



FRIENDS OF LESOTHO

# METSOALLE ea LESOTHO

Fourth Quarter 2020  
Newsletter

## A Word From Our President

Lumelang Metsoalle,

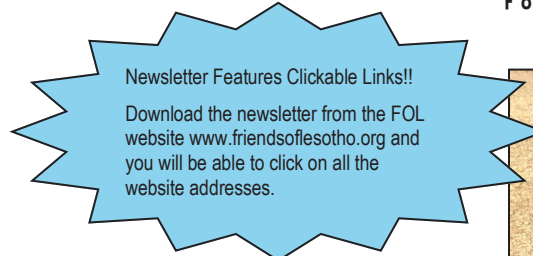
First, I would like to thank our members who continue to support our work and the board members for all the hours they have put in. I am pleased to report that FOL continues to fulfill its mission to promote positive change and to assist the people of Lesotho. Last month our crowd funding campaign to raise money for emergency food relief as a result of COVID raised over \$13,000. This is enough to buy a month's worth of food and supplies for over 320 families. Thank you to everybody who donated.

Lesotho faces an unprecedented food emergency as a consequence of COVID and drought. Over the last six months, FOL has sent nearly \$13,000 in relief funds to our 5 partners in Lesotho. Although these kind of donations typically fall outside of the development oriented projects FOL has historically supported, we on the Board all felt that this crisis required immediate and urgent action. FOL was able to allocate \$2,500 to the Lesotho Nutrition Initiative to provide over 18,000 meals to children in Butha-Butha.

I would like to acknowledge Cayla Anderson and the rest of the 88s who despite being sent home last March were able to come together and provide FOL with a list of students for TAP scholarships. As schools in Lesotho reopened, FOL needed to find a way to deliver the TAP funds without volunteers being in country, and Peace Corps Lesotho shut down. Special thanks go to the Maseru Rotary club for stepping in and making sure that all of the TAP funds were delivered.

FOL is also pleased to announce that we were able to support 2 community development projects in the last few months; the Ha Ramaloi Community Project to empower women through egg production which uses the funds to help over 260 individuals suffering from HIV and TB in the Sehlabeng catchment area of Thuathe region and the Ha Sekantsi Community Learning Center which will provide both skills training and academic services to youth in the Ha Sekantsi area.

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



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.

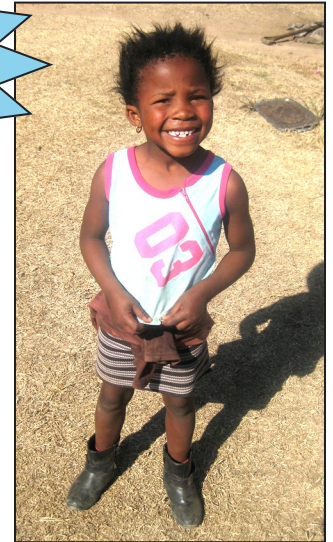


Photo courtesy Nicole Potsane, RPCV



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



### Inside this issue:

<i>President's Letter</i>	1
<i>Organizational News</i>	2
<i>Black Lives Matter</i>	4
<i>Guinness World Records</i>	4
<i>Mary Howard, RPCV</i>	5
<i>Book Review</i>	6
<i>Lesotho Films</i>	7
<i>Lithaba tsa Lesotho</i>	8
<i>Amazon Winter Wear</i>	10
<i>Support FOL</i>	11
<i>FREE FOL Membership</i>	12
<i>Treasurer's Report</i>	13



## Friends of Lesotho Organizational News

### Fundraising Committee

The Fundraising committee can look back on a very successful 2-week crowdfunding campaign that ended on November 3 and netted close to \$13,000. The committee decided on starting a crowdfunding campaign after Friends of Lesotho received multiple requests for emergency funds. Community partners informed us that many households were either in acute danger or already experiencing hunger.

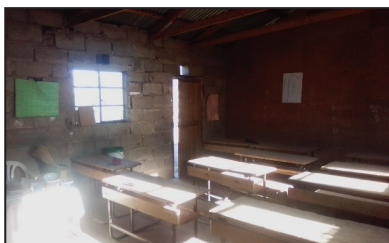
For, while Lesotho remained shielded from COVID-19 infections longer than other nations (it was one of the last countries to record its first positive test result), the negative economic effects caused by the pandemic, such as loss of income opportunities, loss of remittance receipts, and scarcity-induced rising food prices, were quickly taking hold in Lesotho. Resource-poor households in urban areas were and will remain at greatest risk.

We are in-debted to our many generous donors whose donations make it possible that FoL can continue supporting community partners as they look out for the most vulnerable during this crisis. The period of heightened need for foodstuff support is projected to extend well into 2021 and increasingly also in rural areas where this year's harvests remained below average. For more information, refer to <https://fews.net/southern-africa/lesotho>



### Donations Committee

**Food Relief.** In response to the food emergency created by both COVID and last year's drought, FOL has sent over \$11,000 to purchase food for the most in need. Working with five different partners, we have been able to provide food and essential supplies to hundreds of families. Although these kinds of donations are not typical for FOL, the board felt that we needed to take immediate action to try and help as many as we could. It is important to note that all of these projects were initiated by Basotho.



**School Construction.** This quarter FOL was able to help two primary schools with needed repairs and additions with donations of \$6,540. In Berea, Piting Primary School requested help putting a new roof on one of its classroom buildings (which had blown off in a storm) as well as helping to repair cracked walls and replace broken window and doors. These repairs will help improve classroom learning by providing a better environment to learn. The second school was T'sa le Moleka primary in Butha-Buthe. Currently, the school was using a church hall to simultaneously teach four grades. By building this new classroom the school will be able to have a less crowded and more conducive learning atmosphere.

**Ha Sekantsi Learning Center.** FOL received a request to collaborate with a wide range of donors to support a learning center in the Semonkong district of Lesotho. FOL contributed \$3,500 to support the Possible Dreams Foundation's plans to construct a community learning center that will support education and economic opportunity for the Ha-Sekantsi community. The learning center will include a preschool and junior primary school for children as well as a formal and vocational school for herders and adults who have never had an opportunity to receive basic education. The learning center will also be used as an outreach center for a local clinic since the nearest clinic is 6 hours from the community by foot or 2 hours by road. The learning center will not only provide important life skills such as reading, writing, and mathematics, but also valuable career skill training such as photography, crafts, food preservation, tour guiding, sewing, and theatre. [www.possibledreamsfoundation.org](http://www.possibledreamsfoundation.org)



Photo retrieved from <https://www.thepost.co.ls/business/indigenous-chickens-give-basotho-something-to-crow-about/>

**Community Development.** Lastly, FOL was able to continue our support of the Ha Ramloloi Community Based Organization in Thuathe with a contribution of \$3,500. FOL supplied funds to help the organization drill a bore hole to help supply water for a chicken project. This project is designed to enhance capacity building to the community through training on chicken raising and market research. Another stated goal of this project was the empowerment of women in the community. Lastly, the project hopes to serve two hundred and sixty-five (265) beneficiaries from the families of HIV/AIDS and TB patients.



## Friends of Lesotho Organizational News

### Friends of Lesotho Board

**Board Meetings:** Board Meetings are held at 7 p.m. EST via tele-conference, on the third Sunday of odd numbered months. Meetings are open to all FOL members. Please contact Kevin Caughlan, Secretary, at [caughlan@earthlink.net](mailto:caughlan@earthlink.net) for call-in information. We are considering using Zoom meetings in the coming year.

**Annual Meeting:** Mark your calendar for March 7, 2021, 4 pm ET for our Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting is held to highlight our accomplishments in the prior year as presented in our Annual Report. The meeting includes an announcement of election results along with speakers of interest to members and friends. Contact Kevin Caughlan, Secretary, at [caughlan@earthlink.net](mailto:caughlan@earthlink.net) for call in information if you do not receive the information in an email notification.

**Board and Committee Positions:** If you've wondered how you could give a little more than annual contributions, now is the chance to volunteer your time, special skills, and enthusiasm. There are openings for board service and committees in the coming year. Please contact Scott Rosenberg, President, at [srosenberg@wittenberg.edu](mailto:srosenberg@wittenberg.edu) for further information.

**Board Members:** Board members are elected based on their ability and willingness to contribute to the achievement of FOL's purpose. Nominations are welcome year round. Elections are held at the Annual Meeting in March. Directors serve for two-year terms. They shall be expected to:

- \* Understand the purpose, policies, and programs of FOL
- \* Attend Board meetings and participate in the policy-making decisions of the Board
- \* Participate actively on one or more of the Board's committees and/or task forces suited to the Board Member's interests and skills, and to provide assistance on an individual basis in areas of personal expertise
- \* Foster FOL's purpose in other spheres of influence
- \* Assist with resource development and ensure fiscal responsibility of the organization.

**Committee Members:** 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. Committees include Membership, Donations/Distributions, Fundraising, Social Media, Newsletter, and Website. Committee members:

- \* Need not be a board member
- \* Commit approximately 2-4 hours per month, on average, depending on the particular committee functions
- \* Make at least a 1-year commitment to FOL
- \* Work via e-mail and tele-conference meetings held every other month.



## 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](mailto:kfreer49@gmail.com).

The next deadline is May 16, 2021





## Black Lives Matter—Lesotho Connection

*Behind a father-and-son protest, a history of laughter and struggle*

On a Northern Virginia street corner, a White professor and his Black son offer a lesson about humanity.

By [Michael Laris](#), SEPTEMBER 3, 2020

Two Black women in a Hyundai honked their support. A White man in a Prius raised his fist in solidarity. An ambulance blared its piercing whoop-whoop in their direction. And Leteane Monasti's cheeks lifted from the smile behind his sagging surgical mask and Washington Nationals cap.

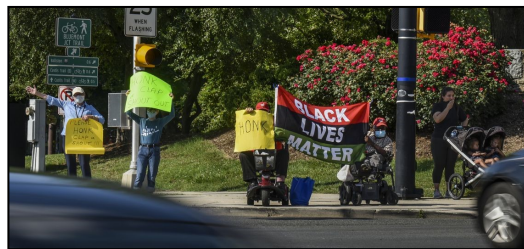
The look on Monasti's face as he sat protesting in his wheelchair on the Northern Virginia street corner suggested nothing of his struggle to get there.

A childhood disease had left Monasti's bones so fragile that they broke repeatedly, and his family in Lesotho feared he would be dead by now. Instead, he is parked across the street from a strip-mall McDonald's, gripping a "Black Lives Matter" banner with his adoptive father, Bob Edgar, a historian who has chronicled the struggle for freedom in southern Africa for nearly half a century.

Read the full article at <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2020/09/03/white-father-black-son-blm-protest/?arc404=true> 



Robert Edgar, left, and Leteane Monasti demonstrate in June in Arlington. (Jahi Chikwendiu/The Washington Post)



From left, Anne Meister and Iain Armitage join Edgar and Monasti in their Black Lives Matter demonstration (Jahi Chikwendiu/The Washington Post)



Monasti came to the United States as a teenager, 34 years ago. (Jahi Chikwendiu/ The Washington Post)

## Guinness Book of Records—Lesotho



### Most Elevated Country – Orange (Senqu)

The country with the highest low point is Lesotho, where the river-bed of the Orange (Senqu) is 1,381m 4,530ft above sea level where it flows out of the country. <https://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/world-records/most-elevated-country>

### Semonkong Lodge – Longest Single-drop Commercial Abseil

The longest commercially operated single-drop abseil is one of 204 m (670 ft) down the Maletsunyane waterfall at Semonkong Lodge, Lesotho. The abseil is operated on a daily basis, but because of the training required only four people generally make the drop every day. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=trW9rxpSBxA>



### World Record For Highest Basketball Shot Broken In Lesotho [Video]

Read more: <https://www.2oceansvibe.com/2018/01/23/guinness-world-record-for-highest-basketball-shot-just-broken-in-lesotho-video/#ixzz6VN8LV3Xa>



## Mary Howard RPCV Lesotho 1975-1977



My husband, Rich, and I, were volunteers in Lesotho during the apartheid era, and long ago agreed not to return until South Africa was free. It was in the middle of planning our post-apartheid return trip to Lesotho that our 21-year-old daughter, Rachel, asked if she could go along. This was the daughter we moved out of our house the week after she graduated from high school. The one who was so difficult to travel with (she ran away from us in the Denver airport at age 15, pre-cell phones, after our flight home was cancelled due to weather). We looked at each other thinking, “Do we want her to come?”

The three of us talked about our travel plans and daily schedules, setting boundaries that Rachel eventually agreed with. And we were off!

During my Peace Corps years of 1975-77, I taught at the School for the Blind run by England’s Save the Children Fund. My primary responsibility was teaching two deaf students, 10 and 13, who had never been to school. I was anxious to reunite with both Jeremiah and Nthabiseng on this trip. We knew where Nthabiseng lived, but Jeremiah’s whereabouts were a mystery. In order to find Jeremiah, we enlisted the help of Anna, one of my former blind students. With our rusty Sesotho, we needed her to interpret both the verbal and non-verbal messages we would receive.

We picked Anna up at the Save the Children shelter where she lived and the four of us drove across the border to South Africa. We had no street address for Jeremiah, only a description of the township and a number, M180 and the knowledge that he lived with Mme Motsetse. There seemed to be little sense on how houses were numbered, with single digits on one side of the street and numbers in the thousands on the other side. Anna kept asking people for directions and information, finally discovering that the house we were looking for was painted black. With this clue, we found M180, only to find out that Jeremiah didn’t live there, but used the house as a contact point. Julia, the woman who lived there, rode with us to Jeremiah’s sister’s house. But upon arriving, Tsiti, his sister, told us Jeremiah didn’t live with her. Anna challenged her, wondering why the siblings didn’t live together. Tsiti directed us to another house in the area, where four women and their babies lived, but they said Jeremiah was in Bloemfontein at his brother’s.

It seemed that Jeremiah was on the run, hiding from South African authorities because he had no papers. Anna’s opinion was that Jeremiah’s sister didn’t want us to find him because she was ashamed of him since he was not working. Having remembered Jeremiah as a bright, talented artist, it was disturbing to think that his adult life was fraught with fear and disappointment. We drove back to Maseru empty-handed.

At the end of our month-long trip across southern Africa, Rich and I asked Rachel which experience was her favorite. She didn’t mention our connection with a former inmate on Robben Island, or connecting with Nthabiseng at the Leribe Craft Center or driving 100 mph from Etosha NP to Windhoek to make our flight home. Her most memorable experience was that day searching for Jeremiah. She spoke of the connections made with the people we met, their hospitality (being invited in for tea at one house) and spending the day with Anna.

Our hesitation at bringing Rachel along on this journey was unfounded. Our relationship with her deepened and her respect for our years in Lesotho and us rose. This was part of our Peace Corps experience - one that we were able to share with our daughter. 



We are pleased to send you this latest update on what is happening in Qholaqhoe during this time of pandemic.

To read the report click here: [http://qmconnect.org/Assets/11\\_20\\_newsletterR.pdf](http://qmconnect.org/Assets/11_20_newsletterR.pdf)

We are most grateful for your support of our students at Qholaqhoe High School and for the college scholarship program which currently has 8 students at the National University of Lesotho.

Please contact us with any questions or comments. <https://www.qmconnect.org/> 



## Book Review: *Life in Three Worlds: Reminiscences*



*Life in Three Worlds: Reminiscences* by Sumitra Talukdar, with David Ambrose

The title of the book *Life in Three Worlds: Reminiscences* by Sumitra Talukdar, with David Ambrose, refers to the three world regions - Asia, Europe, and Southern Africa - that Sumitra Talukdar, a former NUL professor, called home over the course of the 89 years of her life. The book will be of special interest to persons with a connection to Lesotho, but the richly illustrated and carefully referenced reminiscences will also appeal to a general readership interested in how some of the big changes of the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, among them decolonization, race relations, globalization, or technological change – are reflected in individual lives.

Part I of the book takes us to India, Sumitra's country of birth. At the time of her birth (1931) India is still under the control of the British Empire. Through Sumitra's memories, we get to know her family, participate in celebrations, and learn about the extended network of relatives, with some of the connections going back several centuries. We travel with her to different locations on the subcontinent, for pleasure or out of necessity. Until India's independence (1947) her father serves in the colonial administration and is repeatedly assigned to new service stations. Sumitra receives much encouragement from her family for her education and will complete her studies in India with a Master's degree in Botany from the University of Calcutta. (By contrast, in my home country Switzerland, and probably in much of Europe, higher education remained predominantly a male affair long into the post-WWII period!)

Part II describes Sumitra's two periods of academic stay in UK. The first is from 1954 to 1958 at Oxford University where she completes a doctorate in Botany. In 1965, she receives a second scholarship to do a post-graduate fellowship at Liverpool University. Between these two periods of advanced studies in the UK, Sumitra builds up her teaching and research portfolio as an Assistant Professor at her alma mater, Presidency College, University of Calcutta. Many of the professional and personal connections established during her studies in the UK will remain active throughout Sumitra's life and academic career.

Part III and by far the largest portion of these reminiscences chronicle Sumitra's experiences as a resident of Lesotho from 1966 to 2008. This period starts when Sumitra accepts a short-term teaching assignment to the University of Basotholand, Bechuanaland Protectorate and Swaziland (UBBS), but which a few days prior to her arrival on campus changes its name to University of Botswana, Lesotho, and Swaziland (UBLS): Independence has finally arrived in Southern Africa! At the university, Sumitra meets British mathematician David Ambrose who will become her life partner (He will also assist with some of the writing of Part III). Both academics will ultimately teach and research at the university in Roma (today the National University of Lesotho) for most of their professional careers. As active researchers, they explore and describe the physical, natural, historic, social and political environment of their adopted home. Furthermore, the reminiscences look back on numerous engagements for on- and off-campus initiatives, including for better medical instrumentation of Roma hospital.

Of course, Part III also reflects on the personal life experiences of the couple, notably on raising son Jonty; on the cooperation with Basotho women and men who helped them manage domestic affairs while they were pursuing dual careers; and on the challenges and solutions of maintaining inter-continental family ties in pre-WhatsApp times. The reader is also able to participate vicariously in the sometimes rather adventurous voyages by car, ship, and plane that the couple and later the family undertakes, and where the Apartheid regime often adds its particular challenges.

With around 400 pages and what felt at times was an overabundance of detail, *Life in Three Worlds: Reminiscences* is not a book that I was able to read in one sitting: an approach by individual chapters was more appropriate. I much enjoyed Part I, as it gave me glimpses into life in India of some decades ago, and into a social stratum that I had not previously met in social science texts. While reading Part II turned out to be of moderate interest to me, I will probably continue to refer back to Part III, mainly for its diverse information on Lesotho. But I am sure to also remember Part III because it is such a clear reflection of the purpose-full life that Sumitra managed to achieve, not only as a scientist and teacher, but as an immensely caring social being. She really managed to live up to the expectations of Mahatma Gandhi whom she had met in person in 1946, and who admonished her to share widely and generously the gift of education she was so fortunate to receive!

Sumitra Talukdar died in March 2020 in Ladybrand, S.A. 

The book can be ordered from Mohokare Trust, P.O. Box 958, Ladybrand 9745, South Africa, phone (0027) 51 924 3191, or directly through Sumitra's husband David Ambrose (dpambrose@hotmail.com). The proceeds from the sale of the book go to support Mohokare Trust, set up to conserve an extensive collection of information on Lesotho for future research. Please refer to [www.mohokaretrust.org](http://www.mohokaretrust.org) for more information on the collection and about the trust. Marisa Ernst November 2020

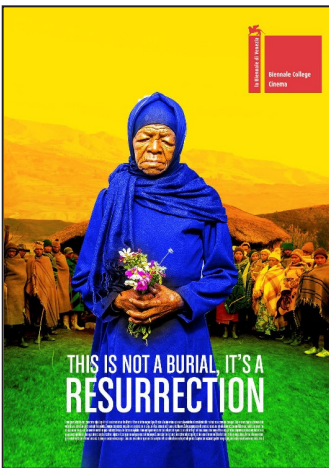




## Beautiful, Incredible, Interesting Cinema Filmed in Lesotho

Many of us watched the *Forgotten Kingdom* when it was first released in 2013. There are many other movies filmed in Lesotho that are available for downloads or purchase on the internet. See what's playing at <https://mubi.com/lists/lesotho> or check out what Amazon Prime and YouTube have to offer. You can find Sesotho Movies with free downloads at [https://www.google.com/search?xsrf=ALeKk03qndUR96cB\\_wdPG4NEFZuefWQbg:1597623054471&q=Sesotho+Movies+free+download&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiywpxV-aDrAhVWGs0KHZUyAXQQ1QIwH3oECAwQFw&biw=1664&bih=967&dpr=1.5](https://www.google.com/search?xsrf=ALeKk03qndUR96cB_wdPG4NEFZuefWQbg:1597623054471&q=Sesotho+Movies+free+download&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiywpxV-aDrAhVWGs0KHZUyAXQQ1QIwH3oECAwQFw&biw=1664&bih=967&dpr=1.5)

### Recent Releases



#### This is Not a Burial, It is a Resurrection

In the mountains of Lesotho, an 80-year-old widow named Mantoa eagerly awaits her son's return from working in the South African mines, only to learn of his demise instead. Yearning for her own death after the loss of her last remaining family member, she puts her affairs in order and makes arrangements to be buried in the local cemetery. Her careful plans are abruptly upset by the news that provincial officials intend to resettle the village, flood the entire area, and build a dam for a reservoir. Mantoa resolves herself to defend the spiritual heritage of the community.

Writer/director Lemohang Jeremiah Mosese crafts a vivid and ethereal meditation on life, death, and the power of the human spirit. Veteran actress Mary Twala Mhlongo commands the screen, beautifully portraying a woman fighting her last and most important battle. *This Is Not A Burial, It's A Resurrection* creates an ode to a way of life perhaps soon to disappear in the name of progress and guides us through a world where the dead co-exist with the living.

The film **THIS IS NOT A BURIAL, IT IS A RESURRECTION** directed by Mosotho, Lemohang Jeremiah Mosese, is reported by [Variety](#) to be the first contender from Lesotho to enter the Oscars. It is up for Best International Feature Film. The film has already won numerous awards as listed in this [link](#).



#### From Trash To Treasure: Turning Negatives Into Positives

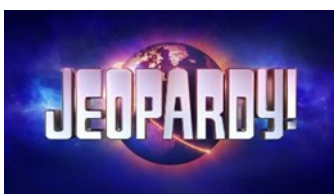
An artist named Nthabiseng TeReo Mohanela takes discarded materials and transforms them into unique clothing and accessories. Teaching young people the benefits of recycling and re-creation, she calls her project "From Trash to Treasure."

With TeReo's work as a starting point, this short film showcases a broader spirit of reimagination among artists in Lesotho, who use creativity to respond to entrenched social problems: Filmmakers show the need to end child marriage. Musicians write songs about climate change. Farmers collect seeds to protect endangered tree species. Designers use fashion to preserve traditional Basotho culture and challenge common perceptions of Africa.

Profiling a variety of these innovators, "FROM TRASH TO TREASURE: turning negatives into positives" encourages us to take lessons from those who rethink, reuse, and reinvent in order to promote positive change.

[https://culturesofresistancefilms.com/trash-to-](https://culturesofresistancefilms.com/trash-to-treasure#:~:text=Designers%20use%20fashion%20to%20preserve,order%20to%20promote%20positive%20change)

[treasure#:~:text=Designers%20use%20fashion%20to%20preserve,order%20to%20promote%20positive%20change](https://culturesofresistancefilms.com/trash-to-treasure#:~:text=Designers%20use%20fashion%20to%20preserve,order%20to%20promote%20positive%20change).



#### Jeopardy November 6, 2020

\$1,600 - GO WEST - Drive west from Maseru, capital of this country, & you arrive in South Africa--heck, drive east & you'll end up there as well.



## Litaba tsa Lesotho (News from Lesotho)

Compiled by Ella Kwisnek, RPCV Education, 1992-1994

### Factory Shells Build to Alleviate Unemployment

More factory shells are being built as part of the Ha-Tikoe Phase III infrastructure project. Dr. Thabiso Molapo from Trade and Industry indicated that the sites are designed to address unemployment. This is all part of a M452 million infrastructure project, which entails the construction of seven factory shells. Two of the shells have an area of 3,000 square metres while the other five each 1,000 square metres. The project commenced in July 2019 and is expected to create 2,700 jobs upon completion. The construction phase has created 300 temporary jobs. Three investors interested in occupying the buildings will produce pharmaceuticals using hemp; automotive (vehicle) seat covers, and electronic products. The goal is to produce market diversification. The project has been delayed due to a lack of payments from the government. Read the full story at <http://lestimes.com/factory-shells-to-help-alleviate-unemployment/>

### Small Scale Diamond Mining

The Ministry of Mining is pushing for the licensing of small-scale diamond miners in an effort to boost the economy. Small scale mining was banned in 1968 after worries about the safety of miners among other issues. The sector has largely been dominated by foreign companies because of a lack of financial capacity for Basotho to start mining. The government realized that there are over 400 kimberlite deposits that are lying idle. The initiative could serve as a building block towards establishing a local diamond trading platform as well as diamond cutting and polishing activities that could affect many other sectors in the value chain. Multiple government agencies will need to work together to supply the necessary equipment and to ensure the success of the plan and the compliance with regulations to limit environmental impact. Read the full story at <http://lestimes.com/allowing-small-scale-diamond-mining-will-empower-locals-tjatja/> Read a related article at <https://www.zerohedge.com/commodities/gem-diamonds-uneartsh-massive-442-carat-diamond-its-letseng-mine-lesotho>

### Rent Relief for Commercial Properties

The government will be providing M50 million in rent relief to owners of commercial properties to cushion businesses against the negative effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. Businesses that are eligible for the rent subsidy are small, medium, and micro enterprises (SMMEs) that are up to date with their tax obligations. The rent subsidy does not apply to residential property, commercial properties occupied by tenants who were operational during national lockdown, LNDC, BEDCO, City Councils and Government tenants and any other property owners whose properties are not rented out to commercial tenants. The full story is online at <http://lestimes.com/rent-relief-for-commercial-property-owners/>

### COVID-19 Restrictions Eased

In early October the government relaxed stringent restrictions to allow more economic activities to resume operations. With the ease in restrictions, restaurants are allowed to serve meals to dine-in customers. Business people will also be allowed to travel outside the country's borders for economic reasons. Gymnasiums and live entertainment shows will also be allowed to resume operations with limited audiences providing they adhere to strict public health regulations to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Prime Minister Moeketsi Majoro indicated that the decision to relax restrictions was partly informed by the neighboring South Africa, which has also opened its borders to international travelers. Read the full story online at <http://lestimes.com/govt-relaxes-covid-restrictions/>

### Regulations Proposed on Basotho Ownership of Businesses

The Ministry of Trade and Industry has issued new regulations to preserve certain businesses for indigenous Basotho only. Indigenous Basotho are citizens whose ancestry can be traced to at least three generations in Lesotho.

*(Continued on page 9)*





## News from Lesotho (continued from page 8)

The Business Licensing and Registration Regulations, 2020, which will soon be presented to parliament, lists 47 business activities that will be reserved for indigenous Basotho only. Among the 47 activities targeted for preservation are transport, cleaning, repairing and retail motors sales; growing and selling fruits and vegetables; pharmaceutical wholesaling and retailing, real estate, retail of animal feeds, supply of fuel and retail of hardware. Raising horses, sheep and goats, piggery and poultry have also been proposed to be reserved for Basotho. Foreigners may participate in the activities but only as minority shareholders of 49 percent or lower. Foreign enterprises operating in other areas, outside the 47, would be compelled to provide proof of an investment of at least M2 million, a corporate social responsibility plan and progress made in transferring skills and technology to Basotho.

Principal secretary (PS) in the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Maile Masoebe, said while foreign investment was welcome, it should concentrate on larger corporates which indigenous Basotho would ordinarily not have the capacity to operate. If passed, the regulations will be implemented gradually with the goal of creating an environment to develop domestic investors without competition from foreign players. Read more about the proposed regulations online at <http://lestimes.com/govt-pushes-indigenisation-regulations/>

### Villagers Struggle for Access to Water

In the village of Ha Noha on the banks of the Senqunyane Rivers, locals can usually get water from a community tap in a nearby spring. However, due to the current drought, they must travel several kilometers to a spring that rarely goes dry. Many villagers must make the trek at least twice a day to carry sufficient water for their daily needs.

Ironically, near the village Canadian investors have built a multimillion-dollar marijuana-growing facility, which requires significant amounts of water. The company's water consumption, which comes from the Highlands Water Project's Mohale dam, only compounds the water woes in the area.

However, villagers contend that the company has also fenced off the area around its facility, cutting off villagers' access to natural springs. Locals have traditionally relied on these springs when other water sources run dry, as they always have water, even in times of drought. In response to these assertions, the company says that it paid the villages for the land that it has fenced. While the company has large tanks of water for irrigation of the plants, locals continue to face daily water struggles. Read the full story at <https://publiceyenews.com/villagers-struggle-for-water-as-big-business-cashes-in-on-mountain-kingdoms-green-gold/>

### Fired Attorney General Sues Prime Minister

Recently, fired Attorney General (AG) Advocate Haae Phoofolo filed an urgent High Court application to try and nullify Prime Minister Moeketsi Majoro's decision to effectively fire him by ordering him to go on "terminal leave" pending the expiry of his contract in February 2021.

Reportedly, Dr Majoro had fired the AG in part because he was angered over his participation in a Judicial Service Commission (JSC) that recommended the appointment of five new judges.

In the application Phoofolo argues that only His Majesty is empowered by the constitution to suspend or remove him from office and that the PM can only advise the King. Read more at <https://allafrica.com/stories/202010140925.html>

### Social Media Limits Proposed

The Lesotho government is proposing regulations to restrict social media. The regulations would require all social media users with more than 100 followers to register as "internet broadcasters" -- a move that would, in turn, require them to abide by the same rules that govern broadcast media houses. It would also allow regulators to investigate social media users' posts and even order them removed. Prime Minister Moeketsi Majoro, who himself has 8,300 Twitter followers, had declined to comment on the proposed law.

Journalists and media freedom activists are objecting to the government proposal saying it amounts to stifling speech for everyone in the nation of 2 million people.

It has also been noted that even if passed, it would be virtually impossible to enforce the regulation. Basotho can use a South African SIM card to network and post and South Africa has much less restrictive regulations. Read the full story <https://www.voanews.com/africa/tiny-african-nation-lesotho-proposes-social-media-limits>





# 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!!

Turn on AmazonSmile  
in the Amazon app to  
generate donations.

amazonsmile



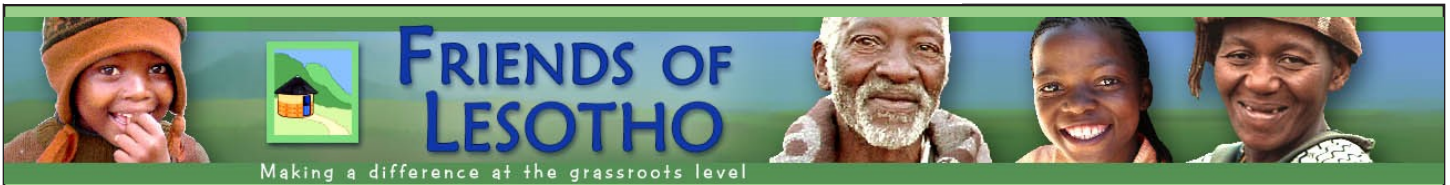
Amazon will donate a small percent of your purchases year round, with no extra charge to you, if you access their site through the AmazonSmile page or turn on AmazonSmile in your mobile app. One extra click by you enables FOL to send hundreds of dollars of donations to Lesotho each year.

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



<https://www.chilembwe.org/africa/africaXmas/#lesotho>

<https://depositphotos.com/231391458/stock-illustration-lesotho-flag-2019-merry-christmas.html>



## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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/>



Follow us on Facebook:

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



Share your photos!

Send to editor at [kfreer49@gmail.com](mailto:kfreer49@gmail.com)



Follow us on twitter:

<https://twitter.com/FOLesotho>



Visit our website:

<http://www.friendsoflesotho.org>



**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](mailto:kfreer49@gmail.com)



## Treasurer's Report

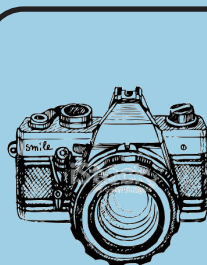
Year:	2020		
Last Update:	11/13/2020		-\$2,462.45
DONATIONS			
Donation Type	Total Donation (Including Fees)	Donation Related Fees	Total Net Donation
Check	\$20,010.00	\$0.00	\$20,010.00
Interest Earned	\$88.42	\$0.00	\$88.42
Other - see Description	\$36,317.04	\$0.00	\$36,317.04
PayPal Transfer	\$3,965.00	\$67.93	\$3,897.07
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$60,380.46</b>	<b>\$67.93</b>	<b>\$60,312.53</b>
EXPENSES			
Expense Type	Total Expenses		
Fundraising Fees/Initiative (incl. online payment fees, other)	\$67.93		
Misc. Supplies	\$24.03		
Postage	\$552.81		
Project	\$37,570.00		
Tax Fees	\$600.00		
Wiring Fees	\$715.00		
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$39,529.77</b>		
Account Type	Year Starting Balance	Current Balance - Returned Wire Transfers Fees	Returned Wire Transfers (loss)
Checking	\$20,081.04	\$25,820.41	\$303.03
Savings	\$8,803.39	\$23,891.81	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$28,884.43</b>	<b>\$49,712.22</b>	

PROJECTS OVERVIEW		
Project Name	Project Expense Type	Total Project Expenditures
African library COVID-19 food relief	Project Donation	\$5,000.00
	Wiring Fee	\$190.00
African library COVID-19 food relief Total		\$5,190.00
Bolula School Project	Project Donation	\$1,000.00
Bolula School Project Total		\$1,000.00
Fobane Primary School	Project Donation	\$1,100.00
	Wiring Fee	\$120.00
Fobane Primary School Total		\$1,220.00
Ha Ramoloi Community	Project Donation	\$2,850.00
	Wiring Fee	\$40.00
Ha Ramoloi Community Total		\$2,890.00
Lesobeng Itjareng Chicken Project	Failed Transfer/Lost Exchange Rate	\$303.03
	Project Donation	\$4,020.00
	Wiring Fee	\$80.00
Lesobeng Itjareng Chicken Project Total		\$4,403.03
Malealea community Covid-19 grant	Project Donation	\$1,000.00
	Wiring Fee	\$75.00
Malealea community Covid-19 grant Total		\$1,075.00
Mamonaheng Rapapa - COVID relief	Project Donation	\$1,300.00
	Wiring Fee	\$40.00
Mamonaheng Rapapa - COVID relief Total		\$1,340.00
Morija Covid Relief	Project Donation	\$2,000.00
	Wiring Fee	\$40.00
Morija Covid Relief Total		\$2,040.00
Morija Pantry Project	Project Donation	\$1,000.00
	Wiring Fee	\$50.00
Morija Pantry Project Total		\$1,050.00
Piting Primary	Project Donation	\$3,500.00
	Wiring Fee	\$40.00
Piting Primary Total		\$3,540.00
TAP	Project Donation	\$11,300.00
TAP Total		\$11,300.00
Tsa Le Moleka Primary	Project Donation	\$3,500.00
	Wiring Fee	\$40.00
Tsa Le Moleka Primary Total		\$3,540.00
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$38,588.03</b>

## Summertime in Lesotho



<https://twitter.com/lesotho/status/1142702478770806784>



## 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](mailto:kfreer49@gmail.com)



FRIENDS OF LESOTHO

115 Monterey Avenue  
Oakwood, OH 45419



## METSOALLE ea LESOTHO

Fourth 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:** John Hollister (johnh@zapdoodat.net)

**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