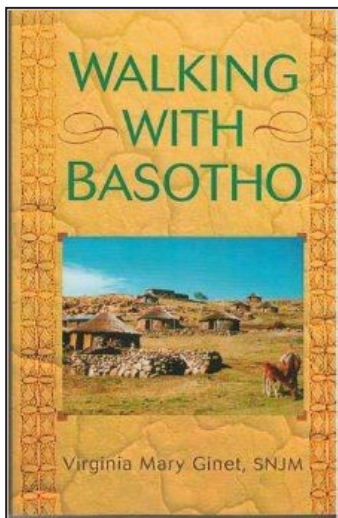
At Your Fingertips: Sesotho Language Manual

Are you interested in learning Sesotho or do you want to refresh your existing language skills? You can find help at: <https://www.friendsoflesotho.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/04/AS-Sesotho-Language-Manual.pdf>

The Sesotho Book was created by Anne (Khethang) Schoeneborn, who served as a PCV in Mazenod from 2006-2008. The 34 lessons of this manuscript help learners perfect their knowledge from easy greetings to navigating the complexities of Sesotho grammar and expressions. Anne explains grammar intricacies in a way that is easily accessible to English speakers.

There is a 19-page Sesotho-English/English-Sesotho glossary at the end of the manuscript. Of special interest are the two Appendices that offer terms and expressions used in specific fields of professional activity: the Business community, and for people who broach topics related to HIV/AIDS.

Marisa Ernst 



Walking With Basotho

Sister Virginia Mary Ginnet earned her registered nurse license, a bachelor of science in nursing, and a midwifery degree. She taught and nursed at Holy Names Academy in Spokane, Wash., Holy Names Academy in Seattle, Wash., and Marylhurst College. At the urging of her friend, Sister Elma Fitzgerald, she went to Lesotho, South Africa where she spent 31 years performing remarkable actions under often difficult circumstances, working with both the Catholic and National Authorities. In addition to her many years as a midwife and nurse, she founded St. Rose Health Center, served as secretary of the Bishops' Conference, and executive director of the Commission for Health and Social Welfare. In this capacity she associated with kings, cardinals, and princes, and discussed health care with Mother Teresa. She traveled extensively, giving talks and workshops in such places as Western Africa, Australia, London, Germany, Hong Kong, and the Holy Land. While she lived in Lesotho she made many friends among the native people and the sisters. She adopted several children. She wrote a moving account of her African experience entitled, *Walking with Basotho*. <https://www.amazon.com/Walking-Basotho-SNJM-Virginia-Ginnet/dp/1887309039>



King's Birthday



The King's Birthday is a public holiday in Lesotho, observed on July 17th each year. This national holiday celebrates the birth of King Letsie III, who was born on this day in 1963.

His Majesty King Letsie III. <https://www.officeholidays.com/holidays/lesotho/lesotho-kings-birthday>





Clemens Fehr, the Lesotho Mountain Doctor



In 1979 the Swiss medical doctor Clemens Fehr arrived in Lesotho together with his wife Bea, a pediatric nurse, and two young children. He was sent by the *Swiss Association of Catholic Medical Missionary Doctors* to work at Mamohau Mission Hospital, located deep in the Leribe mountains. The freshly minted medical doctor was to be in charge of a 1-Doctor, 50-Bed facility. The hospital was the only medical post for miles around and had a huge catchment area of patients. Challenges abounded:

Many and often difficult medical cases, no colleagues to seek advice from, and a hospital infrastructure so poor that even the most basic level of care could not be guaranteed. All supplies had to be hauled in from the lowlands. A trip to Maseru took 12 hours by 4x4 vehicle, and required several hours over bone-

rattling tracks to reach the main road in Hlotse. Weather often made roads impassable, leaving as only options either a two-day horse trek down to the lowlands, or waiting for better weather... Maseru trips were planned every six weeks to restock hospital supplies, medications, fuel, and what the family needed for its existence; these trips were also “medicine” to “fill up” social interactions with friends after weeks of relative isolation...

The Fehrs worked in Mamohau for 3.5 years. When they left in 1983, Clemens’s lobbying had yielded many improvements, including an Under-5 Clinic, a new operating theatre, a medical lab and improved dispensary, as well as staff houses. Even King Moshoeshoe II came to celebrate the inauguration of the new facilities! The transport situation, too, was getting better: Clemens had been instrumental in getting an airstrip for Mamohau, serviced by Air Lesotho.

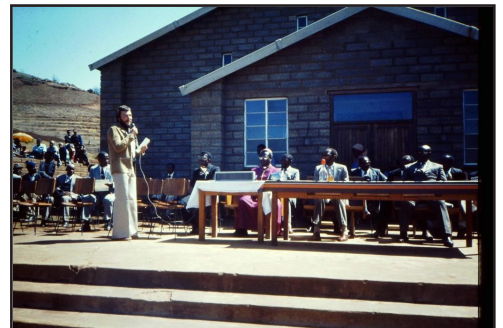
Working at Mamohau Hospital meant never-ending days of patient care and administration, and living a frugal, rather isolated existence. Clemens, however, has very fond memories of these challenging years. Being the only doctor for miles rapidly and permanently improved his medical skills. Living at Mamohau also made for a strong marriage, as the spouses relied and depended on each other both professionally and at home. The family was able to welcome a third child, Palesa, and the parents watched their children enjoy carefree childhood years with many playmates.

After returning to Switzerland in 1983, Clemens practiced family medicine until 2011. In-between, he returned to Lesotho twice: In 1995, to lead the Seboche Hospital in Butha Buthe district for several months, and in 2002 to visit his son Fabian, who did an assistantship at the same hospital as part of his medical training.

Clemens is now officially retired, but he still returns to Lesotho to care for Basotho patients, at the Paray Mission Hospital in Thaba Tseka district, and at the Ha Mashai Rural Clinic, which is even deeper in the mountains. Twice a year, Clemens spends 6-8 weeks at Ha Mashai clinic (pandemic situation permitting). He also travels with the clinic’s team of health workers to five remote clinic outposts to provide preventative care, and to treat people suffering from chronic health problems.

A lot has changed since Clemens first set foot on Lesotho soil. What has not changed, however, is the love that Clemens has for his profession, and his calling he follows to care for Basotho patients!

(In addition to Lesotho, Clemens also does medical mission work in Zimbabwe and Cambodia.)



The guests of honor, among them King Moshoeshoe II, the Minister of Health, and the Bishop of Leribe.



Conveyance to the opening ceremony. Horses of people who attended the inauguration of the new tracts of Mamohau Hospital.



Lesotho at the Tokyo Summer Olympics

Lesotho first participated at the Olympic Games in 1972 and has sent athletes to compete in every Summer Olympic Games since then, except when they boycotted the 1976 Summer Olympics along with most other African nations. Lesotho has never participated in the Winter Olympic Games.

Khoarahlane Seutloali achieved the entry standards, either by qualifying time or by world ranking, in the men's marathon. <https://lestimes.com/khoarahlane-books-tokyo-olympics-spot/>



Explore Images of Lesotho on Bing

<https://www.bing.com/images/search?q=lesotho&filters=IsConversation:%22True%22+BTWLKey:%22Sehl abathebeParkLesotho%22+BTWLType:%22Trivia%22&trivia=1&qft=+filterui:photo-photo&form=EMSDS0&first=1&tsc=ImageBasicHover>





Litaba tsa Lesotho (News from Lesotho)

SADC Concern over ABC Split

Prime Minister Moeketsi Majoro and Deputy Prime Minister Mathibeli Mokhothu have reassured Southern African Development Community (SADC) leaders that their government remains stable and will last its full tenure despite the split in the All Basotho Convention (ABC).

Recently South African President Cyril Ramaphosa's special envoy, Jeff Radebe and South African Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Candith Mashego-Dlamini, and Deputy Minister of State Security, Zizi Kodwa visited Lesotho. The three met with King Letsie III, Dr Majoro, Mr Mokhothu and other senior government officials to address Lesotho implementing the multi-sector reforms recommended by SADC in 2016.

The ABC recently split after its former deputy leader Professor Nqosa Mahao left the party with nine legislators to form the Basotho Action Party (BAP). Two other ABC MPs Tefo Mapesela and Nyapane Kaya also left the party and formed the Basotho Patriotic Party and joined the Movement for Economic Change (MEC).

Prof Mahao indicated that his new party would make a confidence motion against the government in parliament. This led newly appointed ABC deputy leader Dr Majoro and DC leader Mr Mokhothu to address a joint press conference last Wednesday reaffirming their commitment to their coalition deal. They indicated that even after the defections, they still had 62 and the support of smaller parties with a combined 18 seats, thus giving the government 80 out of the 120 National Assembly seats.

However, due to recent instability, the SADC officials were concerned about the impact of the ABC split and decided to travel to Lesotho to meet with key officials and get reassurances that the government would remain in power.

Read the full story at <https://lestimes.com/abc-split-worries-sadc-leaders/>

Diamonds Seized From Illegal Dealers

Mining Minister Serialong Qoo recently reported that 140 diamonds were confiscated from illegal dealers. In total 493 diamonds will be auctioned. Proceeds from illegal diamonds will be forfeited to the government and the profits from voluntarily turned in diamonds will be paid to the owners.

Read more at <https://lestimes.com/140-diamonds-seized-from-illegal-dealers-qoo/>

Loans for Small Medium, and Micro-Enterprises (SMMEs)

Standard Lesotho Bank recently announced loans for SMMEs. The loans are aimed to offer SMMEs quick access to loans. Qualified borrowers – those with a good credit record, up to date taxes, and a valid traders' license – will be eligible for the loans. The loans can be processed within a day and will not require collateral and financial statements. Read more at <https://lestimes.com/standard-bank-launches-instant-loans-for-smmes/>

Wool and Mohair Promotion Project

The Lesotho government is implementing a Wool and Mohair Promotion Project financial with support from International Fund for Agricultural Development, the OPEC Fund for International Development, and the Lesotho National Wool and Mohair Growers Association.

The project is designed to help smallholder wool and mohair producers. The Project is being coordinated by the Agriculture, Food Security and Marketing Ministry and the Forestry, Rangelands and Soil Conservation Ministry and the Lesotho National Wool and Mohair Growers Association.

The project has three parts that will be implemented over seven years: (1) climate smart rangelands management, (2) improved livestock production and management, and (3) wool and mohair processing and marketing.

The wool and mohair processing and marketing component is tasked with facilitating the disposal of unproductive animals from the rangelands and promoting diversification into the red meat industry.

Due to lack of a marketing infrastructure, smallholder farmers have predominantly depended on income from sales of wool and mohair and not other products from their livestock, such as meat, hides, and skins.

Ideally, the program will lead to decreased reliance on imported meat. Additionally, culling unproductive animals will help to reduce rangeland degradation. In addition auction houses and slaughter houses have been developed with the ultimate goal of handing them over to private entities.

Read more at <https://lestimes.com/wampps-culling-and-exchange-programme-helping-the-red-meat-industry/>

Majoro Appointed ABC Deputy Leader

Prime Minister Moeketsi Majoro has been appointed deputy leader of the ruling All Basotho Convention (ABC). He is replacing Professor Nqosa Mahao who left the ABC and formed the Basotho Action Party (BAP). Dr Majoro's appointment is designed to increase his clout and standing in the party. To read about the divisions within the party, read more at <https://lestimes.com/majoro-appointed-abc-deputy-leader/>



News from Lesotho (continued from page 8)

Prime Minister Majoro Likely to Remain in Power until Next Elections

Democratic Congress (DC) leader and Deputy Prime Minister Mathibeli Mokhothu restated his party's commitment to upholding the two parties' April 2020 coalition agreement which resulted in the current Majoro-led governing coalition. This should put an end to efforts by Nqosa Mahao to challenge the current leaderships with a no confidence vote. PM Majoro sought to reassure the country that the government was stable and would continue to deliver services to the nation. Read more at <https://lestimes.com/majoro-mokhothu-deliver-knockout-punch-to-mahao/>

New Parties Formed

Mokhotlong legislator Tefo Mapesela, who recently left the ruling All Basotho Convention party, has formed the Basotho Patriotic Party (BPP). In addition, veteran broadcaster Malichaba Lekhoaba who owns Harvest FM, started United for Change (UC) last year and recently registered the party with the Independent Electoral Commission. Read more at <https://lestimes.com/mapesela-forms-own-party/> and <https://publiceyenews.com/uc-party-set-to-register-tomorrow/>

Interview with Haae Phoofolo

The Lesotho Times published a recent interview with former Attorney General, Advocate Haae Phoofolo. In the article, Mr. Phoofolo discusses his legal career as well as his recent post.

Regarding priorities regarding the administration of justice, Mr. Phoofolo noted the following: (1) The Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS) must be adequately funded in order to carry out their mandate of investigating criminal activities. (2) The judiciary must be adequately funded. Read the full interview at <https://lestimes.com/underfunding-has-created-a-dire-situation-in-the-judiciary-phoofolo/>

US Continues to Raise Concern over Human Trafficking

Lesotho must address concerns raised by the US if it wishes to continue to benefit from the African Growth and Opportunity Act, which allows it to export goods duty-free to the US, to maintain its eligibility for an additional Millennium Challenge Corporation, and to be considered for additional assistance.

Eligibility requires benefitting countries to meet certain criteria, including upholding human rights, the rule of law and other democratic principles. The US government is concerned that Lesotho is falling short by failing to deal with human trafficking.

The US ambassador noted while the US is encouraged by initiatives pointed to by Prime Minister Majoro, such as setting up government subcommittees, creating an Anti-trafficking and Migrants' Control Division at the Lesotho Mounted Police Service, and executing Trafficking in Persons awareness campaigns. The US is still looking to see sustained action to enforce legislation and bolster efforts to implement new initiatives to address the issues of human trafficking in Lesotho. She is confident that if the government necessary actions, including making substantive progress in its investigations of credible allegations of official complicity in human trafficking, then the country may remain eligible for funding.

Read more at <https://lestimes.com/so-much-at-stake-if-lesotho-fails-to-address-human-trafficking-concerns-us/>

Majoro Further Relaxes COVID-19 Restrictions

Prime Minister Moeketsi Majoro further relaxed the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions to allow a host of economic and social activities to resume amid indications that the rate of Covid-19 infections and deaths has significantly decreased in recent months.

International travel, entertainment and sporting activities are all set to resume under the relaxed regulations. Lesotho is now in the "blue stage" of the Covid-19 guidelines. It was previously in the purple stage which barred political gatherings, international travel except for emergencies and essential workers as well as sporting events, among other things.

Political rallies are limited to 200 people indoors and 500 people outside and must not last for more than three hours. The consumption of alcohol will not be permitted at the gatherings. Weddings will now be allowed a maximum of 100 people indoors and 200 outdoors.

Read the full article, which includes the number of infections and deaths, at <https://lestimes.com/majoro-further-relaxes-covid-restrictions/>

General Elections Slated for September or October 2022

The next general elections in Lesotho are expected to be held in September or October 2022. Read more about the election commission's efforts to fill vacant seats, plan for the general elections, and efforts at redrawing constituencies at <https://lestimes.com/general-elections-to-be-held-in-september-2022-iec/>

COVID-19 vaccines for Basotho

A consortium of local private companies called Sesiu Sa Letsoele le Beta Poho has secured 200,000 doses of both the AstraZeneca and Moderna vaccines to supplement government's COVID-19 inoculation program. Members of the consortium include Alliance Insurance, Standard Lesotho Bank, Nedbank Lesotho, Econet Telecom Lesotho, Metropolitan Lesotho, LSP, Data Net Lesotho, Pick 'n Pay Supermarket, Comnet, FNB Lesotho, Letšeng Diamond, NB Holdings and Specialised Insurance Company. The government has also ordered the Johnson and Johnson vaccine to increase the number of people to be vaccinated. Read more at <https://publiceyenews.com/local-consortium-secures-more-covid-vaccines-for-basotho/>





METSOALLE ea LESOTHO

SHOPPING?? 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>



Lesotho National Emblem
Canvas Bag



National Flower of Lesotho
Window Door Sticker Glass Film



Lesotho Flag Wave Collage
Kitchen Apron



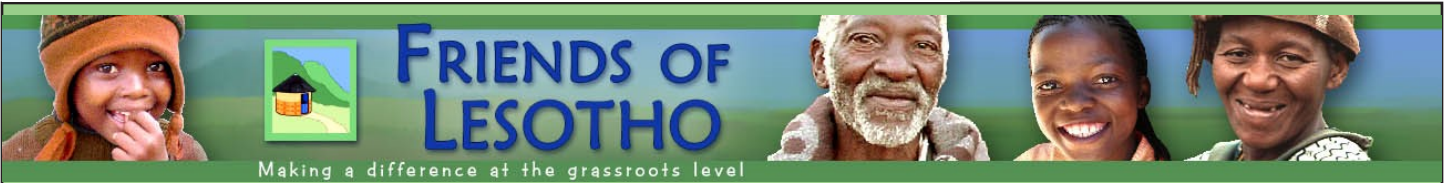
Lesotho Flag
Phone Case



National Flower of Lesotho
Spiral Aloe Vera
Outdoor Tablecloth, Washcloth



Lesotho Tapestry
Maletsunyane Falls



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 October
- ◆ 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

- ◆ Meetings are held at 8pm Eastern on the third Sunday of odd numbered months. Minutes are posted about one week after each meeting.
- ◆ 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 teleconference, more information to follow on our website. Be on the lookout for your 2019 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.

As mentioned in the last FOL newsletter, 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



Follow us on twitter:

<https://twitter.com/FOLesotho>



Visit our website:

<http://www.friendsoflesotho.org>





Treasurer's Report

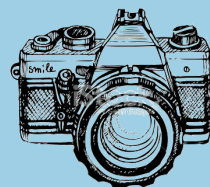
Year:	2021		
Last Update:	5/11/2021		
DONATIONS			
Donation Type	Total Donation (Including Fees)	Donation Related Fees	Total Net Donation
Check	\$10,597.00	\$0.00	\$10,597.00
Interest Earned	\$29.69	\$0.00	\$29.69
Other - see Description	\$1,513.70	\$0.00	\$1,513.70
Paypal Transfer	\$7,725.00	\$190.64	\$7,534.36
Grand Total	\$19,865.39	\$190.64	\$19,674.75
Project Expense Type	(All)		
Transfer Status	(Multiple Items)		
EXPENSES			
Expense Type	Total Expenses		
Failed Transfer - Lost e	30		
Misc. Supplies	149.9		
Project	19047		
Tax Fees	50		
Wiring Fees	400	Successful Only	
Grand Total	19676.9		
Expense Type	(Multiple Items)		
Transfer Status	(Multiple Items)		

Account Type	Year Starting Balance	Current Balance	Returned Wire Transfers (loss)	
Checking	\$22,201.29	\$22,291.51	\$30.00	\$0.00
Savings	\$23,916.01	\$23,945.70		
Total	\$46,117.30	\$46,237.21		
MONTHLY CHECKING ACCOUNT ACTIVITY				
SUM of Amount	Activity Type			
Date - Month	Deposit	Expense		
Jan	\$11,373.98	\$12,887.00		
Feb	\$8,421.61	\$4,229.90		
Mar	\$2,048.41	\$5,590.00		
Apr		\$940.00		
May	\$1,893.12			
Grand Total	\$23,737.12	\$23,646.90		

PROJECTS OVERVIEW		
Project Name	Project Expense Type	Total Project Expenditures
Lerato Nkesi	Failed Transfer/Lost Ex	30
	Wiring Fee	80
Lerato Nkesi Total		110
Mankoe & Lerato	Project Donation	4000
Mankoe & Lerato Total		4000
Monica Letosha	Project Donation	2000
	Wiring Fee	40
Monica Letosha Total		2040
Morija Museum	Project Donation	3647
	Wiring Fee	80
Morija Museum Total		3727
Motena Tau	Project Donation	4000
	Wiring Fee	80
Motena Tau Total		4080
Rotary Club of Masen	Project Donation	900
	Wiring Fee	40
Rotary Club of Maseru Total		940
Teyana Neufeld	Project Donation	2000
	Wiring Fee	40
Teyana Neufeld Total		2040
Touching Tiny Lives	Project Donation	2500
	Wiring Fee	40
Touching Tiny Lives Total		2540
Grand Total		19477



Photo courtesy Nicole Potsane. RPCV



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



METSOALLE ea LESOTHO

Second Quarter 2020
Newsletter



FRIENDS OF LESOTHO

President: Scott Rosenberg (srosenberg@wittenberg.edu)

Vice President: Bill Moore (litapole@gmail.com)

Secretary: Kevin Caughlan (caughlan@earthlink.net)

Treasurer: Rory Pulvino and Rachel Edmons

Board Members: Cayla Anderson (cayla.a23@gmail.com)
Rachel Edmonds (redmonds48@gmail.com)
Marisa Ernst (ernst.marisa@gmail.com)
Kevin Freer (kfreer49@gmail.com)
Jennifer Jiggetts (jenjiggetts@gmail.com)
Ali Kukovich (ali.kukovich@gmail.com)
Emma Mcevoy (e.mc.evoy05@gmail.com)
Tishina Okegbe (tokegbe@gmail.com)
Rory Pulvino (rapulvino@gmail.com)
Richard Rowan (qhomaki@mac.com)
Danielle Sharp (danielle.m.sharp@gmail.com)
Andrew Steele (andreesteele2@gmail.com)
Meghan White (white.meghan0@gmail.com)

Newsletter Team: Kevin Freer, Editor (kfreer49@gmail.com)
Nicole Potsane, Graphic Designer
Mary Howard and Deena Lawrence, Copy Editors
Ella Kwisnek, News from Lesotho

Social Media: Ali Kukovich and Megan White

Website: Marty Smith