

The Magic Kingdom

Newsletter of the Friends of Swaziland
June 2003

Sanibonani!

Friends of Swaziland Group Leader's Letter, May 2003

I wanted to personally thank all of you who have joined Friends of Swaziland this year and also thank many of you who made additional financial contributions to the group. With your help, we have made significant strides in strengthening our organization. There are some FOS members that deserve special "Ngyibonga kakhulus" for their time and efforts over the last year that have been critical in advancing FOS goals:

Scott Lewis, FOS Treasurer, for his hard work in obtaining non-profit status for Friends of Swaziland (and the many other behind-the-scenes work he's done).

Guy and Susan Wroble for their generous donation that, along with regular member contributions, has finally made Friends of Swaziland a financially viable entity.

Once again to **Guy and Susan Wroble**, to **Mark Pierzchala and Lesley Cross**, and to **Jack and Bobbi Conrad**, for their generosity in setting up the matching program that will enable us to begin serious fundraising to help our friends and families in Swaziland during these difficult times. [See "FOS Campaign to Fund Swazi Projects" later in this issue.]

Finally, **Tom Gutnick** for editing this issue of *The Magic Kingdom*.

We're always looking for those who can help out with their time, particularly anyone who can assist or coordinate fundraising and identifying worthwhile projects in Swaziland that need funding. Of course there's plenty of regular organizational work too — a membership coordinator would be a big help as well as a full-time newsletter editor. So, if you can spare a little time, please drop me a line!

Salani kahle,
John von Reyn
RPCV Swaziland 1977-79

Update: Peace Corps Re-entry

Peace Corps is gearing up for re-entry, with the first Volunteers to be assigned to Swaziland since 1996. Most of the American staff is now in place. As announced in the last newsletter, the new Peace Corps Country Director is Winnie Emoungu, who is already in Swaziland. She has been joined by the Administrative Officer, Oghale Oddo. A Peace Corps Medical Officer has been named, Dr. Fraser Ward. The most recent hire is the Assistant Peace Corps

Director for Community Health Konstantin ("Gus") Kanturas. According to Helene Montiel, the desk officer at Peace Corps assigned to Swaziland (as well as Lesotho, Mozambique, South Africa, and Zimbabwe), Mr. Kanturas has worked in Swaziland before with Peace Corps Volunteers, so his may be a familiar name to some of you. He will be taking the place of Saul Sigelagelani, who had been assigned to Swaziland on temporary duty.

As mentioned previously, Peace Corps will be recruiting about 30 volunteers to work in the health/HIV-AIDS area. It is expected that they will begin their pre-service training in mid-September of this year.

FOS Campaign to Fund Swazi Projects

Friends of Swaziland (FOS) announces the start of a fundraising campaign to help support projects in Swaziland.

FOS passed a milestone on March 13, 2003, when the IRS granted FOS tax-exempt status as an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The practical benefit of this new status is that donations to FOS are now tax-deductible.

Shortly after gaining this status, FOS members Guy and Susan Wroble donated \$2,000 to FOS to support general operations of the group. This helps tremendously because FOS must maintain a minimum balance in its checking account as well as cover expenses of mailing out the newsletter, paying affiliation dues to the National Peace Corps Association, etc.

The Wrobles have in addition announced a \$2,000 challenge grant to FOS members! What this means is that Guy and Susan will match donations "dollar for dollar" up to a total of \$2,000. Mark Pierzchala and Jack Conrad have augmented this with additional challenges giving FOS a total of \$2,500 available for matching donations.

As an incentive to donate to this fund the FOS Board of Directors has decided that those donating \$50 will receive the 2004 International Calendar produced each year by the Wisconsin-Madison RPCV group. A donation of \$75 will get you the soon-to-be-released music CD produced in support of the Royal Initiative to Combat AIDS (RICA) that will feature Miriam Makeba among others. FOS members heard a preview of this CD last fall and it is going to be something you will definitely want to own! Donate \$100 and FOS will send you both the calendar and the CD! For those not already members of FOS, any donation at these

levels will also include a one-year membership in Friends of Swaziland (a \$15 value).

Please consider a donation now and remember that every dollar you donate generates an additional dollar from our generous sponsors. Remember that your donations are tax-deductible (less the value of gifts). Our incentive gifts will be shipped to those who donate when they become available later on in the year.

At the same time we urgently need people willing to Volunteer some time to identify projects in Swaziland we could fund. Our initial thoughts are to contact Peace Corps staff in Swaziland in order to inform them of our ability to provide modest funding to complement their program. The first group of Volunteers will arrive in Swaziland later this year to work in a program dealing with HIV-AIDS. Perhaps a portion of our funds could be used to eventually develop a small grants program for PCV projects. It is also possible that PC's partners in Swaziland may be candidates for receiving funding. Members of the FOS Board have suggested that FOS funds should not be available to PCVs until they have been in their jobs for at least 6 months. This is consistent with PC's general policy that it typically takes Volunteers at least that long to assess community needs accurately and to effectively coordinate funded projects.

To make sure our funds are used wisely, we really do need some people to volunteer some time to explore possibilities. Initial activities for someone willing to volunteer their time would be to take responsibility for contacting Peace Corps Swaziland staff, identifying worthy organizations in Swaziland and being willing to work with a small group of others to develop funding recommendations/options for presentation to the FOS Board of Directors.

To summarize, we are asking you to consider making a donation to FOS as part of the Wrobles' Challenge Grant Offer and also to consider volunteering some time to identify worthy projects to fund. If you are not in a position to donate money, your donation of time is equally valuable to the group.

Please contact Group Leader John von Reyn for offers of assistance to identify/develop projects. Monetary donations can be sent to FOS Treasurer Scott Lewis. If you wish to add to core funding to generate additional matching donations, please let Scott know by sending him an e-mail at FriendsofSwazi@aol.com. Make checks payable to "Friends of Swaziland" and mail to:

Friends of Swaziland
c/o Scott Lewis
1276 No. Wayne St. #425
Arlington, VA 22201

Siyabonga kakhulu

The Ambassador Writes...

from Mary Madzandza Kanya, Swazi
Ambassador to the United States

Dear Mr. von Reyn:

Sanibonani. I enjoyed your December issue of *The Magic Kingdom*. I am more delighted by the news of the Peace Corps return to Swaziland. So many positive things to address the AIDS pandemic are going on from the US Peace Corps. The President of the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation just came back from Swaziland. They will be working on MTC projects; they were joined by personnel from CDC and USAID. We got the Global Fund, etc.

My husband Leo and I would like to get in touch with the PCVs that we hosted at Swazi National at the teachers quarters in 1974/75, whose names are completely forgotten. Those that taught with us at the same school we remember Livacarri and Marty Cavetti. I also remember Ricardo who was at Ekukhanyeni in 1973/74. My husband also worked with Howard Hanks from Texas and Doug from Hawaii at Lubombo Central in 1972. We would like to get in touch with those that remember us. We love you all. YOU ARE GREAT AMERICANS and thank you for your continued support.

Every first Saturday of June the Embassy participates in The Race for the Cure. Most embassies participate in this event. We are a very small community so our team always depends on family friends to support it, people that have visited or worked in Swaziland. This year I am serving as the Chair for Southern Africa. It just occurred to me that you might be interested in supporting our team. For any further questions about this event please contact Lungi at the Embassy. I now also serve as Chair of the African Diplomatic Committee on HIV/AIDS and Other Infectious Diseases.

Regards,
Nilale Kahle.

Ngimi,
Make Kanya

Royal Initiative

[information taken from www.royalaid.org]

The Royal Initiative to Combat AIDS (RICA) was created by His Majesty King Mswati III to put Swaziland at the forefront in the international battle to combat HIV-AIDS as an integral part of the national effort to educate and involve Swazi citizens.

RICA's mission is to build wider awareness about the impact of HIV-AIDS on countries in Southern Africa, and to support community based and other organizations working to face the challenge of HIV-AIDS at the local level. RICA has a commitment to support local efforts to mitigate the impact of HIV-AIDS on their communities, to enhance

individual communities' ability to respond to the crisis, and to contribute to reversing the HIV-AIDS pandemic.

A meaningful part of the fund raising for The Royal Initiative to Combat AIDS activities will come from an innovative effort that combines entertainment with social responsibility. This will be the production and international sale of recorded music in a CD entitled "Songs for Life". A number of international artists have been invited to contribute one recorded performance each with a theme that invokes hope, brotherhood, togetherness, and the strength of Africa's people. The musicians include, among others, Mary J Blige, Destiny's Child, R Kelly, and other African artists such as Yvonne Chaka Chaka and Miriam Makeba. The Interscope-Vivendi distribution company is donating its services to distribute these songs so that all profits will be dedicated to The Royal Initiative to Combat AIDS and its cause to end HIV-AIDS. [The CD is due out later this year.]

FOS Website on Hiatus

by John von Reyn

I've recently changed Internet service providers, and my old provider no longer maintains the website. Look for it to be resurrected soon. We're still looking for a Webmaster (volunteer) who can make it more user friendly. Plans are to get our own web address, maybe "SwaziFriends.Org" or somesuch, and also to make the site interactive, so RPCVs can update their information on-line. If you're web-savvy or ready to be and have some ideas, please send me an e-mail.

Help Elect Swazi RPCV to NPCA Board!

Attention FOS members who are NPCA Members: Vote for Terry AmRhein for NPCA Board

Terry AmRhein, a fellow Swaziland RPCV (1973-75), is running for the "Central and Southern Africa Region" representative position on the NPCA Board. Ballots were mailed out to NPCA members in early May. Please remember to place your vote by June 20th. Terry has been active in NPCA and would make an excellent member to the Board.

Terry writes: "I have been an NPCA member and emissary for the Peace Corps for many years, but September 11 compelled me to become more involved. Terrorism will end only by spreading prosperity and human rights throughout the world. The Peace Corps can achieve this. I am dedicated to helping. I become an advocate for the NPCA and got two congressmen to sponsor the new Peace Corps Charter. I am a member of the NPCA advocacy committee and in February, I volunteered to be the NPCA National Advocacy Coordinator. My goal is to develop a strong, active advocacy network throughout the United States. The network can influence Congress to restore the Peace Corps

to its preeminent role of international development and help end terrorism."

Swazi Beads Join the Wired World

Following up on an item in the previous issue of *The Magic Kingdom*, Mike Staresinic writes: Have a look at



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www.swazibeadwork.com, a site under development throughout 2003. The mission of SwaziBeadwork is to enhance the appreciation and understanding of Swazi beadwork and arts. In time, research will be posted. By including quality visual and text content, the site aims to reinforce the growing trend of considering beadwork and arts of personal adornment as

important components of African Art.

RPCVs may be a source of great knowledge on the topic; submissions, photos and the like are welcome. Anything published is credited. [Contact Mike via e-mail at mikestaresinic@yahoo.com.]

Uhlalaphi? (Alumni News)

Dave Weston reports:

Our group ('84-86) had a reunion four summers ago, and I can tell you it was absolutely a riot! We had ours at a YMCA camp in Colorado (Estes Park), and reserved a big lodge there for the 4th of July weekend. (We chose Colorado because the people spearheading it lived in Denver.)

We spent 3 days there, and had people kick in for food; each lunch & dinner was "sponsored" by someone, so they planned a menu and organized that. We took walks, had a talent show, played games, had a slide show of '84-86 pictures (laughing at how we looked a little different then) and generally had a wonderful time just hanging out and catching up. All in all, we were 69 people, including spouses and kids, and for the most part, it wasn't too organized. Mostly just catching up and reliving old memories. Funny how different people have different versions of reality once their steeped in 20 years of telling.

Anyway, it was a LOT of fun, and well worth it. We'll be having another one in a couple years, and we can't wait to see what the time machine has done to our kids and each other.

PS: I started this PS to ask you if you knew of Peter Bechtel's whereabouts, but when I went to google, there he was. If he was in your group, you can get the latest at: <http://www.worldwildlife.org/expeditions/mozambique/bechtel.htm>

S. Boden writes: "I would like to pass the word to those who knew my brother, **Derek Neitzel**, that he passed away April 20, 2003, after a short illness. He treasured his time in the Peace Corps and the friends that he made while serving. To his friends in the Corps that may have stayed in touch with him, I know he would like to say goodbye. God bless you all for the time you have served."

Christopher Will Spargur, math/science teacher at Makhosini, (1992-95) went back to school and earned his Civil Engineering degree. He is now working as construction manager at San Francisco International Airport. You can contact him at cspargur87@earthlink.net.

Mary K. Ruetten, English teacher at New Haven Secondary School in Ezulweni (1968-70), is an English professor with a specialization in ESL and composition, as well as a text book writer, living in Louisiana. You can contact her at ruetten@attgolobal.net.

Treasurer's Report

by Scott Lewis

2002 Summary

Income:	\$1,297.05
Expenses:	\$970.21
Cash on Hand:	\$2,342.81
Liabilities:	\$750
(owed to Friends of Senegal and The Gambia)	
Net Assets:	\$1,592.81

2003 Summary (through May 12, 2003)

Income	
Direct Membership Dues	\$110
Donations	\$2,405
NPCA Membership Rebates	\$195
Bank interest	\$1.36
Total	\$2,711.36

Expenses	
FOS Social	\$129
NPCA 2003 Affiliation	\$73
Fedex	\$15.41
Loan repayment to	
Friends of Senegal and The Gambia	\$750
Total	\$967.41

Cash on hand	\$4,086.76
Liabilities:	0
Challenge grants (future income):	\$2,500

To maintain the required minimum balance for a free checking account, FOS previously obtained an interest-free loan from another RPCV group, Friends of Senegal and The Gambia. That loan has now been fully repaid.

Our main source of income is the rebates we receive from the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA). For every person who joins the NPCA we receive \$15. In addition, we have a number of people who take out direct memberships with FOS for \$15 per year.

The best way you can help improve the financial status of FOS is either to join the NPCA or to join FOS directly. As noted elsewhere in this issue, our non-profit status allows you to make tax-deductible donations to FOS in order to support projects in Swaziland.

FOS Electronic Connection

E-Group. Friends of Swaziland has an E-group to keep us connected and help share news, information, and ideas through an Internet-based SD-RPCV Network. One of the main goals of the E-group is to make it easy for us to stay in contact with each other by having one central e-mail address for broadcasting to members messages related to our group and Swaziland. Another goal of the E-group is make a difference where we can in projects and activities designed to assist Swaziland and Swazis. The address is: sdrpcvEmailList@yahoo.com.

To subscribe to the FOS E-group, simply send a request via e-mail to the group's moderator, Jack G. Conrad (Eku-khayeni 1984- 87), at JackGConrad@EarthLink.Net.

SD/RPCV Web Site. As noted in a previous article in this issue, the FOS Web site is currently unavailable. As soon as its new location is available, we'll send the URL via e-mail, or you can look it up by going to www.Google.com and typing in "Peace Corps Swaziland". Once you make it to the site, you'll find FOS announcements, news, a list of volunteers who have served in Swaziland, some useful siSwati phrases, and other entertaining bits. Contributions and comments on the website are always appreciated. Additional information on Swazi RPCVs can be found at <http://peacecorpsonline.org/messages/messages/467/1329.html>.

NPCA Affiliation

In May 2001, FOS re-affiliated with the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA). That means you can join both organizations in one easy step – first join NPCA, then designate FOS as your affiliated group. Fifteen dollars of your \$40 NPCA dues will be forwarded to FOS. Your contribution will help us greatly. You can sign up on-line at <https://secure.schoolyard.com/rpcv/howtojoin.cfm>, or use the form at the end of this newsletter.

Your FOS Officers

Group Leader	John von Reyn
Communications/E-Group	Jack Conrad
Webmaster	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
Treasurer	Scott Lewis
Newsletter Editor	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
Fundraising Coordinator	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
Steering Committee	Lorraine Stehn
Steering Committee	Susan Soares
Steering Committee	Mark Pierzchala



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[Editor's note: as Swaziland faces unprecedented economic, political, and health challenges, I felt it would be useful to ponder the Swazi national anthem. Adopted at Independence in 1968, it was written at a time when the nation faced other daunting challenges.]

Swaziland National Anthem

Andrease Enoke Fanyana Simelane / David Rycroft

Nku-lu-nku - lu Mni-ka-ti we-ti - bu - si - so te-Ma - swa-ti, Si - ya-ti - bo-nga to-nkhe ti-
 - nhla-nhla, Si-bo-nga i-Ngwe-nya-ma ye - thfu, Li - ve ne-ti-ntsa - ba ne-mi - fu-la. Bu-si - sa ti-
 - pha-tsi ma - ndla ta-ka Ngwa-ne Ngu-we we-dvwa So-man-dla we - thfu; Si - ni - ke ku-hla-ka-
 - ni - pha lo - ku-nge-na-bu - ci - li; Si - mi - se u-si-ci-ni - se, Si-ma - ka - dze.

siSwati words

Nkulunkulu Mnikati wetibusiso teMaswati,
 Siyatibonga tonkhe tinhlanhla,
 Sibonga iNgwenyama yethfu,
 Live netintsaba nemifula.

Busisa tiphatsi mandla taka Ngwane
 Nguwe wedvwa Somandla wethfu;
 Sinike kuhlanipha lokungenabucili
 Simise usicinise, Simakadze.

English words

O Lord our God, bestower of the blessings of the Swazi;
 We give Thee thanks for all our good fortune;
 We offer thanks and praise for our king;
 And for our fair land, its hills and rivers;

The Blessings be on all rulers of our country;
 Might and power are Thine alone;
 We pray Thee to grant us wisdom without deceit or malice.
 Establish and fortify us, Lord Eternal.

Friends of Swaziland Membership

Membership in Friends of Swaziland brings you, in addition to all issues of our Newsletter, special mailings announcing the annual meeting, reunions, etc. Membership also brings you the satisfaction of contributing to the goals and aims of Friends of Swaziland. To join, complete this form and return it with your check.

You can also join the National Peace Corps Association and Friends of Swaziland at the same time (joint membership) NPCA members receive the quarterly magazine *World view*, the newsletter 3/1/61, eligibility for the National Convention, credit cards, Congressional representation, and other benefits. NPCA dues and contributions can be tax deductible.

Name		Today's Date
Street		Home Phone
City	State	Zip
Current Occupation		Email
Experience in Swaziland: (PCVs list Peace Corps job; Academics: list field and research topics; Swazis: list profession or field of study)		
Years in Swaziland	Site/Hometown	Job Assignment (math teacher, etc.)

We like to keep an update on our members. Please answer the following questions (use additional paper if needed)..

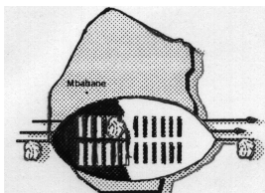
1. Briefly, what have you done since leaving Peace Corps? What are you doing now?
2. What projects or programs would you like to see FOS involved in (either in the U.S. or Swaziland)? Can you help?
3. What news features would or do you like in the FOS newsletter?

Areas of Interest: Check potential FOS Activities in which you would be most interested:

- Newsletter Reunions/Gatherings Trips to Swaziland
 FOS Officer/staff position Fund raising Other: _____

JOINT MEMBERSHIP IN FRIENDS OF SWAZILAND and NPCA		Easy method: Join from NPCA Website www.rpcv.org Otherwise send to address below.
Individual Friends of Swaziland & NPCA membership	\$50.00 _____	
Dual FOS/NPCA Memberships (two persons, one address)	\$65.00 _____	Send to: Friends of Swaziland c/o Scott Lewis 1276 N. Wayne St., Apt.425 Arlington, VA 22201
MEMBERSHIP IN FRIENDS OF SWAZILAND only		
Individual Friends of Swaziland membership	\$15.00 _____	
Dual FOS Membership (two persons, one address)	\$20.00 _____	
Additional donation to Friends of Swaziland. Thank you!! (Donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.)	\$ _____	
TOTAL ENCLOSED (payable to Friends of Swaziland)	\$ _____	

The information collected on this form will be used by FOS and will be made available only to those organizations whose purposes are consistent with the aims of FOS. It will not be sold or traded for commercial purposes. The information may be used in the FOS Directory unless you request otherwise.



Friends of Swaziland

c/o J. von Reyn
6194 Deer Path Court
Manassas, VA 20112

Address correction requested

To help us with our mailing costs, please consider joining – only \$15.