Project Work Funded!

A new era dawns for FBF efforts  by Suzanne May Plopper

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

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

(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

**FRIENDS OF BURKINA FASO CONTACTS**

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6305 N Bell Street, Kansas City, MO 64151
Tel: 816-746-9465 (h) adamsfa@awbell.net
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 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. 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.
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.

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 NEEED 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!
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 lycée’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'intérêt que vous manifestez à l'égard 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 démarches puissent être entreprises pour que l'état prennent 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 du Lycée
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 a 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
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!

---

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

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 “completion point” in April, which will bring significant new resources into the government budget for poverty reduction.

- All political parties competed in May’s legislative elections, and the government party was limited to 49.5% of the vote and only 57 of the 111 National Assembly seats. The parliament will at last be a forum for real debate.

- 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
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.
At the occasion of the Peace Corps 40 + 1 Anniversary 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 governing 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.

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


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

C’est assurément le lieu de rendre hommage 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 expériences, 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 a 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 constitués en “Friends of Burkina Faso.”

New: 2003 Calendars

Now available, the famous RPCV 2003 International Calendar. Awesome, beautiful, 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 Merchandise Order Form

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 ___  PRICE PER SHIRT: $16
T-SHIRTS: L ___  PRICE PER TOTE: $20
T-SHIRTS: XL ___  PRICE PER BOOK: $15
TOTE BAGS: ___  PRICE PER CALENDAR: $12
BOOKS: ___  (PLEASE ADD $3 IF YOU WANT TO HELP WITH POSTAGE COSTS)
CALENDARS: ___

Make all checks payable to FBF. Thanks for your support.
## Financial Reports

### Project Fund Report – Molly Chambers
30 AUGUST 2002

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### Treasurer's Report – Holland McKenna

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31 DECEMBER 2000

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A truly heartening response
by Tom Vollrath, Projects Committee Chair

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! Seventy-five 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 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

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<tr>
<td>Relationship to Burkina Faso __________________________________</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current occupation ___________________________________________</td>
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**My project contribution is enclosed. I am offering $___________________**

- [ ] My gift may be used wherever the Projects Committee feels it is most needed.
- [ ] I want my gift to support the __________________________ project.

**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? __________________________**

| __________________________________________________________________________ |

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**Friends-of-Burkina-Faso membership** is open to all. If you, or someone who you know, would like to become an official member of our non-profit charitable organization, let us know by completing this contribution form. Members receive the quarterly Burkina Connection newsletter.

**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.
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