



## It was one great reunion. . .



Friends of Burkina Faso gather for a business meeting *chez* Tim Helm. September 22, 2001 – Washington, D.C.

### The worst of times, the best of times *by Bob Osborne*

It was the worst of times, it was the best of times. As I wondered how to begin this article, reversing Dickens' opening lines (from *A Tale of Two Cities*) seemed appropriate. We had just suffered the unforgivable atrocities of September 11, and our long-awaited conference to celebrate 40 years of the Peace Corps was abruptly terminated. Yet somehow, we, along with many other Returned Volunteers from around the world, resolved to get together in Washington, D.C. with a

determination to celebrate peace no matter what. **And what a week it was!**

In many ways, it was surreal. The thumping of circling helicopters; the music of "Sergeant Pepper;" armed guards easily visible on the White House roof; old friends renewing friendships at several gatherings; admonitions of danger and war from the President; determined words of peace and love from the first Peace Corps Director. Most of all, it was a nonstop flow of events I shall always cherish and never forget.

On Thursday, Sept. 20, a few of us who got in early had dinner at a West African restaurant with **Reginald Petty**, the Assistant Director of Upper Volta I. Reg has had some health problems in recent years, but his wit and charm and intelligence are fine, and despite the volume of the music, we had a great "mini-reunion" and got the weekend off to a flying start.

On Friday afternoon, we had the honor of meeting with **Bruno Zidouemba**, Ambassador to the U.S. from Burkina Faso, at the Burkina Embassy on Massachusetts Avenue. The Ambassador delivered a lengthy address on the current state of political, social and economic affairs in Burkina Faso, and then left us to plan our coming weekend. Afterwards, we had a chance for informal talks with Mr. Zidouemba and two of his staff assistants.

That night, those of us from **Upper Volta I** (I believe over half the group was there) gathered at the D.C. home of

*(continued on page 4)*





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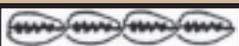
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# President's Yiri *by Bob Osborne*



**Bob Osborne greets Sargent Shriver at the NPCA Peace Vigil. September 22, 2001. Washington, D.C.**

As some of you know, I've been **accepted into the Foreign Service**, starting January 14. This is all very exciting to me, but it's created a huge burden on my time, and my time as president is drawing to a close. It is important to have an active president to keep things together, and my ability to do so will be increasingly limited.

I can stay on the job while I am in Washington, which will be into the summer, but a **replacement must be found** before I go overseas. Shortly, I will appoint someone to act as a sort of assistant to the president, in much the same fashion that I worked for former president John Sneed when he made his move to Portland. This will help keep a lot of the details in place.

Concurrently, I'll work with the Board to sort out our next moves. The by-laws properly give the Board a lot of leeway in running a far-flung group, but we need to address how FBF will keep the momentum going and **move to the next level**, where we can start sponsoring useful projects in Burkina Faso, and begin to

address another goal, namely to improve relations between Americans and Burkinabé.

**The key to this is a new president**, and I want some of you to step forward and make yourselves known. I have some ideas of my own, and I'll be in touch. But more people have to make up their minds to put a little time in on behalf of the group, whether as a potential new board member, as a new officer, or even as the next president.

Finally, I noted in some recent discussions and e-mails that some of us expressed admiration for those who had **traveled or worked abroad** a lot, and wished that they themselves had done a little more. Well, I know from personal experience that there is still **life** in the second half-century. I have to say that the Foreign Service was very receptive to my application, even though they knew I'd have to retire in nine years. If

your kids are grown, your obligations are manageable, and your health is still good, think seriously about taking the plunge. You don't have to go my way; there are **plenty of other avenues**.

Start with the **Peace Corps** itself. You can think about a staff position, or even about becoming a Volunteer again. See the **Crisis Corps** appeal on page 15 of this issue. Or check into working for an **NGO**. A good friend of mine was president of Friends of Malaysia, and now she's working in Turkey and loving it. The point is that you have to jump off the edge, and the sooner the better. Most of these things take some time, and some of us don't have our youth anymore. But as long as we're still kicking, **we can do it.** 

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*"... as long as we're still kicking, we can do it."*

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# Minutes of FBF Annual Meeting

by Marianne Bailey, FBF Board

## President's Report

Bob Osborne explained how FBF has been getting much more organized in recent years, exhibiting stability, improving its income situation, and most recently developing a website designed and implemented by Jonathan Colman.

## Financial Report

Denny FitzPatrick explained that the biggest expense is the *Burkina Connection* newsletter. It is mailed to about 600 people of which only about 10% are paying dues. The cost of production and mailing is about \$500 per issue quarterly. A much greater push is needed to ensure that members pay dues. With the surplus we would be able to concentrate more on project work in Burkina.

## Update on current PC/BF

Jonathan Colman described current PC programming in Burkina. There are about 80-90 volunteers there at a time. Jonathan described key projects, including those in the health sector, particularly guinea worm eradication. We also heard a very inspiring report from former Ambassador Don Easum '71-'73, relating his experience in Burkina and other work since then.

## Future Projects

Several members described project ideas that FBF might want to take up:

- Charles Rodgers described a project through Save the Children to promote concrete latrine covers.
- Denny FitzPatrick described Cathy Seeley's NEEDED (Lambs for Girls) Education project, for which anything from \$15 to \$1000 would be welcome.
- Marianne Bailey described work of two organizations, Crosslink Interna-

tional, which provides surplus medical equipment and pharmaceuticals to hospitals and clinics in other countries; and the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy, which is promoting access to bicycles for female students and entrepreneurs in Africa.



Marianne Bailey

• Taale Rosellini described the work of his African Family Film Foundation, which is doing tremendous work primarily in film, but also in teaching organic agriculture, solar energy, and health throughout Africa.

• Jonathan Colman noted that FBF could ask current PCVs to provide local information to project organizations, and the group decided it would be good to contact Director Nelson Cronyn directly.

## Other Business

- We talked more about potential website ideas.
- The group discussed possible FBF responses to 9/11 and subsequent events. There was a feeling that we have a role to play, and while we may or may not make a difference, we need to make an effort. We decided to write a position paper, the essence of which is the need to have a feeling for being in other people's shoes. This is the Third Goal in practice. Being patriotic and promoting peace are not mutually exclusive. Strike a balance between retribution and peace. A group headed by Anastasia Hopkinson, including Amb. Easum, Bob Coffey, and Eric Figueroa were unanimously chosen to submit a final statement.

MEETING...





(continued from page 1)

## The worst of times, the best of times *by Bob Osborne*



**Mead Over** and his wife **Beth** for a memorable reunion. There was wonderful music, slides from **Jim** and **Susan Hyde**, uncounted rehashing of stories old and new, a film presentation from **Taale Rosellini**, and generally a flood of pure joy at meeting up with friends – some we hadn't seen since '68 or '69. But the best part was the chance to honor three heroes: **Tom Fox**, our first Director; **Reg Petty**, whom I talked about earlier; and **Eli Newberger**, our doctor. All three were instrumental in forming us, and for getting the Peace Corps off to such a good start there. **Anastasia Hopkinson** and **Jon Berger** created plaques to present to them.

Saturday was the busiest day, starting off with a membership meeting at **Tim Helms'** home. After a great deal of conversing, meeting new friends from various eras and generally refreshing ourselves, we conducted some business, including updates from **Jonathan Colman**, our website guru; **Denny FitzPatrick** on the newsletter; **Marianne Bailey** and **Charles Rodgers** on potential projects; and a president's report on several FBF topics. Then, we had a long discussion on what we as a group could do to express our position on the current terrorism crisis. I appointed a committee of four – **Anastasia Hopkinson**, **Bob Coffey**, **Don Easum**, **Eric Figueroa** – who produced the letter on page seven of this newsletter. That document may be the most significant outcome of the entire event.

After the meeting, those from the early '80s stayed on at Tim's house to have their

own reunion. From this group will likely come our next generation of FBF leaders.

Next came a rally on the Mall, in front of the Lincoln Memorial. We participated in a procession of flags, from every country of past and present service; a candlelight vigil; readings from several Peace Corps writers; and a few speeches. It was all topped off with a stirring call to action from one of our greatest icons, **Sargent Shriver**, whom President Kennedy picked as the first Director of the Peace Corps. Afterwards, we made our way down and spoke personally with him for several minutes. At 87, he is still a formidable presence.

Then came the Grand Finale, the giant soirée at the home of **Tom** and **Elizabeth Fox**. This brought EVERYBODY together. Not only did all the old Vols and many

spouses come, but also former Ambassadors, our PC-Washington desk officer from the '60s, and a large contingent of local Burkina nationals who gave us a huge Burkina meal and provided us with much news from home. A silent auction was held, consisting of films, fabrics, art pieces, FBF shirts, and other

goodies, all resulting in net proceeds of over a thousand dollars going into FBF's coffers.

Finally came the show-stopper, the presentation of an award from UV1's fourth hero, **Dr. John Rassias**, who developed the immersion method of language instruction started so successfully at Dartmouth with Upper Volta I. **Bob Singley** and **Jon Berger** provided the introductions, and it was vintage Rassias from then on. I won't attempt to describe his part of the program, so I can only say "Ya hadda be there!" We all owe our gratitude to **Marianne Bailey** for coordinating this event, as well as her husband **Alexandre Bambara** for getting the Burkina community together.

We missed all of you who couldn't make it; we know you'll make the next one.

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*"Ya hadda be there!"*

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# Savoring the FBF gatherings. . .

September 21-23,  
Washington, D.C.



FBF delegates meet with Ambassador Zidouembe at the Burkina Faso Embassy.



"Upper Volta 1" 1967-69 RPCV reunion hosted by Mead Over.



Burkinabé friends enjoying the reception hosted by Tom Fox.



Bob Osborne on the Mall at the NPCA Parade of Flags and Peace Vigil.

GATHERINGS...



# FBF's letter to President Bush



*Friends of Burkina Faso formed a 911 Response Committee to compose a letter to President Bush regarding a response to the terrorist events of September 11. In our letter, we ask the President to increase the level of dialogue between our people and about our culture and others. We found that we could not simply ask the President to do something. What we ask of the President, we also ask of ourselves. The letter is about the ideals that define us, and the belief that our actions will speak louder than our words. It is a call to action for all FBF members, for understanding through dialogue, and includes a personal commitment to act in our communities by increasing inter-cultural dialogue. Thanks to the committee: Anastasia Hopkinson, Bob Coffey, Don Easum, and Eric Figueroa.*

Dear Mr. President,

We write to you as members of Friends of Burkina Faso, an organization composed primarily of Peace Corps Volunteers who served in this West African country. As a central element of our national response to terrorism, we believe that the United States government must embark on new and ambitious efforts abroad to increase understanding of the U.S. We also believe that Americans need to better understand other cultures, especially those that view us critically.

Since 1967, more than one thousand Volunteers have worked side by side with their Burkinabé counterparts in a variety of economic and social development activities. Our hosts came to see us as trusted friends and neighbors, people with whom they felt a connection. Americans were no longer simply distant inhabitants of a remote superpower country. We had become partners in mutual endeavors that transcended differences of country, history, race, culture, and faith.

Similar initiatives throughout the world are our most effective weapons against terrorism. We call on your leadership of governmental agencies to promote dialogue and education between Americans and citizens of developing countries. We also ask that you support programs that address the concerns of the individual: poverty, disease, malnutrition, environmental degradation, and human rights.

In support of these goals, we will act in our own communities to promote understanding of Africa and other regions of the world. We will support our schools in educating children about foreign cultures and perspectives. We will welcome visitors from other countries to our homes and communities so they may learn about us. We will seek every means to renew and fulfill our pledge to constructive, non-violent approaches to global problems.

We believe that what essentially defines America is not our material achievements alone. Rather, the true American is revealed in our respect for diversity, our embrace of the new and different, and our willingness to work together for peace.

Respectfully,  
The Friends of Burkina Faso



RESPONSE...



# And use this template locally

*The Friends of Burkina Faso 911 Response Committee also submitted a template for a more personal letter to local newspaper editors. FBF members can modify it as they wish, and send it for publication to their home town newspaper. We can use this to communicate the FBF message of understanding through dialogue. We can once again think globally, act locally, and bring the world back home. We'd like to hear your responses and suggestions. We encourage all the readers of the "Connection" to write to us about their feelings and thoughts and reflections. Thanks again to the Response Committee, and a special thanks to Bob Coffey, whose passion for mutual understanding and whose life-long devotion to the care and dignity of others inspired this letter.*



To the editor,

Some years ago I served in the Peace Corps in Burkina Faso, a small West African country. There I helped villagers dig wells [*substitute your personal assignment — i.e., dig wells, manage crops, maintain and improve maternal and infant health, learn English...*] and improve living conditions. My experience was typical of many excellent Peace Corps projects. In its 40-year history the Peace Corps has had the opportunity to reach out with these projects to people in over 130 countries. More than 160,000 Americans have befriended host country citizens and learned their languages and cultures.

Peace Corps Volunteers have served in humble efforts to enhance people's lives, and have found their lives wonderfully enhanced in return. This model works. On its patient, small scale it assists in improving health, education and standard of living, while fostering an understanding of the generosity of our citizens and the ideals of our country.

The challenges of this new era beg for the expansion of Peace Corps initiatives. On a larger scale our State Department, our foreign aid programs and our businesses must do more to reach out with respect and humility to our brothers and sisters in the developing world. This does not conflict with military antiterrorist campaigns; it is complementary to them. Together antiterrorism and respectful and generous international relationships become the natural strategy for the long haul. Together they build partnerships for a safer and more peaceful world.

I encourage my fellow Americans to support private efforts and government programs that educate and improve the lives of young people in the developing world. This provides fertile ground for the growth of tolerance and mutual understanding. These are the true antidotes for terrorism.

Sincerely,  
[Your signature]

[This template letter is available in email form by request — [dfitz@boreal.org](mailto:dfitz@boreal.org).]



RESPONSE...





# Traveling with the Ambassador



**Jimmy Kolker**

The biggest impact here in Burkina Faso of the September 11 attacks was the enormous expression of sympathy, solidarity and friendship for the American people.

I was overwhelmed by the number of people — members of the government but also a cross-section of the population — who visited, called or wrote the Embassy to express condolences. Nearly every American had the same moving experience of African friends, neighbors and co-workers spontaneously stopping by to share the grief, to express solidarity, and to see if we had lost any loved ones. Many referred to an American they had known in Burkina. **Friends of Burkina Faso** can rest assured that your Burkinabé friends were thinking of you and your well-being that day. And that the formidable energy people here devote to condolences was mobilized for the victims' families and the American people.

Within hours after the attacks, the street in front of the Embassy, Av. Raoul Follereau, was barricaded and 12 *gendarmes* deployed 24/7 to supplement our own local guard force (the Marines left in 1995). The two blocks between the Embassy and the Rec Center are still closed to through traffic, although we reopened both facilities on September 12 and have not had any special security

problems. The Rec Center held an ecumenical prayer service on September 14 with 120 people attending, and there were numerous individual initiatives by Burkinabé and American organizations to support the fight against terrorism.

Ironically, on September 12, with the arrival of Deputy Chief of Mission **Bob Sorenson** and Administrative Officer **Jeff Spence**, the Embassy is at full strength for the first time in over three years. Security Officer **Chris Stitt** is coordinating safety and security

measures with Peace Corps, the International School and local authorities, and we've resumed a full schedule of activities.

The abundant rains — resulting in the best harvest in many years — more than security con-

cerns, limited my own travels around Burkina during August and September, but I am still invigorated and impressed every time I leave Ouagadougou.

The most ambitious trip in July was a marathon visit to 8 villages in the **Gaoua** area during two days. The task was to visit and inaugurate all of the three-room schools the US Government financed through UNICEF to meet the needs of the population expelled from Tabou in Cote D'Ivoire in November, 1999. Regional Refugee officer **Bruce Knotts** (from Abidjan) and area Peace Corps volunteers **Katy Brodnik**, **Dana Weber** and **Heather White** accompanied me to all eight sites, which included Heather's village **Holly**. The most impacted village is **Sidimoukar**,

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*" . . . the enormous expression of sympathy, solidarity and friendship. . . "*

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where returnees from Tabou outnumber the previous population! The other villages with new classrooms are **Orkulpouo, Poltianoa, Niantana, Toumpena, Barkora, and Gbakono.**

A wonderful discovery with my wife and daughters and the girls' visiting friends was the newly-opened **Campement Le Kaicedra**, seven bumpy kilometers from **Boromo**, on a scenic bend of the Mouhoun (Black Volta) River. Located just outside the Deux Balé National Park, it was a great spot for tracking elephants — we saw 11 — or just sitting on the terrace with a cold drink and watching the birdlife.

July also took me to ceremonies in **Wangala and Goulangou**, (both on the road between Manga and Zabré) and to **Dayoubsi**, just 25 km from Ouaga, where a school built with Embassy funds 20 years ago was finally dedicated. PCV **Leia Isenhardt** and her visiting parents rode with me from Ouaga for the event.

Johns Hopkins and Plan International are cooperating to promote maternal and neo-natal health and child survival in the **Koupela** area, and I saw the results, visiting a clinic and several animated villages north of **Pouytenga**. Third-year PC Health volunteer **Janeen Burlison** has joined the staff of the USAID-financed projects since August.

Through a donation from the Wilson sporting goods company and the World Little League headquarters in Williamsport, PA, we have outfitted several Little League teams (over 100 Burkinabé boys and girls 8-12 years old). The Ouaga teams have been thriving for a couple of years, but

baseball came to **Bobo Dioulasso** on September 29. I enjoyed the challenge of trying to explain the rules to the Mayor, Prefet and High Commissioner, but the youngsters' enthusiasm and skills were easy to see.

I also combined business and tourism by delivering a shipment of American books in French to **Pô and Tiebélé**, as well as visiting the traditional wrestling tournament at **Tougan**. Both former Presidents from the area, **Sangoule Lamizana** and **Seye Zerbo** were in Tougan for the weekend, and I called on each of them at their homes. Tougan is also the site of the most

inviting dolo brewery I have seen! Several towns such as Tougan are now challenging **Toma**, site of the long-standing traditional wrestling tournament, with similar events of their own.

Finally, I presided over November school dedications in **Kadona-Silorola** (110 km north of Orodara) and **Gasma** (12 km east of Boussé).

And I plan to host a farewell dinner for **Tertius Zongo**, who has been named Burkina Faso Ambassador in Washington. Former Finance Minister Zongo will be an outgoing and well-informed representative in the U.S. I hope **Friends of Burkina** will join in welcoming him and introducing him to our country.

Several *Burkina Connection* readers have taken the trouble to write me during the past few months. I welcome the chance to hear from you: [kolkerjj@state.gov](mailto:kolkerjj@state.gov) or [ambres@liptinfor.bf](mailto:ambres@liptinfor.bf).



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*"...Tertius Zongo,  
has been named  
Burkina Faso  
Ambassador..."*

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US EMBASSY...



# Notes from Peace Corps Burkina



Nelson Cronyn, PCD

Greetings from Ouagadougou. The harmattan started a few weeks ago, bringing cooler nights and a big drop in humidity. Perfect weather for finishing the harvest, which, in most places, has been significantly better than it was last year.

Volunteers working in the Health and Education sectors continue to have a positive impact in their everyday work, whether working with village management committees to improve health care delivery or teaching classes (often with more than 100 students) of CEG and Lycee students. I am consistently impressed by the quality of work being done by Volunteers in Burkina despite enormous challenges. The uncertainty and magnitude of events in the U.S. and elsewhere recently add another layer of emotional and psychological issues that Volunteers have to cope with, but they carry on.

Here's a brief summary of events here at Peace Corps/Burkina Faso over the past few months:

- On August 31, we swore in 38 new Health and Education Volunteers in a ceremony held at Ambassador **Jimmy Kolker**'s residence. The ceremony aired on national television, and featured new Volunteers **Lisa Rotondo**, **Kara Garbe**, and **Kimberly Saunders** giving speeches in *Mooré*, *Jula*, and *Dagara*.

- The events of September 11 elicited an enormous outpouring of sympathy and condolences from our Burkinabé col-

leagues, counterparts, and friends. Burkinabé from all walks of life — ministry counterparts, Returned Volunteers' students and friends, NGO collaborators, school directors, and many others — called or stopped by the office and my house to present their condolences.

- Several groups of Volunteers held girls' summer camps in **Fada, Kaya, Ouahigouya, Gaoua, and Orodara**. These camps, which hosted 50 girls that had just passed the BEPC, included sessions on career options, money management, and HIV/AIDS awareness, as well as activities such as sports, tree planting, and visiting local enterprises.

- Fifty six Volunteers all over the country took part in "**SIDA Stop**," a nationwide campaign promoting HIV/AIDS awareness. Volunteers worked with theater groups, musical groups, and professional animators

to help disseminate information.

- The end of guinea worm in Burkina Faso is in sight! Thanks in large part to the collaborative efforts of Peace Corps Volunteers, the Ministry of Health, and Global 2000, the number of cases of this debilitating disease declined 51% (1689 to 828) for the period from January to September, 2000 to the same period in 2001. Burkina RPCV **Raymond Stewart**, the Global 2000 representative in Burkina, is confident that we can eradicate the worm by the end of 2003.

Site visits to Volunteers have taken me to villages around **Kaya, Gourcy, Yako, Diebouyou, Gaoua, and Ouagadougou**. In an effort to make sure I am staying reasonably in touch with Volunteers' day-to-day transport experiences I

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*"The end of guinea worm in Burkina Faso is in sight!"*

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have been taking my mountain bike out on some site visits (albeit on the roof of a Land Cruiser for part of the trip). Burkina has some outstanding single track! I often attract a few villagers on bikes, who line up behind me to take advantage of the draft and provide a running commentary on the pace, terrain, politics, and weather. When I am out on site visits, Volunteers' counterparts and friends express their appreciation of Peace Corps' work through gifts of chickens and other livestock for me (promptly transferred to Peace Corps drivers and guards if I am forced to accept) — as well as the constant offers to join the crowds at dolo bars.

Beginning December 1 (International AIDS Day), approximately 70 Volunteers and professional animators from the NGO PROMACO (a partner of Population Services International) will set out on a nationwide AIDS bicycle ride — **“La Course Contre le SIDA.”**

The cyclists will split up into three groups to ride three different routes: Fada to Ouagadougou, Ouahigouya to Ouaga, and Gaoua to Bobo-Dioulasso. Animators and Volunteers will present skits, play music, and stage Jeopardy-esque games to encourage awareness of HIV/AIDS. All three groups will complete the bikathon with a tour of Ouagadougou on December 8 that will include the mayor and other dignitaries, followed by a closing ceremony at Ouaga 2000. This project, the first of its kind in Burkina, is being funded in large part through a grant from American Medical Laboratories (AML), with additional financial support from UNAIDS and PROMACO.

The bikathon will segue into ICASA, the International Conference on

AIDS and STDs in Africa, to be held in Ouagadougou from December 9-14.

ICASA is expected to attract several thousand participants representing donors, NGOs, government officials, community groups and others from all over the world. Peace Corps programs, including Burkina Faso, will display posters and give oral presentations on Peace Corps' activities in the area of HIV/AIDS awareness. We are hoping that the inclusion of a musical group that assisted with our SIDA Stop campaign will get people up and dancing while they absorb some important messages.

I want to say a huge *“Barka”* to RPCVs **Barbara Brady** and **Mark Powell** for sending photos from their Volunteer days. The photos are now gracing the walls of our new office, reminding Volunteers, staff and visitors

of Peace Corps' achievements in Burkina over the past 35 years. Mark is actually a friend from our time in Niger together, when he was working as a researcher at ICRISAT and I would seek him out for information on the agroecology of the Sahel. I thought I had lost track of him, but forgot that Mark was a Volunteer here and might be an FBF member — small world. Dust off those negatives and send us your photos (8 X 10 if possible, with a description of who is doing what, where, and when on the back) — we have lots of empty wall space to fill.

May you all enjoy a happy, safe and peaceful holiday season with your friends and families. Thank you for your continued interest in Burkina Faso and this program.



*“Dust off those negatives and send us your photos. . .”*

PC NEWS...



# Food for fun eating *by David Marcham, '83-'85*



David Marcham

Here is the first installment in what I hope to be a continuing love affair with all things African and scrumptious. One of the many highlights for me on our FBF return trip to Burkina was finally eating my favorite Burkinabé dishes again. Of course, I plan on going back as soon as I can to sample them again!

Most of the recipes I will share with FBF come from “The Africa News Cookbook” published by Penguin and copyrighted 1985 by Africa News Service, Inc. As always there are many variations of these recipes. The mafé below is my most-cooked recipe from that cookbook.

Peace, Brother David

RECIPES...



## VEGETABLE MAFÉ

Mafé (ma-fay) – Senegal (originated from Bambara people of Mali) serves 6-8

- 2 large onions, finely chopped
- 4 Tbsp. peanut oil
- 2 cups pumpkin, winter squash, or sweet potatoes, peeled and chopped in chunks
- 4 turnips
- 4 medium potatoes, quartered
- 2 large carrots, chopped in chunks
- 1/2 of a small cabbage, coarsely chopped
- 2 large tomatoes, quartered\*\*
- 1 bunch of fresh leafy greens (spinach, Swiss chard, turnip/mustard/collard greens), or 1 sm. package frozen greens
- 2 chili peppers, or 1 tsp. cayenne pepper
- 2 cups tomato sauce\*\*
- 3/4 cup peanut butter (freshly ground, ‘natural’)



*Bon appétit!*

Brown the onions in moderately hot oil in a large, heavy skillet or stew pot. Add the vegetables, one at a time, sauteing each for a minute or so before adding another. Stir in tomato sauce, along with a cup of water \*, reduce heat, and simmer until all the vegetables are tender. Spoon out about half a cup of the hot broth and mix it with the peanut butter to make a smooth paste. Add to the pot, and simmer for another 10-15 minutes. Serve over rice or a stiff porridge (like tô!).

\* Use leftover tomato juice if you use whole canned tomatoes.

\*\* Substitute whole canned tomatoes.

# A success story: the Ougadougou Artisan Center

by Richard Matheron, Deputy Chief of Mission at Ougadougou, '70-'72

When I served as Deputy Chief of Mission at Ouagadougou from October 1970 to July 1972, my wife and I often visited the then-called "**Peace Corps Artisan Center.**" Many of the articles produced there are still with us 30 years later, and we are in frequent contact with at least one of the PCVs who helped start the project.

I returned to Ouagadougou 12 years later as a Foreign Service senior inspector. One of my first questions was, "How is the Peace Corps Artisan Center doing?" No one at the Embassy or at the Peace Corps Office had heard of it. With heavy hearts, we came to the conclusion that this must have turned out to be a failed project. Imagine our surprise to drive by and find the old center still open, producing a wide array of Burkinabé artisan products and exporting a large number of them.

Management of the artisan center was entirely Burkinabé and only one person recalled that it was the Peace Corps that had started it. **What a success story!** Now another 15 years later, we still run across Burkinabe artisan products in our San Diego area boutiques.



Left to right: Kay Matheron (Richard's wife), former Peace Corps Director Bob Siegal, Dena Leavitt (former wife of PC Doctor Milt Kogan), Richard Matheron.

PROJECTS...

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## Glimpses of Volunteer life

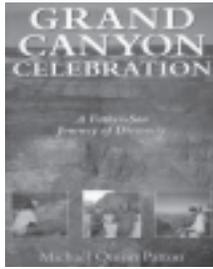
from Nelson Cronyn, Peace Corps Director



Alice Kang, Health Volunteer in Sourgoubila, with her chief, and with village health agents reviewing the logs of their medicine kits (project funding was secured by Alice).



# HOLIDAY GIFTS...



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The famous RPCV 2002 International Calendar. Each month features a Peace Corps country of service. FBF will receive the proceeds to support Burkina projects. Makes a great holiday gift!



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In Namibia: A CCV worked to destigmatize HIV by promoting a new HIV Multipurpose Center to the community, facilitating workshops for People Living with AIDS, and working with staff to develop and implement new programs.

In Togo: Three CCVs are working with local HIV/AIDS NGOs in Lome to coordinate their efforts and provide capacity building training.

In Malawi: Several Volunteers worked at an orphanage providing support to teachers in developing HIV/AIDS educational materials and working with the medical staff to create a post-test counseling system.

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## 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

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