BURKINA CONNECTION



JOURNAL OF THE FRIENDS OF BURKINA FASO

FALL 2002

Project Work Funded!

A new era dawns for FBF efforts by Suzanne May Plopper



Haoua Sawadogo, Suzanne Plopper, and some of the school children with "lambs for education" from FBF funding.



Over the years, I have had the good fortune to be able to visit friends in **Ouahigouya** (where I was a PCV from '67-69) several times following work assignments in West Africa. Last year, at about the time some of us in FBF began talking seriously of identifying projects in Burkina that our organization might wish to support, **Cathy Seeley** (RPCV '99-01) wrote about the project **N.E.E.E.D.** (*Nimbus Enfance Environnement Education et Developpement*) aimed at supporting the primary education of young girls in the

Tangaye region near Ouahigouya. This project caught my eye as a well-conceived and sustainable effort to give young girls access to primary education. I decided that following my next assignment in West Africa, I would visit the NEEED project to learn more about it. In May, following an assignment in Benin, I traveled to Ouaga and on to Ouahigouya to meet Lacine and Haoua Sawadogo, the principal organizers of this project. During the day I spent with

(**Projects** – continued on page 4)



OUR MISSION

Friends of Burkina Faso, Inc. a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization affiliated with the National Peace Corps Association

- Maintains a network of RPCVs and friends of Burkina Faso
- Provides funding and assistance to support projects in Burkina Faso
- Improves social interaction, communication and information exchange
- Educates others about the country and culture of Burkina Faso

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President's Yiri by Bob Osborne

Alive and well in Lagos

Greetings from Lagos, I'm adjusting to my new career with the Foreign Service, and I think I'll be able to continue as President of Friends of Burkina as well. I'm busy getting settled in, so I'll only write a short "Yiri" for this issue of the Connection.

My new mailing address is ROBERT OSBORNE 8300 LAGOS PL **DULLES VA 20189**

Most any letter or small package that can go through the US Mail can go through this to me via the diplomatic pouch system. Use whatever standard postage is required as if it was domestic mail. Normally, it takes about a week, maybe ten days to reach me. This address should be good visit, that would be until at least June, 2004. My email address is

< osbornera@state.gov >

By the way, before I left for Lagos, I had dinner and drinks with former Ambassador **Don Easum** in New York. He's such a remarkable guy—I need to write an article on him in some future Connection.

My first day of work in Lagos was June 7th, my 57th birthday. Lagos is a huge, dirty, chaotic, but very vibrant and eclectic and exciting city; we all hope so badly that democracy works here, because Nigerians have been so badly treated by their governments over the years that they deserve so much more. And if they ever get a chance, watch out! They will do great things. Elections are next year.

If anyone wants to visit, that would be very cool. A little search on the internet should produce good prices, and you can use Northwest/KLM, Lufthansa, Air France and British Airways.

If anyone wants to

very cool.

Air Nigeria has a cheap nonstop between NY and Lagos, but that would probably be similar to making the trip in a bush taxi. But for the adventurous, it's under \$1k. I will arrange for expediters at the airport and a chauffeured trip in a specially modified vehicle for

> the trip to my apartment; this is standard for Americans coming to Lagos as guests of diplomats (and I ARE one!!!). My apartment is very large, w/3 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, balcony w/ view, tennis court, gym, lovely pool,

and plenty of good neighbors. The rent will be as cheap as can be (how about zero), and we can make some nice trips to other parts of Nigeria, or west towards Abidjan, or east/south towards Cameroun.

Congratulations to you and our FBF Projects Committee, which have achieved tremendous success. Your donations have totaled over \$12,000 and have begun funding important project work. If you haven't jumped on board yet with a contribution, please do so now to sustain our new era of action. Together we are creating lasting legacies for Burkina through these funded work projects.



Bob Osborne









(Projects – continued from page 1)

them, we visited several rural primary schools where NEEED assists girls entering school. At one of the schools, a number of parents came to meet with us as well.



Lacine, Suzanne, Haouna, and students with "lambs for education"

I was very impressed by a number of aspects of the project:

- the idea of giving young girls
 whose parents cannot afford to
 pay for their education an
 opportunity to go to school, and
 involving their families in the
 endeavor
- the **enthusiasm** of parents and teachers for the project
- the fact that in the schools with which NEED works the classes have equal numbers of boys and girls. (Elsewhere in the region, 12% of school-age girls enter school compared with 38% of boys.) The education of girls has been identified by both the UN and USAID as a key factor in promoting sustainable development.
- the fact that the project has very minimal overhead and is sustainable in design

 the tremendous commitment of the Sawadogos to the education of youth in the region

The **sustainability** of the project lies in the fact that for the first year of primary school, the project provides the girls' school materials and money to purchase a lamb to be raised by the girl and her family. Once a year, at a Muslim holiday, the girls' parents sell the lambs and use the money to purchase their daughter's school materials for the following year and to purchase another young lamb. Thus, support of the girls' initial school materials plus the purchase of the first lamb begins a revolving source of **support** for her six years of primary school. NEEED follows the raising, selling and purchase of lambs in order to ensure that participating families follow through with their commitments.

Based upon funds available each year, NEEED works with school masters and village leaders to identify 1) families of 6-7 year-old girls who are interested in participating in the project in villages already involved in the project, and 2) additional villages in which the number of young girls of age to enter school is compatible with the funds available to expand the scholarship project for that year. To date, NEEED ("the lambs project" as it is known to many) supports the education of girls in 15 of 29 primary schools in the region. They hope to extend their support to the remainder of the primary schools as funds permit.

Please continue to contribute to our FBF-supported work projects. You'll find a donation form on the last page of this *Connection*. Thanks!

Garango school funded by Tom Vollrath

In addition to the lambs project already described, a second FBF project, **Garango Lycée electricity**,

has passed our review process and has received a grant from our Projects Fund.

In 1999, plans for electrification of Garango were announced and implementation begun; but there had been no money for the **infrastructure** required to bring electricity to the high school. The high school's

principal and parents requested \$1,700 from **FBF** to buy the parts needed (i.e., cables, control boxes, light fixtures, and bulbs etc.) to extend the electric supply from the main electric grid to the school. The **local community** will cover the labor costs of installation and the **Parent-Teachers' Association** has agreed to assume responsibility for the recurrent costs of providing electrical current to the school. The provision of electricity will enable the lycee's 1,100 students to use the school facilities for supervised recreational activities and for



night-time study. This is particularly important now, as Garango students have become eligible for the first time this year to take the bacallaureat exam. The lycée electricity project will provide students with opportunities for additional study, communication, and social interaction. With electrical current flowing at the lycée, internet access could also become a reality. Thanks to Marianne Bailey (RPCV Mali '87-'89) and her husband, Alex Bambara, have already donated two used computers to the school.

Thanks to the many individuals who have contributed their ideas and helped shape our Projects Committee: Tom Vollrath ('67-'70), Anastasia Hopkinson ('67-'69), Eric Figueroa ('81-'84), Bob Winterbottom ('72-'74), Elizabeth and Tom Fox ('67-'69), Marianne Bailey ('87-'89), Alex Bambara, Bob Osborne ('67-'69), Holland McKenna ('71-'73), Suzanne May Plopper ('67-'69), Leigh Woodward Landrin ('67-'68), Molly Chambers ('99-'01), Jon Berger ('67-'69), Charles Rodgers ('67-'69), Denny FitzPatrick ('67-'68), Mead Over ('67-'69), Rick Smith ('67-'69), Art Westneat ('69-'74), Peg Hausmann ('74-'76), John Sneed ('67-69), Dick Dietz ('70-'72), Taale Laafi Rosellini ('67-'75), Cathy Seeley ('99-'01), David Greeley ('81-'83), Ambassador Don Easum ('71-'74), Ambassador Jimmy Kolker ('99-'02), and Keri Lowry, Nelson Cronyn and Armande Coulidiaty (currently Peace Corps Burkina).





Thank you from Garango

Très chers « Amis du Burkina Faso » -

C'est avec beaucoup de joie que nous avons appris l'interêt que vous manifestez à l'egard de notre Projet, combien important, d'électrification du Lycée de Garango.

A cet effet nous adressons cette correspondance pour vous remercier sincèrement pour cette attention toute particulière et vous assurer au nom de la Communauté, des parents d'élèves et de tout le Lycée, que ce geste de bienfaisance sera apprécié à sa juste valeur. L'électricité est une nécessité non seulement pour l'administration mais surtout pour les élèves.

Je puis vous assurer en tant que Proviseur que les frais de consommation d'électricité seront pris en charge par le comité de gestion du Lycée en attendant que des demarches puissent être entreprises pour que l'etat prenne la relève.

En espérant une suite favorable à notre requête, je vous prie de recevoir chers amis, les remerciements du personnel et des parents d'élèves du Lycée.

Puisse la générosité que vous anime se pérenniser,

P. Frédéric Compaore, Proviseur du Lycée Guengané Abdul Momini, President de l'association des parents d'élèves Traoré B. Nouhoun, Préfet du Département de Garango

Thank you from Ouahigouya

Bonjour « Friends of Burkina Faso » -

Nous avons le plaisir de vous informer que les fonds (3,255,205 F.Cfa) sont parvenus au compte bancaire de NEEED. Nous tenons à remercier votre association « Friends of Burkina » pour la rapidité avec laquelle elle à réussi à collecter ces 5,000 \$US au profit des filles de NEEED cette année scolaire 2002/2003.

Nous rassurons « Friends of Burkina » que NEEED fera une utilisation judicieuse de ces fonds afin qu'ils profitent au maximum de filles du département et que le partenariat NEEED/Friends of Burkina puisse aller de l'avant.

Nous souhaitons également que de temps à autre des membres de votre association viennent au Burkina (à Ouahigouya) pour apprécier nos activités avec les filles sur le terrain, dans les écoles.

La rentrée scolaire a été reportée au premier Octobre 2002. Aicalement.

Lacine Sawadogo, Coordonnateur de NEEED

Try these lentils!

by David Marcham, '83-'85

To all **hungry readers** of the *Burkina Connection*:

This is one recipe I have yet to try. Before you bail, I wish to remind you that all the entrees I have concocted from The Africa News Cookbook [(Penguin: New York, NY), 1986] have been fantastique, incroyable, and otherwise pretty tasty.

It recommends to eat these lentils with brochettes. Shades of street food in Ouaga! If any of you have requests for special favorites let me know and I will put out a communique in a future column. You may contact me at dmarcham@juno.com for e-mail correspondence. Be forewarned I may take a while to reply to your missive. As the editor can attest, my response time is generally African time or slower.

Until next issue. . . passez une bonne journée, et bon appétit!



David Marcham

SPICED LENTILS

Serves 6-8

2 cups dark lentils

1 onion, finely chopped

1/2 tsp. turmeric

1 tsp. salt

2 large onions, thinly sliced

2 Tbsp. butter

5 cloves garlic, crushed

2 tomatoes, peeled and chopped (they are peeled easily if boiled for 2 minutes and then dunked in cold water)

1 tsp. ground cumin

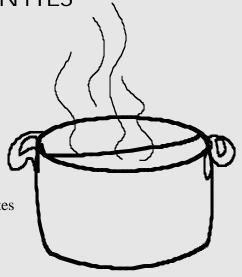
1/4 tsp. black pepper

1 tsp. ground ginger

1/2 tsp. chili pepper, or 1/4 tsp. cayenne pepper

2 Tbsp. fresh coriander, chopped – most of you know fresh coriander as cilantro or Chinese parsley. Regular old garden-variety parsley may be used as well.

Soak lentils for 2 hours in cold water. Drain. Then simmer them in enough water to cover plus 1 inch, along with the chopped onion, turmeric and salt. Cook about 1 1/2-2 hours until lentils are tender, adding a bit more water if necessary to prevent them from drying out and sticking. When lentils are nearly done, sauté the sliced onion in the butter in a large skillet (a Dutch oven, comme chez moi, will do!). Add the remaining ingredients (not including those in the lentil pot). Cook over low heat for 5 or 6 minutes. Then stir in the contents of the lentil pot. Add coriander and simmer another 10 minutes to blend flavors, stirring several times. Serve hot. Of course, serve with rice (brown, jasmine, basmati, et. al.) or your favorite African staple.







Jimmy Kolker says farewell



Ambassador Kolker

At the annual celebration of July 4 at the Embassy Residence, I was able to conclude that Burkina Faso is making progress in all of the areas of American interest.

· Burkina reached the debt relief

Faso ."

"completion point" in April, which will bring significant new resources into the government budget for poverty reduction. "Burkina Faso is

now part of me, as it • All political parties comis part of all the peted in May's legislative Friends of Burkina elections, and the government party was limited to 49.5% of the vote and only

• The **end of wars** in Sierra Leone and Angola, where Burkina Faso had supported rebel violence, opens new opportunities for cooperation with the U.S. and international community.

But July 4 was also the occasion for me and my family to say farewell. President Bush nominated me in June as Ambassador to Uganda, and my Senate hearing was July 9. On that same day, Tony Holmes, a longtime friend and experienced pro, appeared as the nominee to replace me in Burkina Faso. Both Tony and I were confirmed by vote of the full Senate October 2.

Thirty-one months was not long enough for me to be ready to leave. Diplomacy in Africa is about relationships, and the people of Burkina Faso have demonstrated why they are the most hospitable in the world. I was able to visit over 150 towns and villages, in 43 of Burkina Faso's 45 provinces. Every day has been a joy. There is no job in the world I would rather have had.

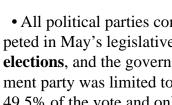
Burkina Faso is now part of me, as it is part of all of the Friends of

> Burkina Faso. The contributions of the American community, whether Embassy, Peace Corps, Missionaries, NGO staff or private citizens are formidable and highly appreciated by our Burkinabé

counterparts and the population as a whole. It is a bond none of us wants to break, and like yourselves, I will be looking for future occasions to honor Burkina Faso and contribute to its well-being.

The Ambassador's Residence in Kampala will be an East African maison de passage for Friends of Burkina. Please stay in touch and let me know how we can keep the Burkina Faso **flame bright**, whether in America, Uganda or back in Ouagadougou.

Wend na kond nindaré, Jimmy jjkolker@hotmail.com kolkerjj@state.gov



57 of the 111 National Assembly seats. The parliament will at last be a forum for real debate.





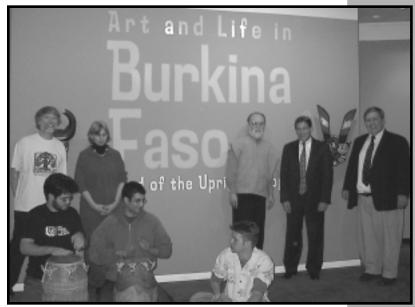
Burkina Art Exhibit

by Denny FitzPatrick

Dr. Christopher D. Roy, longtime member of Friends of Burkina Faso, and Professor of the History of Art at the University of Iowa, was consulting curator for a Burkina art exhibit this summer at Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota.

Entitled "Art and Life in Burkina Faso, Land of the Upright People," the exhibit included masks, musical instruments, locks, carved figures and jewelry from the Thomas Wheelock Collection, New York, and the University of Iowa Museum of Art.

The opening reception featured a slide lecture by Dr. Roy, an introduction by Ambassador **Jimmy Kolker**, with drumming and dancing provided by Carleton students.



FBF members Denny FitzPatrick, Nora Leonard Roy, Michael Patton, Jimmy Kolker, Chris Roy. Carleton College drummers in foreground.





Party 40 (+1) in D.C. by Marianne Bailey



FBF marchers in the news marking a milestone

At the occasion of the Peace Corps 40 + 1Anniversary Conference, the FBF contingent had the opportunity to meet with the new Ambassador of Burkina Faso to the United States, His Excellency Tertius Zongo, and his First Secretary Mr. Hilaire **Soulama**. The Embassy welcomed the three FBF representatives, Marianne Bailey (Board Member), Cathy Seeley ('99-'01), and Cathy's husband **Hadama** Ouedraogo (Cathy and Hadama were in DC in part to celebrate their marriage, which took place just two days prior to our meeting at the Embassy. Congratulations, Cathy and Hadama!) While the meeting was considerably smaller than the September meeting with former Ambassador Ziduemba, the Embassy welcomed FBF most graciously.

Ambassador Zongo is a very amiable and lively conversationalist. He noted that FBF members are the "vrai diplomates" as we understand so well the people and culture of Burkina. Marianne explained that FBF is launching a new projects committee in order to facilitate the funding of small projects in Burkina which are initiated and managed by

Burkinabé. The Ambassador strongly supported this idea, noting that the country needs more decentralized aid such as this, motivated by people who understand first hand the difficulties faced by women, children, and the poor.

The Ambassador was pleased to share with us the results of recent parliamentary elections, in which **opposition parties** made significant gains. Whereas prior to the June elections, there were but a handful of opposition party parliamentarians, now there is a 57 to 54 split, with the govern-

ing party holding a very slim majority. There are 12 opposition parties holding seats, so no single opposition party is close to overtaking the governing party at this time, but the opposition gains demonstrate the growing vibrancy of **democratic politics** in Burkina.



Hadama and Cathy

Friends of Burkina participants also took advantage of the Anniversary gathering to hold an informal business meeting, a country update, and a wonderful dinner together at the Ghana Café with a great group of local Burkinabé.



Joyeux Anniversaire from H. E. Tertius Zongo



EMBASSY OF BURKINA FASO AMBASSADE DU BURKINA FASO

> 2340 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20008

A l'occasion de la célébration du 40e Anniversaire du Corps de la Paix, l"Ambassade du Burkina Faso à Washington, D.C. souhaite "Joyeux Anniversaire" à l'ensemble du Corps de la Paix.

Elle adresse à ses members ses vives et chaleureuses félicitations ainsi que ses encouragements pour toutes les initiatives et les actions qu'ils mènent à travers le monde.



Ambassador Zongo

C'est assurément le lieu de render homage à ces hommes et femmes qui acceptant le sacrifice de quitter leurs familles et leur pays pour aller travailler dans des contrées lointaines.

Non pas pour s'enrichir, mais pour partager leurs experiences, leurs savoirs et leur savoir-faire.

En un mot, pour aider à améliorer les conditions de vie et d'existence d'autres hommes et femmes que le hasard de la vie à mis dans des conditions d'ignorance et de dénuement total.

L'Ambassade fait une mention particulière à ceux du Corps de la Paix qui ont servi au Burkina Faso et qui se sont constitutés en "Friends of Burkina Faso."

Elle envisage d'organiser très prochainement une rencontre avec les "Friends of Burkina Faso" en vue d'une prise de contact avec l"Ambassadeur S.E.M. Tertius ZONGO, et d'échanger sur des sujets d'intérêt commun.





FBF members dining at Ghana Café in DC



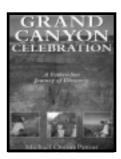
FBF contingent with Flag



New: 2003 Calendars

Now available, the famous RPCV 2003 International Calendar. Awesome, beautful, each month features a Peace Corps country of service. Friends of Burkina will receive the proceeds to support Burkina projects.





A Journey of Discovery

Michael Patton, RPCV '67-69, is donating ALL proceeds to Friends of Burkina Faso! The Burkina-inspired book, Grand Canyon Celebration: A Father-Son Journey of Discovery, is Michael's humanistic tale of a coming-of-age initiation rite with his 18-year old son. Only \$15, postage included.

T-Shirts & Tote Bags

Our most popular way to finance FBF projects in Burkina. T-shirts are short-sleeved, 100% cotton, pre-shrunk beefy-T, natural muslin-colored fabric. The tote bags are also cotton, natural, roomy and hefty. Our famous design (right) is four-color: brown, black, rust and green. A handy proximity map is found in the Baobab tree! T-shirt sizes are M, L, XL. In L & XL only, specify if you want the words "Peace Corps" under the design.



FBF Merc	handise	Order	Form
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Please complete and return this form to:

DIANNE FERGUSSON

430 EAST PARK DRIVE SPARTANBURG SC 29302				
Name		Phone		
Address		Zip		
 (NOTE – FOR SHIRTS in L & XL sizes, specify if you want the words "Peace Corps " under the design)				
HOW MANY:	T-SHIRTS: M T-SHIRTS: L T-SHIRTS: XL TOTE BAGS: BOOKS: CALENDARS:	PRICE PER SHIRT: \$16 PRICE PER TOTE: \$20 PRICE PER BOOK: \$15 PRICE PER CALENDAR: \$12 (PLEASE ADD \$3 IF YOU WANT TO HELP WITH POSTAGE COSTS)		
Mak	e all checks payable to	FBF. Thanks for your support.		

FRIENDS OF BURKINA FASO



Financial Reports

Project Fund Report – Molly Chambers

30 AUGUST 2002

Total Garango Project Contributions \$ 505.00

Total Lamb Project Contributions \$ 1,920.00

Total Unspecified Contributions Received \$10,070.00

Total Project Funds Received \$12,495.00



Treasurer's Report – Holland McKenna

STARTING BALANCE

31 DECEMBER 2000

\$6,676.04 **RECEIPTS** Joint Memberships through FBF (6 times \$40.00) 240.00 825.00 Joint Memberships through NPCA (55 times \$15.00) FBF Memberships (37 times \$15.00) 555.00 Contributions 4,063.50 Merchandise 251.00 \$5,934.50 Total Receipts for year **EXPENSES** 2,345.51

Newsletter: Printing2,345.51Newsletter: Mailing817.17Merchandise Expenses86.87Miscellaneous Expenses365.69Funding for Projects1,068.00Dues Paid to NPCA (6 times \$25.00)150.00Total Expenses for year\$4,833.24

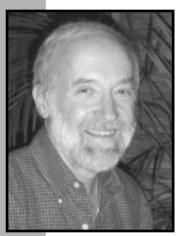
ENDING BALANCE

31 DECEMBER 2001 \$7,777.30



A truly heartening response

by Tom Vollrath, Projects Committee Chair



Tom Vollrath

Our fund-raising campaign to support the elementary school scholarship program for young girls in the **Yatenga** Province and the high-school electrification program in **Garango** was a resounding success. FBF Treasurer, **Holland McKenna** was able to wire \$5,000 to the girls

scholarship program and \$2,000 to the lycee project just in time for the start of the new school year. Alleluia!

Denny FitzPatrick posted 500 letters explaining the FBF fund-raising initiative

to our membership at the beginning of the summer. On August 31st, Molly **Chambers** reported that we had raised \$12,800, almost doubling our goal of \$7,000! Seventyfive members came through with financial contributions. This represents a 13.5 percent participation rate. Not bad for starters, especially given the downward spiral of

global stock markets and the U.S. economy. Incidentally, our participation rate was considerably higher than what other "friends" groups typically achieve. Twenty-one FBF donors contributed \$200 or more to the campaign and five individuals contributed \$1,000 each! The response was truly remarkable, signifying

a serious commitment to our initial undertaking.

The Projects Committee is also looking into the future, wondering what we may be able to accomplish. We began exploring some new, and revisited some previous, project ideas at our September meeting *chez* **Tom** and **Elizabeth Fox**. One of our objectives is to extend FBF's reach to other parts of the country. Of particular interest are projects initiated by *Burkinabé* and/or non-governmental organizations. But we are open to suggestions. Please do provide us with your ideas! We also solicit your active participation!

In closing, I would like to express my sincere **thanks** to all Burkina friends who



An early FBF meeting to plan future work projects. L-R, Jon Campaigne, Mead Over, Anastasia Hopkinson, Tom Vollrath, Tom Fox, Elizabeth Fox, Suzanne May Plopper, Norm Skougstad.

provided generous financial contributions for the two grass-roots development projects we had wanted to support. I would also like to thank the many friends who worked hard to make our summer campaign possible. The response from our small community was incredibly heartening!





FBF Contribution Form

Please complete and return this form to:
FBF PROJECTS COMMITTEE
C/O MOLLY CHAMBERS
1601 ARGONNE PLACE NW APT 226
WASHINGTON DC 20009

Date	
Name	
Street Address	
CityState	
Phone Number	
Email Address	
Relationship to Burkina Faso	
Current occupation	
My project contribution is enclosed. I am offering \$	
My gift may be used wherever the Projects Committee feels it is most nee	ded.
☐ I want my gift to support the projection	ect.
In addition, I would like to include	
☐ \$15 for annual FBF membership.	
\$25 to join the National Peace Corps Association (NCPA).	
Other comments, suggestions or ideas?	
Friends-of-Burkina-Faso membership is open to all. If you, or some who you know, would like to become an official member of our non-procharitable organization, let us know by completing this contribution for Members receive the quarterly Burkina Connection newsletter.	ofit

Look for your membership expiration date

after your name on the mailing label. (If there isn't one, your \$15 membership is due.)

Note: the Friends of Burkina Faso is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible.

Make all checks payable to FBF. Thanks for your support.





BURKINA CONNECTION

JOURNAL OF THE FRIENDS OF BURKINA FASO

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Burkina Connection



PROJECTS FUNDED BY FBF! · LAMBS FOR STUDENTS GARANGO SCHOOL ELECTRICITY SEE DETAILS INSIDE

