



# The Magic Kingdom

Newsletter of the Friends of Swaziland

March  
2002

## Sanibonani!!

And welcome to Friends of Swaziland's first newsletter for the millennium – I know, it just seems like yesterday when we were in the old millennium. Anyway, our best intentions are to make the publication of the newsletter a semi-annual event.

Since this is the first issue in a while, we'll be a bit skimpy on alumni news, but hope you'll supply us with what's new in your life and would appreciate any amusing anecdotes/memories of Swaziland to spice up the newsletter. Better yet, if you've been back recently, we'd like to get your story. If you have any news, please send it via email to [vonreynj@prodigy.net](mailto:vonreynj@prodigy.net).

Over the last year we've managed to get FOS re-organized. We established a web page, set up an e-group for communicating news about Swaziland (Thanks, Jack Conrad), reaffiliated with the National Peace Corps Association, and set up a new Bank account (Thanks Scott Lewis). We'd like to thank Mark Pierzchala for keeping the group going through some lean years and for his continued involvement.

There's still plenty to be done. We'd like to get some fundraising going to help out some worthy charities in Swaziland. Also, there's some interest in lobbying for a return of Peace Corps to Swaziland. A newsletter editor would also be appreciated, so please step forward!

Hope to see you all at the Peace Corps conference in June.

Salani kahle,

John von Reyn  
Group Leader and RPCV/SD 1977-79

## Peace Corps Reportedly to Re-Enter Swaziland

In an article in the February 22, 2002, the Times of Swaziland reported that the new US Ambassador to Swaziland, James David McGee announced the Peace Corps would be returning to Swaziland by the end of the year. With the proposed doubling of the Peace Corps as mentioned in President Bush's State of the Union message, the return is quite possible. See the full article in the News from Swaziland section of this newsletter.

## Swaziland RPCVs Reunion Time - *Come to the Peace Corps Conference or Just Come to the FOS Events June 20-23*

The Peace Corps' 40th Anniversary Conference, originally scheduled for September but cancelled because of the 9/11 tragedy, will now take place June 20-23, in Washington, D.C. FOS had originally scheduled a number of FOS events around the conference including a reception at the Swazi Embassy and dinner at a Senegalese restaurant. We'll be having something similar in June, so by all means, plan to attend the conference.

Definitely plan on attending our reunion activities on Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup>. **On Saturday** at 3:00 there will be a country update/FOS business meeting, followed by either a Swazi embassy reception or the dinner at the Senegalese restaurant (if dinner, expect it to cost \$20-25). At 10:00, there will be an international dance at the conference hotel, which will cost conference non-attendees about \$10. (Conference attendees get in for "free".) **On Sunday**, FOS will be participating in the march by country to Arlington National Cemetery for a memorial service to honor the Peace Corps Volunteers who died while in service, and the picnic afterwards on the National mall.

The conference itself should be really worthwhile. The keynote address on Friday is to be by Alejandro Toledo, the president of Peru, There will be lots of panels, a career workshop, an international bazaar just to name a few. For more information on the June conference, check out the National Peace Corps Association website at [www.rpcv.org](http://www.rpcv.org). You can also see an abbreviated conference schedule further down in the *Magic Kingdom*.

## Country Update Panelists Needed for Conference

If you've been to Swaziland recently, or know a lot about what's going on there, please consider being a panelist during the Swaziland country update session on Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> (see above). Send an email to John von Reyn at [vonreynj@prodigy.net](mailto:vonreynj@prodigy.net) if you can help out. Otherwise, we may have to rely on some very old slides (circa 1979) for our entertainment. Speaking of, be sure and bring pictures if you're attending any of the events to help in the reminiscing.

## FOS meets with Swazi Ambassador to the U.S. Ambassador announces the "Royal Initiative to Combat AIDS"

Scott Lewis (1978-80) and John von Reyn, (1977-79), had a very cordial visit with the Swazi Ambassador to the United States Mary Kanza, at the Swaziland Embassy in Washington, D.C., The main purpose of the meeting was to let the Ambassador know about the Friends of Swaziland and our hopes to work with the embassy on items of mutual interest. Ambassador Kanza knows Peace Corps well, as she helped train a group of math/science PCVs in 1978. She expressed interest in having Peace Corps return to Swaziland. She also informed us about an initiative of King Mswati, "The Royal Initiative to Combat AIDS," a not-for-profit corporation established to raise funds to fight the spread of HIV-AIDS in Southern Africa. The Initiative is currently involved in producing a CD, entitled "Songs for Life", which will be recorded by international artists, with all funds resulting from it dedicated to the Initiative.

If you would like to help out the Initiative, you can write the Embassy at 1712 New Hampshire Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20009 or call at 202-234-5002.

## FOS's Electronic Connection

**E-Group ing.** Friends of Swaziland (FOS) now has a 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 FOS 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](mailto:sdrpcvEmailList@yahoo.com)

Individuals interested in subscribing to the FOS E-group can simply send a request to the group's moderator, Jack G. Conrad at [JackGConrad@EarthLink.Net](mailto:JackGConrad@EarthLink.Net) (Ekukhayeni 1984-87).

**SD/RPCV Web Page.** Visit FOS Web Page at <http://pages.prodigy.net/vonreyn/index.htm>. If that's hard to remember, you can always go to [www.Google.com](http://www.Google.com) and type in Peace Corps Swaziland. Once you make it to the web page, 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.

## 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 in getting the FOS back together. **Don't delay, join today**

<https://secure.schoolyard.com/rpcv/howtojoin.cfm>

## Peace Corps Conference Schedule (Tentative)

Dates: Thurs. June 20 through Sun. June 23

**Location: Omni Shoreham , Washington, D.C.**

**Wednesday, June 19:** Advocacy Day Orientation (7 pm - 10 pm)

**Thursday, June 20:** Business Symposium , Advocacy Day (Capitol Hill), Global Challenge, Welcome Reception, (6 pm – 8 pm Library of Congress)

**Friday, June 21:** Bazaar (9 am – 9 pm Omni Shoreham) Career Fair (9 am - 5 pm Omni Shoreham) Opening Ceremony (9 am –10 am Constitution Hall) Ruppe and Shriver Awards (10 am -10:45 am Constitution Hall), Host Country National Awards Ceremony (10:45 am - 11:30 Constitution Hall) Live Chat with Peace Corps Volunteers (Noon – 5 pm Omni Shoreham), Panels and Workshops (1 pm – 5 pm Omni Shoreham), **Country of Service Group Dinners (embassies and restaurants)** Peace Corps Staff Reception (6 pm – 9 pm)

**Saturday, June 22** Bazaar (9 am – 3 pm Omni Shoreham) Career Workshops (9 am – 5 pm Omni Shoreham), Multi-Cultural Education event (9 am – 5 pm George Washington University Campus) Volunteer Day (8 am – Noon TBA), President's Forum/Annual General Meeting (10-noon Omni Shoreham), Panels, Workshops (Noon - 4 Omni Shoreham) **FOS Meeting and Country Updates (3–5 location to be announced)**, Fundraising Reception and Dinner (6 pm – 10 pm Omni Shoreham), Dance (10 pm – 1 am Omni Shoreham)

**Sunday, June 23:** March to Arlington /Closing ceremony (Memorial Bridge and Arlington National Cemetery), Picnic and Games (Ball fields at 23<sup>rd</sup> and Constitution),

## Your FOS Officers

Group Leader	John von Reyn
Communications/E-Group	Jack Conrad
Treasurer	Scott Lewis
Steering Committee	Lorraine Stehn
Steering Committee	Susan Soares
Steering Committee	Mark Pierzchala

**FOS Financial Summary (May 2001 through Jan 2002) by Scott Lewis, Treasurer**

Friends of Swaziland's (FOS) bank balance at the end of January 2002 was \$765.34. Income was primarily derived from membership rebates provided to FOS by the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA). In addition, a fund-raising happy-hour get together in December raised \$82, which is tentatively earmarked for the Royal Swazi AIDS Initiative.

#### Income

NPCA membership rebates (May-December 2001)	\$682.50
Happy Hour proceeds (Royal Swazi AIDS Initiative)	82.00
Checking account interest	.84

Total income **\$765.34**

Expenses **\$0**

Net Balance **\$765.34**

To date there are 48 people who listed Friends of Swaziland (FOS) as their affiliate group when they paid for their membership in the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA). FOS receives a \$15 rebate for each paid member (\$22.50 for couples) in the NPCA. In addition, NPCA has provided us each month the names of people who served in Swaziland and renewed their NPCA membership but who joined another NPCA affiliate group. So far we have about 15 people in this category (who need to be recruited back to FOS!).

I feel that this is an excellent start given that FOS only began this reorganization last May. As more people realize that FOS is active again I think that the number of people wishing to list FOS as their affiliate group could easily reach 100 per year. This would provide an income of about \$1500 per year for FOS.

Necessary expenses for 2002 will be the cost of putting out the newsletter, the reaffiliation fee with NPCA for 2002, and expenses associated with the National Peace Corps Association conference in June 2002.

#### Great Swazi Recipes

Okay, so we don't have any, but it would be great to have something. If you're knowledgeable in this area, please submit something to the newsletter.

#### Great Swazi Music

Okay, so we don't have anything for this column either. This is your chance. If you're a music aficionado, please submit something to the newsletter.

**Next Newsletter.** We're planning on sending out the newsletter twice a year, so the next issue will appear around August. If you would like to submit an article, please send it

to [vonreyvj@prodigy.net](mailto:vonreyvj@prodigy.net). We're still in search of a full-time newsletter editor, so please consider volunteering.

#### Uhlalaphi? (Alumni News)

##### 1960s

**Lawrence Carleton – 1968-71, Ikhwezi & Ekukhanyeni.** Secondary school teacher -- math, African history, general science, biology, English lit. Contact Lawrence at [lrcarleton@aol.com](mailto:lrcarleton@aol.com)

**Chris Mathews** – is host of Hardball on CNN.

**Frank Orban – 68-70, Mbabane** is an attorney in the international law firm of deKieffer & Horgan in Washington, DC" Contact Frank at [forban@ptdprolog.net](mailto:forban@ptdprolog.net).

##### 1970s

**Tim Miner, 1970-71** is living in Georgia. Contact Tim at [javasea2@gateway.net](mailto:javasea2@gateway.net)

**Jay Lubin, 1971-73, Hlatikulu,** is living in Maryland. Contact Jay at [lubinj@mail.nih.gov](mailto:lubinj@mail.nih.gov)

**Tom Gutnick, 1972-75, Mhlume Central School/William Pitcher College.** Currently a computer consultant in the Washington, DC, area. Contact Tom at [tom\\_gutnick@principia.edu](mailto:tom_gutnick@principia.edu)

**Jim Lichtenstein - : 72-75 William Pitcher College, Manzini** – is living in North Carolina. Jim writes "I have recently retired from Lenoir-Rhyne in Hickory NC where I was a Professor of Education. I am a technology consultant in my company JimLich Technologies." Contact Jim at [jimlich@mac.com](mailto:jimlich@mac.com)

**Lynne Lichtenstein - 72-75 William Pitcher College, Manzini.** Lynne writes "I have been teaching over 20 years at Catawba Valley Community College in Hickory, NC. I was selected as Teacher of the Year for community colleges for the state of North Carolina last year." Contact Lynne at [Lynnelich@yahoo.com](mailto:Lynnelich@yahoo.com)

**Daniel G. Kreuzer, 1973-74, Ntshanini and Hlatikulu** is Director, Human Resources at Milpitas Unified School District. Contact Daniel at [dkreuzer@musd.org](mailto:dkreuzer@musd.org).

**Richard & Dorothy Tuthill – 75-77, Mbabane,** a math teacher at Mbabane Central High School is living in Connecticut and writes "Married to Dorothy Sibiya Tuthill from Motshane and Piggs Peak for 22 years now. Two sons, Mandla and Charles. Contact the Tuthills at [tuthills@mindspring.com](mailto:tuthills@mindspring.com)

**Paul Furbacher – 1977-80, Dvololwako** - Agriculture and Science Teacher, now lives in New Jersey. Contact Paul at [pfurbacher@mac.com](mailto:pfurbacher@mac.com)

**Patty Barker (von Reyn) – Nhlanguano/Mbabane 77-79** is a physics teacher at Seton School in Manassas, VA, has 3 children and still nurtures a deep affection for her husband. she met almost 25 years ago in the elevator at the Harrington Hotel in Washington, D.C. on her way to Swaziland.. Contact Patty at [<pbvr@prodigy.net>](mailto:pbvr@prodigy.net)

**John von Reyn – Mbabane 77-79** is an Information Management Specialist at Farm Credit Administration in McLean, Virginia. Contact John at [vonreynJ@prodigy.net](mailto:vonreynJ@prodigy.net)

**Rick Enkoji – 1977-80, (Entonjeni High School)** is now living in Mississippi. Contact Rick at [renkoji@bellsouth.net](mailto:renkoji@bellsouth.net)

**Tom and Lorraine Stehn – 1977-79, Mbabane, are now living in Aransas Pass, Texas.** Tom is Whooping Crane Coordinator for the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the wildlife biologist for Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. Lorraine is a family practitioner in solo practice- Lorraine Stehn DO, PA (professional association). Contact the Stehns at [tstehn@interconnect.net](mailto:tstehn@interconnect.net).

**Scott Lewis - (Forestry Officer at Malkerns Research Station 78-80)** works as a natural resources advisor in the Foreign Agricultural Service of the US Dept. of Agriculture. Contact Scott at [Adansoniad@aol.com](mailto:Adansoniad@aol.com).

**Rocky Perham – 78-82 Mahamba/Lobamba.** Contact Rocky at [rperham@finstechnology.com](mailto:rperham@finstechnology.com).

**Jim Carl – 79-81, Matata** (Cooperative Field Advisor stationed at the Low Veldt Agricultural Station) is now living in California. Contact Jim at [birchcarl@netptc.net](mailto:birchcarl@netptc.net)

## 1980s

**Terry Smith – Ntshanini 80-82** works at the Workforce Development Center in East Mattoon, Illinois. Contact Terry at [tsmith@lakeland.cc.il.us](mailto:tsmith@lakeland.cc.il.us)

**Bob Chalou, 1980-82.** Contact Bob at [chalou@egr.msu.edu](mailto:chalou@egr.msu.edu)

**Harriet Saks – 1982-86, Vuvulane High School/Nyamane Secondary School.** Contact Harriet at [harriet\\_saks@yahoo.com](mailto:harriet_saks@yahoo.com)

**Joan O'Connor – 1982-84, Hlatikulu High School** is now living in California. Joan writes, “Got my Masters in International Affairs and was accepted into the Foreign Service. However, found out I was pregnant the same week I got my acceptance letter so I ended up staying in California working for Intel Corp. instead.” Contact Joan at [joan\\_ocomnor95662@yahoo.com](mailto:joan_ocomnor95662@yahoo.com)

**Penny Lowry – 83-84, Swaziland.** Is living in California and writes that she is now a counselor at Merced College. Contact Penny at [granni5@webtv.net](mailto:granni5@webtv.net)

**Jack Conrad** (Ekukhanyeni 1984-87) & wife Bobbi had their first child, Kara Mae, on September 18, 2001. They are looking forward to introducing her to France later this spring. Contact Jack at [jackgconrad@earthlink.net](mailto:jackgconrad@earthlink.net) “or see <http://home.earthlink.net/~jackgconrad/index.html> .”

**Julia Coffman Rosen, 1984-87, Mpolonjeni High School .** Julia now works as health and safety officer (industrial hygienist – OSHA stuff) at the University of Arizona. Contact Julia at [jcrozen@email.arizona.edu](mailto:jcrozen@email.arizona.edu)

**Dave and Diana Weston – 84-86, Kalamdladla Secondary School** are living in Saudi Arabia. They write, “We’re working with the Saudi Aramco Schools in Ras Tanura, Saudi Arabia. Dave is Assistant Principal, and Diana teaches 2nd grade. Daughters Karin and Leah are in 6th and 4th grade. We visited SD in Dec. 99. Life is very good!” Contact the Westons at [westondc@aramco.com.sa](mailto:westondc@aramco.com.sa).

**Andy Passen – Cana School 81-84** For past 16 years, Foreign Service Officer, served in Nigeria, Zambia, Switzerland, Cote D'Ivoire, Canada, and now Dakar, Senegal. Contact Andy at [andyjean@sentoo.sn](mailto:andyjean@sentoo.sn)

**Patrick Fine, 1980-84 and Susan French Fine:** 1982-84 write “We are working for USAID in Dakar, Senegal. We have two boys, Joshua Dumisa, age 11 (born in Swaziland), and Zachary, age 7. We were delighted to have a PC friend, Andy Passen (Consular Officer at the Embassy), and his family move here last year. The Fines and the Passens went on a fascinating but strenuous 12-day overland trip to Mali in December/January. Any Swaziland RPCVs who come to Senegal are welcome to get in touch with us.” Contact the Fines [sfine@usaid.gov](mailto:sfine@usaid.gov).

**Jim Wichmann 83-85, Nhlanguano** (Eveleyn Baring) is living in Wisconsin. Contact Jim at [teacher1@grantsburgtelcom.net](mailto:teacher1@grantsburgtelcom.net).

**Guy Wroble – 1984-86, Mzimpofu** Math and Science Teacher at St. Joseph's High School is now living in Denver, Colorado. Contact Guy at [GuyWroble@juno.com](mailto:GuyWroble@juno.com).

**Max Clayton, 84-86, Mphundle** Secondary School is living in Dill City Oklahoma. Max says, “I plan to be back in SD for the summer if anyone wants to know.” Contact Max at [mavukela@hotmail.com](mailto:mavukela@hotmail.com)

**Jon Fryzek – 87-89, Nhlanguano** (Math and Science teacher) is now living in Gaithersburg, MD. Contact Jon at [fryzek@aol.com](mailto:fryzek@aol.com)

**Jeffrey S. Crowley - 1989-90 Nsongweni High School**

Science Teacher. Contact Jeffrey at [js.crowley@verizon.net](mailto:js.crowley@verizon.net).

**Jonathan Dushoff - 1987-89, Mpaka** Math/science teacher is now at the Ecology Department, Guyot Hall, Princeton University, Princeton NJ 08540. Contact Johathan at [dushoff@eno.princeton.edu](mailto:dushoff@eno.princeton.edu).

**Amy Knowlton – 1988-90, St. Philip's High School, Mhlatuze** is at Department of Health Policy and Management, Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health. Contact Amy at [aknowlto@jhsph.edu](mailto:aknowlto@jhsph.edu).

**David Sullivan – 1989-91**, is now living in Washington, D.C. Contact David at [sullidar@bellatlantic.net](mailto:sullidar@bellatlantic.net).

## 1990s

**Satcha Dearborn – 93-95, Malindza High School** lives in Washington state and writes, “I have begun working with a non-profit called Strategic Education Center and their first project is a collaboration with Swaziland, focusing on a girls after school program with curriculum focusing on computer training, AIDS education, math and science support, and FUN!” Contact Satcha at [satchadear@hotmail.com](mailto:satchadear@hotmail.com).

**Susan Soares – 93-96** lives in California. Contact Susan at [spes@pe.net](mailto:spes@pe.net).

**Debbie Simerlink – 94-96, Ngcina** (Math/science teacher) is living in Maryland. Contact Debbie at [dsimerlink@worldnet.att.net](mailto:dsimerlink@worldnet.att.net)

## Letters

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a Swazi student living here in London, UK. I recently programmed a new Swaziland discussion forum at [www.ernieboy.com/maintopics.jsp](http://www.ernieboy.com/maintopics.jsp). I was wondering if you could be kind enough to put this link up in your site so that friends of Swaziland could discuss matter pertaining to Swaziland. Thanks

Yours Faithfully

Ernest fakudze

**Swaziland Spotted Hyaena Project -- Mlawula Nature Reserve** by Jim Collins (taken from the Swaziland elist)

I am based in the UK at the moment but will be traveling to Swaziland at the end of April to work with the Swaziland National Trust Commission leading a project to monitor and conserve the Hyaena population in the country. I have worked with the SNTC before, in 1999, providing a management report on the ungulate species in the Mlawula Nature Reserve

where I will be based again.

The project is partly funded by a UK organisation and other help is being given by the SNTC and University of Swaziland who will be trained over the next 5 months to continue the work.

I am interested in joining the mailing list because past experience has taught me that getting things done in Swaziland is often about who you know rather than what you know! I would imagine that having spent a considerable time in Swaziland, your members would be a mine of useful information. I will also be working with the Reserve's community outreach program to provide materials for use with the people close to the reserve – principally Shewula and Mhlumeni (<http://www.sntc.org.sz/programs/mlacop.html>). You can read some more about the project on my web site. <http://www.freewebz.com/swaziland>

Thanks for your time,  
Jim Collins.

**Ekhaya by Dave Long** [dlong@hrcn.com](mailto:dlong@hrcn.com)

From the Ekhaya web page ([www.ekhaya.org](http://www.ekhaya.org)) “Ekhaya, means house or home in Zulu and Swati. This relates to our goal which is to provide assistance to the orphaned children of Africa in such a way that it enables as many children as possible to remain at home (in homesteads) cared for by members of their extended family. This support is channeled through existing local grass root organizations, which provide food, shelter and education for the orphans.

Ekhaya representatives have visited organizations in [South Africa](#), [Zimbabwe](#) and [Swaziland](#). Many of these organizations have either received funding from Ekhaya or are being considered for donations in the near future.

Please feel free to explore our web site and [links](#) to other sites to see how you can participate and [contribute](#) to easing this problem. Take time to sign our [guestbook](#) to be notified as updated information is added to this site.”

David writes, “Recently, I had the opportunity to return to Southern Africa. I arrived in Johannesburg on Sept.20 and stayed for 14 days. This was a busy trip. Along with my Swazi son, Jeffrey we drove to Swaziland, Zimbabwe, Botswana then returned to South Africa. We visited and conducted video taped interviews at 14 organizations, and made several rural visits during our travels.

In Swaziland, we visited SOS Childrens Village in Mbabane and revisited Orphan AID and Save the Children. Save the Children took us to 3 homesteads in the community. In Zimbabwe, we visited Family AIDS Caring Trust in Chiredzi, Mashambanzou Care Trust in Harare, Matabeleland AIDS Council in Bulawayo, Misiye Camp outside Bulawayo, and Tsungirirai in Norton ( outside Harare). Our thanks to Victoria James APCD Zimbabwe for arranging our visits in

Zimbabwe.

In South Africa we visited Moses Sihlangu Health Care Centre in White River, Vulamehlo AIDS Organization in Hazyview, Reach for Life in Emalahleni, Thandanani in Barberton and TIPHC in Emalahleni. Our thanks to Cam Garrett, APCD South Africa for arranging our visits in South Africa.

Unfortunately when we arrived in Botswana we found out it was a holiday and were not able to make any stops.

Information on many of these organizations is now posted on the Ekhaya website [www.ekhaya.org](http://www.ekhaya.org).

### **What I Did in Swaziland (taken from an email from Mark Sigfrids)**

John,

I'll try to give a few particulars for you. I was a mathematics instructor at Bethel Secondary School, later changed to Masiphula Secondary School and now Masiphula High School, about 25 miles east of Nhlanguano on the road to Lavumisa. I arrived in July 1975 and extended for a year, through 1978. I was stationed with another volunteer, Mark Kromer, who taught science. With the help of several friends, (our headmaster, Mr. Nsibande, Mark, and a Mr. Bill Nyland (from USA) from a neighboring school, we obtained funding from USAID and bought a pump to pump water into some tanks on a hill and then bring the water down to the teacher housing, school, and local community. I also spent time working on the Junior Certificate Additional Mathematics course for gifted students in mathematics. I married Alice Bhembe in December 1978 and continued teaching in Swaziland. We moved to Mbabane where I taught at Mbabane Central High School from 1979 through 1986. While I was teaching at Mbabane C.H.S., Alice was working as a language instructor for the Peace Corps, then over the years (79 - 86) she took on more responsibilities with the Peace Corps working with Ray Maseko in planning the daily schedules, and running the training groups. We returned to the U.S. in 1986 and Alice enrolled in a local community college. I completed my master's degree and became employed as a mathematics instructor at Kalamazoo Valley Community College, where I continue to work. Alice finished community college and went to Western Michigan University. She has subsequently finished two master's degrees and is about a year and a half from finishing her PhD. While in Swaziland I worked with John Hay, the mathematics inspector at that time, on a new textbook series published by McMillan/Boleswa. I wrote two of the chapters in the textbook, and when I took my sister back for a visit to Swaziland (1999), I still see they use the same book and my name was still in it. I am currently waiting word for a positive response to a Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Proposal I helped put together for Swaziland, Botswana and South Africa. If it is successful we will be leaving for Swaziland at the end of June with 15 community college instructors from around the Midwest which are part of a consortium which writes curriculum materials for internationalizing courses they teach.

I really enjoyed my 11 years in Swaziland and I have shared my experiences countless times at conferences and at activities held at my community college, such as International Night. Alice returned to Swaziland in the late 80's to do several training programs. We have two children. I hope when I retire, I will again join the Peace Corps and return to Southern Africa. I had also hoped to spend my summers in Swaziland or Botswana, volunteering on my own to teach mathematics in a rural school from May to August. I would then return to KVCC for the Fall Semester.

Sorry I made this so long. Once I get going about Swaziland it is tuff to stop me.

Hope this helps, and again thank you for all your hard work.

We really appreciate it.

Mark Sigfrids

### **Books of Interest**

**RIGHT BEFORE HIS VERY EYES An Encounter With the Mysteries of Africa by Donovan Russell**

From the Foreword

**Look, look from this rooftop of Africa, look from this cathedraled pinnacle in the Mountain Kingdom. Look from Lesotho down silent canyons toward Transkei, toward Natal, toward the northeastern Cape. Listen, listen to the wind, listen to revered ancestors watching over their people and whispering of the new arrivals.**

**Listen in the wind for a place where people have time for each other and there is security in family and community. Where there is respect and courtesy between the generations and sharing is still a virtue. Where life is a spiritual thing and being is as important as doing or having.**

**What does the wind say about such a place? What does it foretell?**

#### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

*Donovan Russell taught in schools and colleges in New York, Maryland and Quebec. His graduate studies were completed at Cornell University. Dr. Russell was Director of Education Planning for a Canadian Province and served in the North Carolina Department of Education.*

*Later he managed overseas development projects for several organizations. For some of the years that he was overseas he served as Country Director for the Peace Corps in Africa (Lesotho) and in Asia (Nepal). He currently manages an Asian Development Bank project for the Academy for Educational Development and is President of Educate the Children based in Ithaca, N.Y.*

**The Book is 318 pages.** It is available online from Writer's Showcase Publications. Please go to [www.iuniverse.com](http://www.iuniverse.com) Click on bookstore and then click on booksearch. Or telephone the publisher toll free at 877-823-9235. In addition

Barnes and Noble has the book at [www.bn.com](http://www.bn.com) as does Amazon.com at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

## News from Swaziland

(Some articles have been edited to fit the newsletter – See the e-list archive for more news.)

### US Peace Corps returning

The Times of Swaziland, February 22, 2002  
BY SIBONGILE SUKATI

LOZITHA - The United States Peace Corps will return to Swaziland before the end of the year to assist in the HIV/AIDS battle. They were last in the country in 1992. This was revealed by the new US Ambassador to Swaziland James David McGee yesterday when he presented his letter of credence to His Majesty King Mswati 111. During his audience with the king Ambassador McGee said he would like to strengthen and build even closer ties between the two countries by assisting the Swazi nation to realise its aspirations. "As you mentioned in your speech from the Throne during the opening of parliament, economic stimulation is an absolute must for the nation," McGee said. He stated that Swaziland's participation in the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) and the country's eligibility under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) has already led external investors to look at Swaziland with renewed interest. "I assure you that I will seek every opportunity to assist Swaziland in taking full advantage of AGOA to attract investment and in creating a domestic environment conducive to investment," he said. He emphasised that the key element of a business friendly environment is good governance for which a legal framework is required. "Your creation of a constitutional drafting committee is a major step in creating a business-friendly environment," he added. McGee said the U.S is keenly interested in the progress towards a constitution that advances the rule of law, democracy and human rights in Swaziland.

### DEVELOPMENT-SWAZILAND: SUMMER DELUGE BRINGS MORE MISERY by James Hall

MBABANE, Feb. 7 (IPS) -- The skies opened this week, releasing a long-overdue summer deluge, but the "too late" water, as the Swazis say, not only failed to undo the damage of a recent dry spell but brought additional misery. From the capital Mbabane to the main commercial town Manzini and its surrounding farmland, large hailstones accompanied the showers. Evah Kunene watched the ice pellets slam into her garden, which through the duration of the dry spell she had kept green through meticulous and expensive watering from a hose. "There goes my pumpkins," she lamented. "The hail is destroying the crop just as the pumpkins are growing large." Ironically, Swaziland's meteorologists say this year will bring normal rainfall. But as farmers can testify, it is not the quantity but the timing that determines whether water will nourish, flood or bypass their crops. Just as this week's hailstorm

descended when the summer pumpkin crop was maturing, so too did the skies remain cloudless when the maize fields, bearing Swazis's staple food, required water during plant growth. The result has been widespread stunting of maize plants. Issuing a drought warning last week, the Ministry of Agriculture noted, "The worst effected crop is the early planted maize that is already flowering, and in addition to the dry conditions other major adverse factors reported are stalk borer damage, too many weeds, cutworm damage and hailstorm."

Meteorologists predicted normal rainfall, and with expected rains through April, this will likely occur statistically, if too late for crops that shrivelled in January. November saw daily rainfall, encouraging farmers to plant more maize than usual. Mid-December, however, the rains stopped, and did not resume until the last day of January, over a month past the Southern Hemisphere's summer solstice and after weeks of withering heat. "Meteorologically, there is no drought this year," said Mandla Dlamini, a department officer with the national weather service. Farmers would disagree, as would government's National Disaster Task Force. But this year, achieving even subsistence is proving difficult. For sheer survival, some traditionalists may have to take an active role in bringing irrigation water to their fields, instead of passively waiting for rains to fall. "One complaint from smallholding farmers is the lack of capital to invest in pumps and machinery to dig irrigation ditches," says Fanourakis. "But His Majesty has initiated funds to finance cooperative schemes."

King Mswati's poverty alleviation efforts include grant money to encourage peasant farmers to band together to grow crops for the export market. Some of the water from the new Maguga Dam, a South Africa-Swaziland co-venture, is earmarked for the irrigation of agricultural schemes of cooperatives founded by small landholder farmers. If drought is a natural phenomenon historically followed by famine, and this cycle can be broken in Swaziland by the application of 21st century technology and marketing, then it is good news for Swazi farmers. This year's drought has shown them there is no alternative to changing discredited old ways.

### DEVELOPMENT-SWAZILAND: RURAL SPRAWL THREATENS BUCOLIC KINGDOM By James Hall

MBABANE, Feb. 27 (IPS) -- Swaziland is a picturesque kingdom wedged between Mozambique and South Africa. Its conservative people are inclined to not only hold onto their traditional leadership in a land of powerful chiefs and sub-Saharan Africa's last absolute monarch, but also onto traditional ways of life that include peasant farming and large families. The result is that only one-fifth of the population permanently resides in urban areas, the largest of which, Manzini, has only 80,000 people in a greater metropolitan area that includes the Matsapha Industrial Park and the University of Swaziland, both 10 kilometers away.

Township slums are relatively few, though their recent growth has challenged authorities for a solution. But with lifestyles

geared to the countryside, instead of urban sprawl the kingdom suffers from a blight of "rural sprawl," which is proving environmentally damaging, as well as a social crisis with political overtones. "Swaziland is a unique welfare state, in that each Swazi head of household is entitled to a place to build a house, a field to grow crops, and free grazing land for his cattle. All this is acquired by pledging allegiance to a local chief, who is the king's representative," says sociologist Martin Shongwe of the William Pitcher College.

But Swaziland has one of the world's highest population growth rates (currently 2.9 percent, which would be a quarter higher, health officials say, but for the devastation wrought by AIDS, whose causative virus HIV now infects a third of the population). Good land has run out, and marginal land is being utilized to meet demand. "We call this 'rural sprawl' because where once there was wilderness now as far as the eye can see are little farms, all with a little plot of maize and a branch kraal with some cattle," says George Murdoch, who arrived in Swaziland in 1954 as an agriculture department scientist.

Roy Fanourakis, a third-generation farmer and Minister of Agriculture, says "these farms are from the 19th century, and they are not the best way to utilize precious land."

Pro-democracy advocate and president of the teacher union, Phineas Magagula, says, "The monarchical system is supported in Swaziland by peasants just like it was in medieval Europe." "These peasants give their allegiance to palace-appointed chiefs in exchange for land to farm. Swazis are not allowed to own this land, because if they become economically independent they can be politically independent," he says. Magagula says as the population grows, more supporters of the royal system are given land.

Doo Apane, who is Swaziland's National Coordinator for the Women in Law advocacy group, says, "The issue of rural sprawl would be less dire if government had a population policy. Swazis could be given incentives to have fewer children, as in other countries. A review of the custom of polygamy is long overdue." She says, "Population policy is inextricably tied to the rights of women. In Swaziland, women are legal minors. We cannot enter into contracts or own property. There is great resistance by the nation's ruling patriarchy to gender equality."

Women and Law feels that until women receive economic independence and reproductive rights they, the Swazis who are most likely to stem population growth, are prevented from doing so by social and legal constraints. Health motivators who meet with rural residents in church halls and chiefs' kraals routinely face hostility from male Swazis who see programs to enlighten women on reproductive health as a conspiracy to undermine a husband's authority over his wife. An angry speaker at a roadside meeting conducted by the AIDS Support Center (TASC) in rural Hhelehhele opined, "Women were put on earth to make babies, it is in the Bible, and any wife who is physically able but does not give birth will face the wrath of God."

Patiently, Lindiwe Dlamini-Mkhatshwa, a counsellor with TASC, explained, "We do not challenge a husband's authority, but if we do not ensure a mother's health and her children's well-being, we are also answerable to God." It transpired that

the man was having difficulty making his small landholder farm profitable, and he saw more children, potential workers, as a solution. Agriculture ministry field workers are seeking to change such attitudes by promoting farming cooperatives and modern farming techniques that are less labor-intensive. But still Swazis will insist on homestead land as their birthright, a claim now impossible to meet while too politically and socially disruptive to deny. "It is not anything we have done that has lowered the population growth rate from 3.6 percent 10 years ago to 2.9 percent today," says health motivator Abigale Kunene. "AIDS has done that for us. But still the people multiply." The phenomenon of "rural sprawl," extending poverty over formerly pristine land, is the result.

## **King Losing Confidence in Government**

The Times of Swaziland, By Vusie Ginindza  
Sunday, February 17, 2002

THE KING has spoken. Less discerning observers could have easily dismissed his speech from the Throne on Friday as one of the usual 'run of the mill' political speeches delivered more for their ceremonial appropriateness than reflective of a genuine will to bring about effective change in the government ministries and their extensions. As they say, there was more to it than met the eye. It was a carefully worded address but not necessarily euphemistic. That it was the shortest speech the king has ever presented from the Throne could, to some, indicate a diminishing willpower or, even, an ebbing confidence in the delivery capabilities of his government. A conclusion like that would not be far-fetched but still, it would not be accurate. His Majesty was, unlike before, more direct: even blunt on certain points. The fuzzy words, the diplomatic waffle and a mealy mouth were conspicuously gone. "Problems" in the administration of justice were not "uncertainties" or "matters of concern"-they were plain "problems." For the first time, the alarming HIV and AIDS prevalence in the country, was described in more committed terms, "the greatest enemy in the history of the nation." In what many had assumed was an open and shut case regarding the wish-list posing as "the People's recommendations for a constitution" prepared by the Prince Mangaliso-led Constitutional Review Commission, the King invited further debate and recommendations from the public. He also set a deadline by which a "draft constitution" covering "all important areas" should be completed and "distributed" to all Swazis. It requires no expert to tell that the report of "recommendations" presented to the people by the CRC fell quite short of His Majesty's satisfaction who, since then, has been consulting with constitutional experts as those seconded to the country by the Commonwealth.

Clearly it is easy to tell from the speech that the king is frustrated by having to repeat one and the same thing every year without action from his line ministries. The issue of the 60 million development fund, for instance, has remained a personal thorn in the flesh for the last three or four years. The fund is still without logistics for distribution and still far from implementation while similar programmes run outside government, like the Enterprise Fund and Natie Kirsh's

Inhlanyelo Development Fund, have been largely successful. As we speak, Inhlanyelo has helped launch over 2 000 self-help projects during the past two years, 90 percent of which are highly successful yet, like the Enterprise Fund, it was started with a much lower capital of E5 million.

### **58 Die of Cholera During Last Outbreak**

The Times of Swaziland, Zanele Dlamini  
Friday, February 1, 2002

MBABANE - In the latest cholera outbreak, 58 people have died, 25 of them in the Lubombo region. The ministry of health and social welfare has sent a team from the environmental health department to this area in order to educate people about the disease and how to prevent it. Deputy director of health services, Dr. John Kunene, said that one reason the disease has spread so quickly, is because of the lack of clean water and toilets.

Yesterday, the director of Bleacho Company, Preat Gilles donated 100 litres of liquid chlorine (a component of jik and bleach) to the ministry of health in an effort to prevent the spread of cholera. "After reading reports about the cholera deaths, the company realised that one way to prevent it was drinking clean water so we opted to donate the bleach to the most affected people," he said.

### **Kwaluseni Residents to Lose Homes**

The Times of Swaziland, Muzie Yende  
Monday, January 21, 2002

KWALUSENI - A special land committee formed by the Zombodze chiefdom to address the illegal allocation of land in areas under its jurisdiction, has warned of a pending demolition of close to 100 illegally constructed houses in the area.

The people bought the land at not less than E5 000 depending on the size. The land is alleged to have been sold to the owners of these houses by Temple Sibiyi a resident of Kwaluseni who has been convicted more than four times by the Manzini National Court for the same offence (illegal sale of land) within a year's time. His latest conviction was last week where he was sentenced to five months with an option of a E100 fine. In previous convictions he was given fine options of E360, E240 and E240 respectively in each of the three court appearances, which he paid without any problem.

He however pleaded not guilty in all his court appearances though the court found him guilty of the offence. Secretary of the committee, who is also its authorised spokesperson, Wilfred Kunene told the Times that all the people had been warned a number of times against buying land in these areas but continued to do so hence the committee might be forced to demolish the houses.

### **Swazi Princess Perturbed Over Pants**

The Independent (London), Thulane Mphethwa  
Wednesday, January 9, 2002

A TEENAGE Swazi princess who tried to strike a compromise between modernity and tradition by telling her

fellow countrywomen that they could wear trousers with their traditional symbolic chastity belts was overruled yesterday. Traditional authorities said that Princess S'khanyiso, aged 14, did not have the authority to make the declaration. Her father, King Mswati III, declared in September that all his female subjects under the age of 18 must wear the "chastity belt", a tasseled scarf signaling a five-year ban on sexual relations. The king, 33, who said he was concerned by the high rate of HIV infection, described girls as "flowers that should be protected".

Princess S'khanyiso's ruling on trousers was interpreted as a bid for popularity among young Swazi women who see the wearing of the tassels as old-fashioned. Many women living in urban areas have refused to wear them.

But Petros Jim Gama, one of the tiny kingdom's traditional leaders, said: "It would be improper and unSwazi to allow girls to wear the umchwasho [the scarf] with pants. Pants were meant for males." More than 25 per cent of adults in Swaziland are HIV positive, according to UN figures. The disease has killed tens of thousands of Swazis.

In comments made before Princess S'khanyiso returned to boarding school in England over the weekend, she also said that the fine for men who broke a ban on taking underage wives would be reduced from the equivalent of pounds 82 to pounds 31. This too was overruled by the traditional officials. King Mswati III himself has taken underage wives and had to pay the fine. His most recent wife, his ninth, is 17.

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