

friendsofburkinafaso.org!

FBF WEBSITE...



Website launching

It'll be under construction for awhile, but Friends of Burkina is proud to announce that we have finally acquired a domain name and will soon have a website: **friendsofburkinafaso.org**.

This step is a milestone for the continuing evolution of FBF as we carry out our mission, and help keep all friends of Burkina connected.

Jonathon Colman, a recently returned Burkina Peace Corps Volunteer, has generously volunteered to be the web *naaba*. He's busy putting it together as we go to press. He has also contributed some reflections on his experience as a recent RPCV. You'll find his story, *Burkina, shelved*, inside this issue.

At this point, our ambitious ideas for website contents include:

- **History**, goals, philosophy, mission
- **Activities**: past, current, future
- **Calendar** of events
- **AmiSpace**: users' area for contributions,

pictures, poetry, essays, letters, etc.

- **Membership** enrollment form
- **Order** form for t-shirts, totebags and calendars.
- **Burkina Connection** newsletter: Current and past issues
- **Reports from the Front**: PCVs speak out
- **Chaud links**: PC sites, Dept. of State sites, Burkina/Africa news and search sites
- **Photos**, photos, photos
- **Jimmy's Jams**: From the Desk of the US Ambassador
- Similar contributions from **Nelson Cronyn**, director, PC/BF
- Similar contributions from Ambassador **Bruno Zidouemba** and the Burkina Embassy
- **Media review** (done by our members, a review of recent relevant films/books/albums with some connection to Peace Corps or Burkina or Africa or life in the desert or whatever)
- **This day** (or week, or month) in history (important or interesting event from the past re: PC or Burkina or Africa)
- **Interviews** (probably conducted over e-mail) with notable PCVs, RPCVs, staff, folks in BF, PC, State Dept., etc.
- **Tips 'n' tricks** for future travelers to Burkina Faso: our favorite travel guides, hangouts, ways to deal with Mephloquin, how to stay healthy, what to pack, what to bring PCVs, contact info. for PC, etc...

If you have ideas, or if you'd like to help, please contact Jonathon Colman, webmaster, at **burkinaboy@yahoo.com**, or Denny FitzPatrick, newsletter editor, at **dfitz@boreal.org**.





FRIENDS OF BURKINA FASO

President:

Bob Osborne, '67-'69
539 N. Chipman Street
Owosso, MI 48867
Tel: 517-723-6622 (h)
517-723-5241 ext. 884 (w)
Fax: 517-725-5404
bosborne@shianet.org

Board Member - Treasurer:
Holland McKenna, '71-'73
8001 Woodbury Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Tel: 301-588-4207 (h & w)
hmckenna49@aol.com

Board Member - Membership:
Dick Dietz, '70-'72
107 Augusta Drive
Statesville, NC 28625-4601
Tel: 704-871-9714 (h)
704-872-4358 (w)
weedugs@aol.com

Board Member:
John Sneed, '67-'69
6677 SW Landover Drive
Wilsonville, OR 97070-6789
Tel: 503-570-9694 (h)
503-977-4398 (w)
Fax: 503-977-4858
jsneed@pcc.edu

Board Member:
Marianne Bailey
213 E. Howell Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22301
Tel: 703-683-2231 (h)
bambara@gatewayone.com

Merchandise:
Dianne Ferguson, '67-'69
430 East Park Drive
Spantenburg, SC 29302
Tel: 864-585-0420 (h)
sdsferg@aol.com

Editor:
Denny FitzPatrick, '67-'68
PO Box 563
Grand Marais, MN 55604
Tel: 218-387-2802 (h)
Fax: 218-387-9000
dfitz@boreal.org

Assistant Editor:
Andrea Joseph-Adams, '79-'80
6305 N Bell Street
Kansas City, MO 64151
Tel: 816-746-9465 (h)
ajadams52@hotmail.com

Webmaster:
Jonathon Colman, '99-'00
7488 Billmyer Hwy
Tecumseh, MI 49286
Tel: 517-423-2883 (h)
burkinaboy@yahoo.com



The President's Yiri

by Bob Osborne



Instead of covering a lot of detail for this issue's *Yiri*, I'm urging you to concentrate on the **Annual and Treasurer's Reports**, which together give you a nice, quick

review of our organization in 2000, and also point to some areas for action in 2001.

The next issue will be filled with highlights from our upcoming **Burkina trip February 14-26**. One reminder: you can still join us, but your options are dwindling, so hurry!

Most importantly, I want to promote the upcoming **40th Anniversary** celebrations of the Peace Corps, who will join with the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) for the events. The official dates of the NPCA Annual Conference, the centerpiece of the festivities, are **Thursday, Sept. 20 through Sunday, Sept. 23, 2001**.

Friends of Burkina Faso will be actively involved in the entire event, and we are formulating plenty of our own plans.

I will be there for those dates, but will arrive at least a night or two earlier and leave a day later, i.e., 9/18-24/01. You might well want to do the same, as this will give you ample room to participate in any and all of the events, plus do a little "touristing" and schmoozing while you're there. We'll have a **block of hotel rooms** set up, and we'll pass that information along as soon as we can. If you want badly to attend, but can't afford regular hotels,

we'll try and have some acceptable alternatives in place. Whatever you do, **DO NOT** let the fear of expensive hotels stop you from coming!!!

Dates are still uncertain, but at a minimum, we will have an afternoon and evening set aside **just for FBF**. We have at least two reunions starting to come together, one for Upper Volta I and another for the late '70s, so there may be something for those two groups separately. If anyone wants to set up a reunion specific to your era, please holler and we'll get rolling.

But most events will be for all. Personally, I feel that, even though it's great fun to see your old comrades again, in the long run mixing the "generations" of UV/BF RPCVs is much more interesting and productive for FBF as an entity. Besides, we'll get to hear a whole new series of stories, and we'll be able to watch their embellishment over the years.

Anyway, for the entire group, we'll have one or more **meetings/gatherings**, a **reception** at one of the DC member's homes and a **dinner/dance** party at one of the fine West African restaurants in the area. And as an added treat, we will bring in Burkina nationals, the Burkina diplomatic corps and the Burkina Embassy in Washington wherever possible. All in all, I hope we can have a true **celebration** of not just the Peace Corps, but also of American-Burkina relations and relationships.

So mark your calendars and reserve the vacation time now. If you have kids, feel free to bring them along, as we can easily include them in most, maybe all, of the events.

**Tout le monde, allons á Wash-
ington.**



Meet Marianne and Dianne

Two new volunteers at Friends of Burkina Faso



• **Marianne Bailey**, newest board member of Friends of Burkina, is currently Africa Program Manager at the US Environmental Protection Agency.

She did undergraduate work at Georgetown University and worked for the US House of Representatives before graduate school.

After receiving her MPA at the Maxwell School, Syracuse University,

she joined Peace Corps Mali and served from '87-'89 as an agriculture volunteer, doing primarily women's community gardens and nutrition work.

Upon return, she began working at the EPA and met spouse **Alex Bambara** in Washington, DC. Alex is a native of Bobo-Dioulasso whose family holds the traditional leadership of Garango. (Marianne plans to translate and send in her father-in-law's history of the family and kingdom soon.)

They have two children, **Olivia Shields Dabre** age 6 and **James Tigre Alexander** age 3.

Marianne has been active in RPCV/Washington and Friends of Mali, and appreciates FBF's willingness to take in all extended family and friends of Burkina!

• **Dianne Fergusson**, merchandise *naaba* in charge of the t-shirts and fundraisers, returned from Burkina in 1969 as an "Upper Volta I" RPCV.

She began teaching English and French in a middle school in her home town of Laurel Hill, North Carolina. She was relieved from that job by the incomparable **John Sneed** (current FBF board member) from Chapel Hill.

After completing a master's and Ph.D. in English at the University of South Carolina,, she went on to teach English at Newberry College, Midlands Technical College, and Irmo High School in Columbia, South Carolina.

She took an administrative position with the Graduate School of the University of South Carolina, but found, being a hands-on RPCV, she had to return to the classroom, and is now teaching English at Dorman High School.

Her wonderful daughter, **Molly**, now age 27, will complete law school at the University of Mississippi in May of 2001.

Currently enrolled in the Master Gardener course, she hopes to expand her garden and her glass-working skills. She lives in a neat old house in Spartanburg's Duncan Park on a lake built by the WPA in the '30s. She has a little greenhouse, a stained glass workshop, and space for visitors, so if your travels bring you to the southeast, she encourages you to stop in!



WELCOME...





Traveling with Ambassador Kolker



Thanksgiving in Burkina Faso has special meaning for me. Before I arrived as Ambassador, my first and only previous visit was in 1971, when, as an itinerant graduate student, I insinuated

myself into the Peace Corps Hostel and discovered a crowd of volunteers in town for the new Ambassador's community Thanksgiving dinner.

Beneficiary of the UV Peace Corps' and **Ambassador Easum's** hospitality as a gate-crasher, I was finally able to reciprocate November 23, having the pleasure to open the Ambassador's Residence for a pot-luck Thanksgiving buffet for 170. My contribution was 11 Butterball Turkeys transported frozen by Embassy vehicle from the commissary in Bamako, while the rest of the community delivered a quality and quantity of side dishes and desserts exceeding even the most ravenous Peace Corps appetite for stuffing, sweet potatoes or pumpkin pie.

Like the Pilgrims, I had the chance to thank those whose local knowledge and generosity helped me thrive during my first year in Burkina Faso.

Teacher strikes and demonstrations kept me from **Diapangou** (20 km west of **Fada**), where NYRX (not yet returned ex-) PCV **John McCauley** and current PCV **Jes Bodack** had a program and school dorm dedication scheduled in December. But otherwise I've kept up my program of weekly visits outside of Ouagadougou.

In October, I visited the self-help project in **Wangala**, 15 km NW of **Zabre** in Boulgou.

A dispensary dedicated in November in **Ballole**, 30 km west of Ouaga, completed a health center the villagers themselves had been constructing bit by bit for over ten years.

In **Gassan**, (halfway between Dedougou and Tougan), PC Health Volunteer **Christina Ruden** and I watched with fascination as local medics, trained on site by the Helen Keller Foundation, performed simple traucoma surgery – ten operations per hour! Screening, routine hygiene, the simple surgical procedure and medications donated by Pfizer have the potential to eliminate traucoma which has blinded or impaired the sight of thousands in Burkina.

At **Diabo**, 18 km south of the Koupela-Fada road, PCV **Danielle** inspired a classroom construction project and organized a library at the CEG where she taught. Her replacement **Erica Kahill** saw the project through to completion and helped produce a brilliant theatrical performance by the students, including one playing the part of the US Ambassador!

Just before Christmas, the village of **Poupourou**, in the district of **Sili** (Sissili) got special permission of the ancestors' representatives to bring out the masks from three separate villages to celebrate the opening of their new Embassy-financed school, replacing a straw *hangar* which had previously served as an outdoor classroom. My family and I, joined by

the new Minister of Basic Education **Fidele Kientega**, were treated to Gourountsi masked dancing of world class, which my daughters were even permitted to film!

My father (age 84) joined me for a trip to **Kongoussi (Bam)**, where US-educated High Commissioner **Jean Traore** invited us to the inauguration of the new elected mayor and council. And when **Jim Traweek**, one of the State Department's Environment negotiators, was in Ouagadougou for the Ozone conference, and wanted to see "desertification," a group of us traveled to **Dori**, where local experts showed us how the process has been arrested by planting and sound land use practices. PCV **Patricia Maxwell** joined the group and taught the negotiators something of their own trade in bringing down prices of blankets and leather goods in the market.

The 12th Meeting of Parties of the Montreal Protocol on Preservation of the Ozone Layer was just one of several large international conferences held at the new Ouaga 2000 Congress Hall (on the road to Leo, south of town). The World Bank's African Mining Investment conference, with US Geological Survey participation, was in Ouagadougou in December. WHO Secretary General **Gro Harlem Brundtland** was here for the WHO Africa Regional Ministerial Conference. The African Red Cross had its biennial conference in Ouagadougou in November. Fighting AIDS was an important theme of these meetings, and this has of course become a priority of the US Government and US mission in Burkina. Peace Corps is actively

involved, and we are looking for ways to tap USAID and Centers for Disease Control for more resources for Burkina Faso.

The **SIAO** Exposition of African Crafts and Artisanat was an intriguing combination of some very high quality exhibitors from 20 African countries. At least two sea containers of *artisanat* were shipped to galleries and dealers in New York (and two more to Galleries Lafayette in Paris). There were acres of more ordinary items, which nonetheless had their appeal, since there was little hassle, a kind of *Grand Marché* for beginners. I went six times during the nine days of the fair. It was good practice for *FESPACO* which comes around at the end of February.

Please remember that the Embassy staff and I welcome questions, visits and tips from Burkina veterans. You can find me as kolkerjj@state.gov or ambres@liptinfor.bf

Sante, Prosperite, Bonheur et Longevite in 2001.



(Editor's note: Sorry, there wasn't space in this issue, but look for Ambassador Kolker's thoughts in future newsletters on more topical topics such as these:

- *Burkina reaction to U.S. elections (No, they couldn't figure out what was happening).*
- *His resignation (as required of all Ambassadors because there's a new President) and the probability that it will NOT be accepted.*
- *U.N. investigations of diamonds-for-arms and other sanction-breaking allegations.*
- *Burkina involvement in Cote d'Ivoire.)*



Greetings from Nelson Cronyn



Ne yibeogo. I'd like to introduce myself, as new Country Director for Peace Corps/Burkina Faso, to the Friends of Burkina.

I first came to Burkina in 1988 when **Judith Keller**, my girlfriend (now wife) and I were bicycle touring around West Africa after completing our service as Volunteers in Niger (1985 - 1988). Our time spent bicycling across Burkina was one of the highlights of our trip, so Judith and I are thrilled to be back here.

Our home in the U.S. is in Utah, where Judith and I attended graduate school, but West Africa has been home to us for the past seven years. Prior to returning to Peace Corps as an APCD in 1997 I was the Country Representative for Catholic Relief Services in Ghana.

We have two sons: five year-old **Max**, and one year-old **Avery**. Judith is teaching 2nd and 3rd grades at the International School of Ouagadougou.

Something that strikes me as I make my courtesy calls with everyone from senior-level government officials to village-level counterparts is how much the Peace Corps is appreciated here. As one counterpart said, "We have lots of organizations present in Burkina that make noise about getting things done; Peace Corps Volunteers go out, live with our people, and get things done." All of the government officials I have met with remember at least one Volunteer, often dating back to the 1960s and 1970s, who left a positive impression based on integration, language skills, and contribution to their communities.

Paul Sawadogo, who many of you will remember as friend of **Bob Friedman** and cook for 27 trainings with

Peace Corps, is working at my house as part-time cook and oral historian. "Monsieur Paul" is a walking database of Peace Corps' activities in Burkina, but there is more information needed.

I would like to work with FBF to compile a **database** of returned Volunteers' years of service, sites, and sectors so that we can display a **map** indicating where Volunteers have served. I would also like to solicit **photographs** (ideally 8x10) of Volunteers "in action", taken during their service here, for display in our new office. Photographs can be sent to me via the Peace Corps Washington office:

**Nelson Cronyn, Country Director/
Burkina Faso, 1111 20th Street NW,
Washington D.C. 20526.**

If you send photos, please include your name, names of others in the photograph (if available), dates of service, a brief description of what you were doing in the photograph, and where you served. These photos will become the property of Peace Corps/Burkina Faso.

There are a number of returned Volunteers from Burkina who played a role in our meandering journeys to Burkina: We stayed with **Kerry Sly** in 1988, **John Dickey** was a graduate student at UC Davis when I was an undergraduate there; **Peter Brostrom**, my roommate and fellow oarsman at Davis, came to Burkina as a Volunteer on the same plane that took me to Niger; **Jonathon Landeck** was the technical trainer for my wife and me in Niger; **Bob Friedman** was Country Director for Peace Corps Niger when I returned there as a technical trainer; **Jim Rogers** crashed the wedding party my wife and I held in Logan, Utah.

I look forward to meeting all of you. Cheers, Nelson.



FBF Annual Report *by Bob Osborne*

In 2000, **Friends of Burkina Faso (FBF)** continued to solidify its mission of expanding and enhancing relations between Americans and Burkinabe, largely through increased **contacts** with other organizations, a strengthened **newsletter** and better communications generally and the addition of several **new people** to its volunteer organizational structure.

• CONFERENCES:

President Bob Osborne represented FBF at the National **Summit on Africa** in Washington DC in February.

Colleague **Jon Campaign**, Upper Volta '67-69, and founder and President of a microcredit NGO based in Nairobi, also attended. In addition to attending work

sessions and lectures, Osborne was able to meet briefly with several African diplomats, most notably **M. Bruno Zidouemba**, Burkina Faso's Ambassador to the United States.

In August, Osborne, "Burkina Connection" Editor **Denny FitzPatrick**, UV '67-69, and fellow FBF Members **Don Monteverdi**, UV '78-80, and **Rob Stevens**, UV '77-80, attended the **Annual Conference** of the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) in Shawnee, PA. Besides attending the usual seminars and meetings, we were able to begin laying the groundwork for FBF participation in the Peace Corps' 40th Anniversary celebrations in 2001, and perhaps even more importantly, start organizing events and reunions for our members during the NPCA Annual Meeting in Washington next September.

• NEWSLETTER:

The FBF Newsletter, the **Burkina Connection**, continues to thrive under Editor Denny FitzPatrick. The organ consistently draws praise from members, serves increasingly as a conduit for reconnection among RPCVs who have lost contact with each other, spreads news of and from Burkina Faso and, this year, became an award-winner. At the 2000 NPCA Annual Conference, the *Connection* won second-place honors in both design and editorial (content). But far more importantly, it has become established as a true quarterly publication, which helps promote stability and continuity within the organization.

• CONTACTS IN BURKINA FASO:

In 2000, FBF has begun a regular pattern of both official and informal communications with **Jimmy Kolker**, the U.S. Ambassador to Burkina Faso, and **Bruno Zidouemba**, Burkina Faso's Ambassador in Washington. Mr. Kolker has kept us abreast of his extensive travels in Burkina and news from the Embassy, and always makes sure that FBF members and friends are warmly received when traveling in Burkina. M. Zidouemba keeps us up-to-date on news from his government and Embassy, and we hope to increase contact and communication with him in 2001, to take advantage of his warmth and helpfulness.

We are also receiving regular news from the **Peace Corps** program in Burkina, from both staff and Volunteers. The new Country Director, **Nelson Cronyn**, wants to facilitate and increase a two-way communication network.

• FUNDRAISING:

We continued to increase merchandise sales in the past year by regularly promoting our t-shirts and totes, and by adding new items such as **Michael Patton's** (UV '67-69) book and the Wisconsin RPCV **calendars** to our sales repertoire. We sold our first order of custom-

(continued on next page)



REPORTS...



Annual Report – continued



designed shirts to the Friends of Niger, and other African groups are beginning to express interest in seeing our logo modified to meet their particular requirements. Outside contributions, however, are rather limited, and probably will remain so until we can recruit a regular “full-time” fundraising volunteer.

• NEW HELP:

An area of unqualified success has been our recruitment of new volunteer workers into FBF’s active ranks. In the past year, we have added a second **editorial assistant** to the newsletter staff, a separate **merchandise sales director**, a new **Board member** and a **Web page creator**. Many members and current PCVs in Burkina are stepping forward to submit news and stories for the *Connection*.

The best part of this story is that these new volunteer workers are nearly all younger and/or women, something we “old boys” currently running FBF have been pushing mightily for, finally with success.

• ON THE DOWN SIDE:

We have not yet developed a consistent policy and framework for identifying specific problems and then developing specific **assistance projects** in Burkina Faso, something which serves as an important focal point for most successful country-of-service (“Friends of”) groups within the NPCA. This remains a major deficiency within our group and will continue to be addressed.

We also did not implement a Website in 2000, but we did make a start, and it should be under construction shortly, and in full operation not too far into the new year.



FBF Treasurer's Report *by Holland McKenna*

CASH ON HAND 31 DECEMBER 1999: \$7,224.01

RECEIPTS: Joint Memberships through FBF (6 times \$40.00): 240.00
Joint Memberships through NPCA (33 times \$15.00): 495.00
Family Memberships through NPCA (2 times \$22.50): 45.00
FBF Memberships (27 times \$15.00): 405.00
Reduced Rate Memberships (2 times \$10.00): 20.00
Contributions: 300.00
Total Receipts for year: \$1,505.00

INTERIM BALANCE: \$8,729.01

EXPENSES: Newsletter Production: 928.47
Bulk Mailing Permit: 100.00
Newsletter Mailing: 391.28
President’s Expenses: 383.22
Dues Paid to NPCA (6 times \$25.00): 150.00
Affiliation to NPCA (2000): 100.00
Total Expenses for year: \$2,052.97

NEW BALANCE 31 DECEMBER 2000: \$6,676.04

DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR: (\$ 547.97)



Is there life after Peace Corps?

Friends of Burkina now working at USAID *by Tom Fox, "UV1", '69+*

Four people who were once part of historic Peace Corps-Upper Volta in the 1960s (!) now continue their international work through the Agency for International Development (USAID). One was the first Peace Corps Country Director in Burkina Faso (in 1967). Three of them were in 1969's Upper Volta II, the second group of PCVs to arrive in Burkina.



• **Tom Fox**, Peace Corps/Upper Volta's first Country Director, is the outgoing Assistant Administrator for Policy and Program Coordination for AID, a presidential appointment (which explains why he is "outgoing"). His responsibilities have included policy, strategic planning, performance evaluation and monitoring, and donor coordination.



• **Art Westneat** is now the Private Sector Advisor to USAID's Africa Bureau and team leader for the Africa Trade and Investment Policy (ATRIP) program. ATRIP is a presidential initiative designed to promote trade and investment policy reform in Africa and business and association linkages between African and American partners. He joined AID in October 1998 following a career path that has included work on AID-funded projects in Chad, the Central African Republic, Congo (ex-Zaire), and Togo. He re-


cently received his doctorate from Indiana University.



• **Jay Smith** is a Senior Foreign Service Officer, and Director of the Development Program Office of the Africa Bureau in Washington. He oversees the budget preparation and strategic planning processes for the Africa Bureau. From '94 to '98, he was Deputy Director at USAID/Mozambique, and previously an economist in the Africa Bureau, in Morocco, and in Ouaga from '78 to '83. In his words, economics and softball pretty much define his career at USAID. He started at AID in 1977 after studying economic demography and development at the University of Michigan.



• **Don Clark**, also a Senior Foreign Service Officer, is AID's Mission Director in Senegal. After finishing Peace Corps in '71, he got an MBA from Dartmouth in '73, and went to work for USAID in 1973. Still enjoying the challenges of development, he has spent most of his career with USAID in West Africa, with assignments in Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina, Mali, and now Senegal. He has also served in Tunisia, Sri Lanka, Nepal and (also as Mission Director) Uganda.

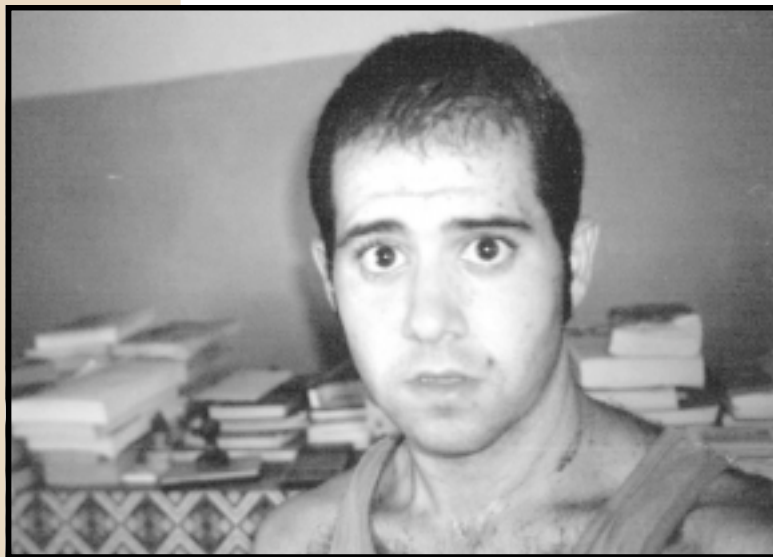
All four of them wish that AID would return to Burkina Faso.... 

INTERVIEWS...



Burkina, shelved

by Jonathon D. Colman, '99-'00



SHELVED....



If I cracked through that solid platform of ice and knocked it down off the roof yesterday, it's sure to grow back with tonight's freezing rain. Maybe the sun I know so well from Africa will finally make an appearance here in Michigan tomorrow.

But right now, I'm looking at a bookcase. In the middle of its six shelves is the battered French dictionary that got me out of so many jams. I used it to translate hundreds of pages about the state of public health in my department.

On the left is a wooden figurine of a nude woman, breasts and hips jutting out until her slim waist and face are nearly lost. Stacked under her is a set of Mooré writing aids that I picked up in Kaya and never got around to using much.

And over there's the African version of the *Thinker*, his head hung down but supported by a hand, sans stomach. He's a structure without substance, an empty icicle suspended from the eaves trough.

Second shelf up holds old bike

books and tools that friends sent me. A pair of bar-ends that my roommate installed during stage. A bunch of empty patch kits that I used to make the run from Pensa, my village, down to Barsalogo, where there's a district hospital. The maintenance book that taught me everything I know about mountainbikes. I remember reading it by lantern light when the Protestants drummed me awake late at night, which is why it's filled with sweat stains and squashed bugs.

That was back in the province of Sanmatenga, back in my village where I kept it within reach, just outside the mosquito net with Chris' ragged copy of *Lord of the Rings* on the dusty floor with the cockroaches. Now it's sitting unused on a bookshelf, an iced-over weathervane.

Right here's a pile of pictures that I've organized by place, time, and primary subject. The *stages* in Bobo. The Peaks of Sindou. Women hawking sesame biscuits in the Boromo *marché*. Relaxing at the Embassy Rec Center and International School. The bus *gare* at Koudougou. A photo in front of every bar I ever went to (and was able to walk out of).

And old friends, too: the government nurse who really wanted to run a touring company; the *camion du marché* that carried me out of and back into my village with all of our food and livestock. The PCVs from Cote d'Ivoire who helped save our butts when we were stuck in Abidjan during the *coup d'état*. Amy holding a chicken on her lap in Dablo. A bread baker who wanted to come to America.

Li'l Julie (sleeping) and Blue (very much awake) in Angela's house at Koudougou. Nikiema and Bancé wading through hip-deep water in Yalgo to go vaccinate kids. Collaine under her hangar with Sassy during hot season in Boussoma. Sanmiratou braiding all that hair for Tabaski. Dee speaking Mooré in Soubeira. Bernard with his 1250cfa machete. Siaka playing checkers with the other kids in Accartville. Elynn in a rainstorm and Juliet in the sand. Maman cooking *tôt* with *sauce de gumbo*.

Down on the bottom are all the papers: passport, WHO yellow card, ID, letter of invitation, a form letter from Clinton, my Description of Service, a copy of my fingerprints, all sorts of French lessons from *stage* (did I ever use the *passé simple* or *future anterior*? Does anyone?), various spreadsheets and graphs of health statistics in my village, and the original PCV assignment description, which included the first map that I ever saw of Burkina Faso. Land-locked.

Now I'm unlocking the house from the ice, but also regarding this bookcase, seeing how I've neatly organized my 18 months in Burkina Faso into ABCs and *un-deux-trois*. You know that the real Burkina isn't like that. It's not classifiable, it's not quantitative, it's not even all that logical. But anyone browsing through this bookcase would get a different impression.

So this is Burkina, shelved.

This is what it looks like when you come back and try to explain it to people when they ask you, "What was Africa like?" It's like cute, bite-sized McStories guaranteed to make you laugh, cry, or cross the room to get away for another drink.

But that's stupid – you know that every item, every pile and stack, every scar and stain has its own deeper history to tell.

"...every scar and stain has its own deeper history to tell."

And it won't be a well-packaged yet vacuous tale...it will be messy, crammed full of confusing content.

I should break through each of these shelves, let them crash down one-by-one on top of each

other in a huge heap. Everything would break and melt together, arranging itself chaotically, fantastically, uniquely, wonderfully. Truthfully.

But that ice is coming back, I can tell. And so is the sun.



(Editor's note: Jonathon Colman, FBF's new webmaster, is a recently returned Peace Corps volunteer, now living in icy Michigan. He wrote this in January, 2001. The photo is Jonathon in his house at Pensa (his village), circa August, 2000. He had just come home from working at Stage, and had just finished knocking all the termites off of his hangar, which explains why he's all sweaty and dirty. His battered French dictionary is in the pile on the shelf behind him.)

SHELVED...





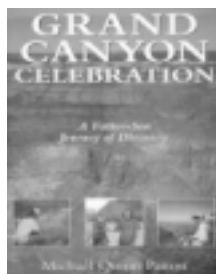
T-Shirts & Tote Bags

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

2001 Calendars



Many of you are familiar with the great international calendars marketed for many years now by the RPCVs of Wisconsin. Each month features a Peace Corps country of service. We are now able to sell these calendars to our FBF members, at a special price of \$8 apiece. FBF will get about half of the proceeds back to support our projects.



Michael Patton's Book

Michael Patton, '67-69, has agreed to donate \$5 for every one of his books sold. 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 Brandon. The book is just \$19, it's a wonderful story worth reading, and you'll help out FBF at the same time.

To order your merchandise, and to support FBF projects, please complete the form below and send with a check to:

**FBF C/O DIANNE FERGUSSON
430 EAST PARK DRIVE
SPARTANBURG SC 29302**

 Please make checks payable to: FRIENDS OF BURKINA FASO

NAME:	PHONE:	
ADDRESS:	ZIP:	
<i>(NOTE FOR SHIRTS: IN L & XL SIZES, PLEASE SPECIFY WITH ___ OR WITHOUT ___ "PEACE CORPS")</i>		
HOW MANY:	T-SHIRTS: M ___	PRICE PER SHIRT: \$16
	T-SHIRTS: L ___	PRICE PER TOTE: \$20
	T-SHIRTS: XL ___	PRICE PER BOOK: \$19
	TOTE BAGS: ___	PRICE PER CALENDAR: \$8
	BOOKS: ___	(PRICES INCLUDE SHIPPING)
	CALENDARS: ___	

From the mailbox. . .




...I have noticed that few of my era have been writing or mentioned lately (I was in Burkina Faso from '84-'86). So, with that in mind, I am sending a photo of the JFA-PC volunteers. The picture was taken at the training site in Saria around September, 1984. The JFA was a three year program teaching farming and literacy in the various local languages. Keep up the good work with the *Burkina Connection*.

– **Bill Brauner**, Lynn, MA



Renew, renew, renew. . . .

Look for the date of your membership expiration after your name on the mailing label. If there isn't one, you're due. We depend on your contributions, Friends of Burkina!

 YES, I WANT TO HELP KEEP FBF ALIVE!

\$15 Annual FBF Membership New Member Renewing Member

\$40 Joint Annual Membership...
(\$15 for FBF, \$25 for NPCA)

\$0 or whatever you can afford...
(we'll send you the newsletter)

\$ ___ Donation to FBF Project Fund

Make checks payable to: FBF
Mail to:
FBF MEMBERSHIP
C/O DICK DIETZ
107 AUGUSTA DRIVE
STATESVILLE NC 28625-4601

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone / E-mail: _____

Connection w/ Burkina: _____

MAILBOX...



PO BOX 563
GRAND MARAIS MN 55604
USA

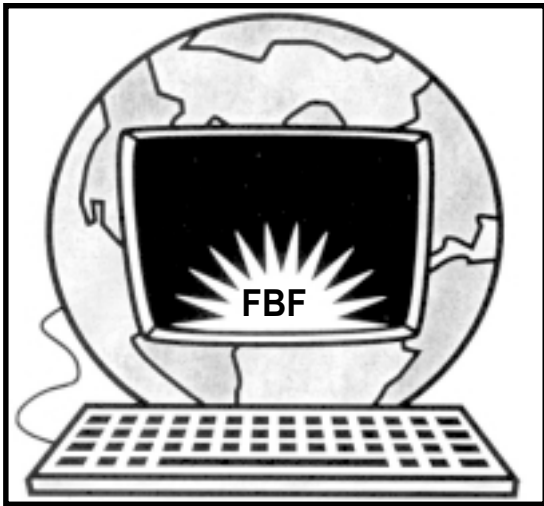
NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
GRAND MARAIS, MN
PERMIT NO. 15

Address Service Requested




Burkina Connection


BURKINA CONNECTION...
Burkina Connection



**website
launching!**

friendsofburkinafaso.org

 OUR MISSION:

Friends of Burkina Faso, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, was established to:

- Maintain a network of returned Peace Corps Volunteers and friends of Burkina Faso
- Provide funding and assistance to support projects in Burkina Faso
- Improve social interaction, communication and information exchange
- Educate others about the country and culture of Burkina Faso