



Countdown to DC Celebration



President's Yiri *by Bob Osborne*

We're down to just a few weeks before the National Peace Corps Association's annual conference, celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Peace Corps, and the big **Friends of Burkina Faso reunion**. Check out the updated schedule of events inside this issue. If you have questions, call me, 517-723-5241, or Marianne Bailey, 703-683-2231.

Registration is easy, but you need to start hurrying if you haven't already done so in order to get good air fares and hotel rooms. Go on-line at www.rpcv.org, or call toll free 1-866-324-7103.

Whatever you do, **make every effort**

to get there. If you're short of money, come anyway to see your friends. We'll get you in. Show up and we'll find you a bed. Contact me or leave a note at the Burkina Faso section of the Bulletin Board at the conference headquarters Washington Hotel.

And **last resort**, if circumstances beyond your control prevent you from coming in person, at least send a photo or a note or an e-mail that we can post on the Bulletin Board, so you can be embraced by all your old *amis* in spirit.

Thanks, we'll see you there.



Updated Schedule

by Bob Osborne



FRIENDS OF BURKINA FASO

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If you have any questions, you may call or e-mail me before the conference, and after Tuesday, September 18, I'll be staying at the conference headquarters, the Washington Hotel, 15th and Pennsylvania NW, near the White House. There you can leave me a message, check the schedule of events, and look for news under the Burkina Faso section of the Bulletin Board.

Also, feel free to contact our official FBF conference coordinator, board member Marianne Bailey, bambara@gatewayone.com, phone 703-683-2231.

THURSDAY, SEPT 20

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Advocacy on Capitol Hill with congressional representatives, sponsored by NPCA.

5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Capitol Hill Reception. This is a general NPCA welcome and reception, and we'll gather there as a group as the evening goes on.

7:30 p.m. - 10 p.m. Party on. After the reception, we'll go as a group or groups to dinner, parties, or whatever we can put together. We'll also schedule a business and social meeting on Thursday. Be sure to check the Bulletin Board at the Washington Hotel.

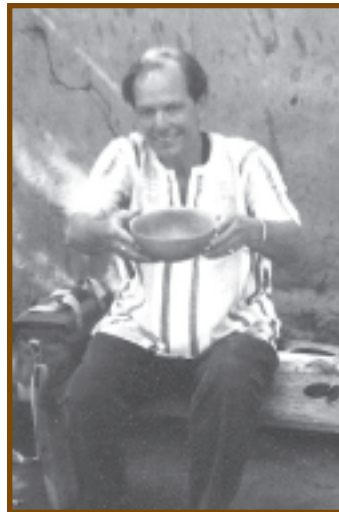
FRIDAY, SEPT 21

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.: NPCA has many good events scheduled during the day, and FBF will meld into them. The opening keynote address by Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo (taught in his teens by PCVs) will be given at 9 a.m. in the DAR Constitution Hall. Events throughout the day include Career Fair, International Bazaar, Writing Workshops, Film Festival, World Music, Panels, Readings, and Chats in the "Yakkin' Yurt" on the Mall. Check the NPCA website at rpcv.org, and the Bulletin Board at the Hotel Washington for specific details.

5 p.m. - 10 p.m. Party on. **Upper Volta 1** has a special reunion planned at Mead Over's house for the **1967-69 RPCVs**. Mead's house is at 4825 Thirty-second Street NW, Northwest of the Zoo, near the corner of Connecticut and Nebraska,

metro stop Van-Ness/UDC, phone 202-237-8404.

Other UV/BF eras may also schedule some gatherings. Check the bulletin boards for films, music and lots of NPCA events extending into the evening.



SATURDAY, SEPT 21

8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Again, there are lots of NPCA events going on to participate in on Saturday, so plenty to keep you busy. Volunteer Day activities are from 8 a.m. to noon. The NPCA Annual General Meeting is 10:30 a.m. to noon in the American Red Cross Building. The Country-of-Service Group Updates are 3:30 to 5 p.m. in the Agriculture Building.

3 p.m. - 6 p.m. **1981-1983 RPCVs** special reunion at Tim Helm's place. Tim's house is at 1313 10th St. NW, phone 202-234-6719. If you were a PCV in Burkina from 1981-83, RSVP to Tim or Eric Figueroa or Frank Wirmusky. See the announcement on the next page.

6 p.m. - 10 p.m. The biggie, the **Friends of Burkina Faso General Soirée** at the home of Tom and Elizabeth Fox at 3435 34 Pl NW, also near a metro station. Tom was the **first PC director** in Upper Volta. **EVERYONE** is cordially invited, all Friends of Burkina, all UV/BF RPCVs, all years, all eras. We have several Burkina nationals to help provide genuine Burkina food as well as fun and hospitality. The **Burkina Faso Embassy staff** has also been invited. Check the Bulletin Board at the Washington Hotel to keep up-to-date.

SUNDAY, SEPT 22

8 a.m. Early Sunday morning we'll assemble under the Burkina Faso flag at the Lincoln Memorial, along with scores of other national flags, and march across Memorial Bridge to Arlington National Cemetery. We'll file past President Kennedy's grave, then head to the Amphitheater to honor those who died in Volunteer service. The procession is rather exciting, as the flags create a real pageant atmosphere. It will also be quite moving, both at President Kennedy's grave and at the memorial service.

Noon - 6:30 p.m. Sunday afternoon calls for lunch, activities and games on the Mall, softball, volleyball or Scrabble. And of course "fare-thee-wells" to those who are leaving for home this afternoon.

6:30 p.m. - 10 p.m. The 40th Anniversary Gala is Sunday evening at the JFK Center for the Performing Arts. I plan on attending (It's rather pricey, but worth it, I hope.) I will be in DC until Monday, so if anyone is contemplating staying overnight, I'll have extra room at my hotel.



SCHEDULE...



INVITATION TO A REUNION OF THE '81-83 BURKINA FASO RPCVS



Stage, 1981.

Who: 1981-83 Burkina Faso RPCVs
When: Saturday, September 22
Time: 3:00 – 6:00 pm
Where: Tim Helm's Place
1313 10th St NW
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: 202-234-6719
E-mail: tim@fenix2.dol-esa.gov

Please RSVP to Eric Figueroa or Frank Wirmusky
Eric: 202-328-7870 figueroa_e@excite.com
Frank: 410-758-5441 fwirmusky@aol.com



INVITATION TO A REUNION OF THE '67-'69 BURKINA FASO RPCVS



Arrival, 1967.

Who: 1967-69 Burkina Faso RPCVs
When: Friday, September 21
Time: 5:00 – 10:00 pm
Where: Mead Over's Place
4825 32nd St NW
Washington, DC 20008
Phone: 202-237-8484
E-mail: meadover@worldbank.org

Please RSVP to Mead or Bob Osborne
Bob: 517-723-6622 bosborne@shianet.org



'84-'86 RPCVs contact Bill Brauner: wbrauner@aol.com



'77-'80 RPCVs contact Rob Stevens: rkaysserstevens@aol.com

ALLEZ-Y...



INVITATION TO A REUNION OF ALL FRIENDS OF BURKINA FASO



Caravan to the DC reunion!

Who: All Friends of Burkina,
Everyone, All Years/Eras
When: Saturday, September 22
Time: 6:00 – 10:00 pm
Where: Tom Fox's Place
3435 34 Pl NW
Washington, DC 20016

Please RSVP to Marianne Bailey
703-683-2231 bambara@gatewayone.com



ALL FBF REUNION...



Remembering 1977-80

from Rob Stevens

LES AMIS...



Peace Corps in Burkina 1977-80 (then Upper Volta) wasn't all hard work. Here (left to right) **Rob Stevens, Malcolm Frisbie, Don Monteverde** and **Phil Cary** cool off in the American ambassador's pool, circa June, 1980. Stevens currently lives in Allentown, PA; Frisbie in KY; Monteverde in Riegelsville, PA; and Cary in Santiago, Chile.



Maimouna, a young neighbor of Stevens, sells cassava near the *marché* in Fada N'Gourma, where Stevens spent most of his PC years.



Phil Cary greets **Madame Dahani** in the *marché* in Fada, where Cary spent his two years as a PCV forester. Cary is currently a program director for English as a second language in Santiago, Chile.



June 1980. Stevens returned to Fada for a visit with the **Ouedraogo** family, his next-door neighbors. He was working in **Namounou** on a USAID road construction project after completing his PC tour. Here they pose with his prized radio, his link to world affairs. He remembers listening to reports on the hostages in Iran in 1979 and his puzzled African friends asking how that could happen.



Ambassador transitions

Ambassador Zidouemba has finished his term at the BF Embassy in Washington, D.C., and has been recalled to Ouagadougou. At this time, his new position has not been announced, nor has a new ambassador yet to be named. In the meantime, **M. Babou Bama**, *Premiere Secetaire*, is Acting Ambassador. Many of the embassy staff are new, and FBF looks forward to meeting and welcoming them all in September at the RPCV gatherings. The embassy is located at 2340 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20008, telephone 202-332-5577.

Looking for Madame Alix Kabore

Isabelle is looking for her best friend from childhood, **Madame Alix Kabore** from Ougadougou. She married a PCV from Burkina, and we don't know her last name now. **Madame Alix Kabore**, please contact your friend **Isabelle** at ISAMCCOY@hotmail.com.

Check out latest PC photos

Cathy Seeley, current Burkina PCV, has posted some great photos of the 2001 PC **Trainees** (soon-to-be-Volunteers). Also check out the wedding of **Erikalynn Parent** and **John Romweber** in **Pissila** (Be sure and notice the "wedding feet" done in henna). Just go to www.photopoint.com and then type in Cathy's e-mail address cathyseeley@hotmail.com. If you haven't seen her Burkina website yet, that's at <http://msnhomepages.talkcity.com/VolunteerSt/cathyseeley>.

English-Mooré primer v1.0

Jonathon Colman, FBF's web naaba, has compiled an incredible new *Mooré*-English primer. It's final resting place will be the soon-to-be-updated website www.friendsofburkinafaso.org. But for now it's posted on-line at http://www.glc.org/jcolman/moore_primer.html. He'll update it regularly, and if people contribute enough *Jula* and *Fulfude*, he'll put together the complete guide for friends and family to get around *au village*.

New trial look for the *Connection*

This special "Reunion Edition" of the *Burkina Connection* has some color, and it's printed on a matte finish, recycled paper and soy-based ink. It's a little pricier, but we thought we'd try it. We'll need your dues for us to continue this new format. Any comments?

BILIBILIFU...





Comment ça va les éléphants?

by Norimitsu Onishi, NY Times, from Holland McKenna



Photo by Cathy Seeley, PCV.
On the road to Bobo.

Baporo Forest, Burkina Faso. The traffic, having no alternative, stopped on the country's main highway. At a point where the road cuts through this forest on its way to Ouagadougou, some **50** African elephants were crossing in a neat single file, delaying a southbound truck

loaded with ripening mangoes.

Having chomped with evident satisfaction on the tree branches on one side of the road ahead, the herd lumbered to a pond on the other side. The road-crossing occurs with enough frequency in this region of West Africa that curious local children know the exact safe distance to keep from the beasts.

It was a **vivid reminder**, though only a reminder, that elephants once roamed all over West Africa, where the animal is often used as a national emblem. Today, the elephants scattered throughout the region number only several thousand, a tiny percentage of the total on the continent.

In neighboring Ivory Coast, the elephant population has dwindled to such a low point, fewer than 2,000, that many Ivoirians have never seen one. And yet the country had the region's largest number of elephants a few decades ago, a fact reflected not only in its name but also in the use of the animal as emblems for the country and its oldest political party. In general, over the decades, elephants have been **losing a battle** against human beings, who have been growing in numbers and who have settled in previously sparsely populated areas.

The region has lost **90 percent** of its

elephant population in the last 20 years. In the 1940s, according to the World Wide Fund for Nature, Africa had between 3 million and 5 million elephants. Today, only between 300,000 and 500,000 elephants remain.

This small landlocked country of Burkina Faso has the largest pachyderm population in West Africa – between 3,000 and 4,000. Many live in **Nazinga Ranch**, and the **Arly** and **"W" National Parks**. Elephants in Burkina are protected by conservation laws tougher than those in the rest of the region. Most are so-called savanna elephants who migrate during the year in search of food and water, often across borders.

About 400 spend a good chunk of the year here in **Baporo Forest** and in the

adjoining **Deux Bales National Park**, an area of about 200,000 acres of bushland and aging baobab trees. Despite the killings of about eight elephants a year during the mid to late '90s, the incidents appear to have decreased and the population has stabilized, said **Simon**

"...Burkina Faso has the largest pachyderm population in West Africa – between 3,000 and 4,000."

Sawadogo, an elephant specialist at the environmental office here.

Experts say that part of the difficulty in protecting elephants in West Africa lies in the absence of the wildlife tourism found in other regions of Africa with greater varieties of animals. Many people here do not see the economic incentive in protecting elephants, especially if they are destroying crops.

Nor have governments in this region invested much in programs for the conservation of elephants, not even taking the necessary first steps such as determining their population.

Some progress is being made. After a meeting early this year in Ouagadougou, 50 environmental and wildlife specialists from the region established a program to gather information on elephant population and migration, and to implement effective measures against poaching.



Notes from the Acting Director

by Dan Irvine, Acting Country Director BF / APCD Fisheries Zambia

Greetings from Ouagadougou, where I am temporarily sitting in for PC Country Director **Nelson Cronyn**. My name is **Dan Irvine**, and I'm currently hailing from PC/Zambia. As a short termer I'll offer you an esoteric description of my initial impressions of Burkina.

Heat. Burkina is certainly warmer than Zambia, though not overwhelmingly so as I was led to believe. Of course, it's the rainy season now so I'm not being treated to the higher ranges of Celsius, and that's OK.

I was also informed prior to arrival that I would be won over by the **magnanimity of the Burkinabe people**, and on this count I'd have to register a solid affirmative. People here are among the most pleasant and helpful that I've encountered in my travels around the continent. Really wonderful.

Concerning the town of Ouagadougou, my **initial** impressions were of a dry, functional, fairly concise sort of capital city. So much for initial impressions – one week in and I'm already regretting not having more time to get down and dirty in it. I've now begun my addiction for the international **food flare** permeating the town, for **live music** that I'd swear could be transformed into a millions of dollars industry, and finding **accomplished artisans** hidden strategically throughout the city. I have to say that I also love to just sit out at the roadside tables and watch the mobylettes and donkeys going by.

Among the greatest of pleasures here is also **Peace Corps**. This post is **energized, ambitious, visionary, and active**. Beyond their primary goals, Volunteers are involved in a wide array of activities ranging from setting up a "Gender and Development" scholarship fund to promotion of HIV/AIDS awareness activities such as the SIDA STOP program, extending "Life Skills", and promotional biking events. Volunteers

nominate girls from their villages for regular "Take our Daughters to Work" days. Last week **Ambassador Kolker** noted that Volunteer work is beginning to have a significant impact on Guinea Worm eradication. And as I interview COSing PCVs the aggregate of their individual accomplishments is a constant reminder of the scope and impact of this institution.

On the horizon PC will be moving their **Pre-Service Training** in-house; a considerable undertaking. They will be participating in and hosting representatives from PC region-wide for the December international **HIV/AIDS conference** to be held in Ouagadougou. Peace Corps will be setting up an exhibit for this event, delivering an abstract, and PC/BF's own **Dr. Claude Millogo** (APCD Health) is a co-organizer of the conference. They are actively looking at possibilities for beginning work in the **environmental** sector. Volunteers are looking at ways to incorporate **Information Technology** into their assignments. The challenges roll on, and PC/BF does not seem to be shying from them.

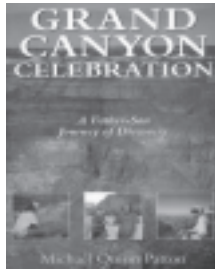
Of particular interest to me is the apparent **youthfulness** of a PC program that is in fact amongst the older programs (albeit the brief respite from the field in the early '90s). PC/BF has more of an aura of a new country entry in its **enthusiasm and dedication** than one that's been around for nearly 30 years. The current staff is progressive minded, capable, driven. Surely these are signs of a healthy, productive program and a lot of good news to come. I'm also impressed with the enthusiasm of **Burkina Faso RPCVs**. It's nice to see the volunteer spirit carrying on so well.



*"Surely these are signs
of a healthy,
productive program
and a lot of good
news to come."*

PC NEWS...





SALE: Patton's Book

Michael Patton, '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 Brandon. Publisher's sale price of \$15, postage included. If you don't have a copy yet, NOW is the time.

SALE: 2001 Calendars

We still have a few calendars left. OK, we know, 2001 is well along, so we'll give these away to our FBF members at a special sale price of \$5 apiece. They're worth it just for the spectacular photos. Each month features a Peace Corps country of service. And you'll feel good knowing that FBF will get the proceeds to support Burkina projects.



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 the words "Peace Corps" under the design.

Please complete the form below and send to our *Kwasa Naaba*, Dianne Fergusson ➔

**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: _____

(NOTE FOR SHIRTS: in L & XL sizes, please 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: \$19

PRICE PER CALENDAR: \$5

(PLEASE ADD \$2 TO YOUR ORDER TO HELP WITH POSTAGE COSTS)

Burkina PC Staff of '70-'71 reunites

The people in this picture made up the Burkina Faso Staff in '70 and '71. They recently spent a weekend together at Bob Siegel's home in San Francisco.



From left to right are **Milt Kogan** (Physician), **Bob Siegel** (Director), **Walter Guterbock** (Deputy Director), and **Dena Leavitt**

who used to be married to Milt when he was PC doc in Burkina. Milt lives in Los Angeles where he's a physician and doctor. Walter lives in Scotts, MI, where he is a dairy farmer and veterinarian. Bob teaches ESL at the City College of San Francisco. Dena, retired from the staff of the Monterey Aquarium, lives in Monterey. Friends from the '70-'71 era can reach Bob at bobsiegel@earthlink.net.



PLEASE RENEW

Look for the date of your membership expiration after your name on the mailing label. If there isn't one, your \$15 membership is due. Thanks for your support.

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BURKINA CONNECTION



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COUNTDOWN TO DC!



America Thanks the Peace Corps:
40th Anniversary Celebration – September 20-23

- Four decades • 300,000 Years of Service
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BURKINA REUNION DETAILS INSIDE



OUR MISSION:

Friends of Burkina Faso, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable NPCA-affiliated organization

- Maintains a network of returned Peace Corps Volunteers 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