



138 new students funded by FBF

THANKS



"Lambs" project ceremony at Tangaye — presenting school supplies to new students — more photos on page 12 and back cover

ASSOCIATION NEEDED

Nimbus Enfance Environnement Education et Developpement

Ouahigouya

Très chers Amis du Burkina Faso,

C'est avec un réel plaisir que nous vous envoyons ce petit rapport relatif à la contribution de votre association «Friends of Burkina Faso».

Ce sont donc 138 nouvelle petites filles qui prennent cette année 2003/2004 le chemin de l'école grâce au soutien de votre association.

Au nom des parents, des filles et des autorités provinciales de l'enseignement de base, l'association NEEDED vous remercie pour votre noble engagement pour la promotion de la scolarisation des filles et le combat contre l'analphabétisme au Yatenga.





OUR MISSION

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

- Maintain a network of RPCVs 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

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The President's Yiri

The past year has been tumultuous for all of us and our country, and it has been the same for me personally. Much has happened to me here in **Lagos** during the past year, as my job duties and volunteer assignments have increased the pressure on my time and energy considerably compared to the previous year. This has made it increasingly more difficult to head up this wonderful organization, and leads me to find the proper way to pass the baton and make sure that good hands take over. Several of us have made a great effort to recruit new active members, and I hope that the effort will culminate with a successful Board of Directors election later this year.

Incredibly, my first Foreign Service assignment here in Lagos is drawing to a close, probably by the end of April after a 23-month term. It's often been a bit crazy, but it's been a great ride which I'll never regret doing. I'll be in Washington until mid-August, and then, after a month or so of mandated Home Leave, I'll be off to my next post in **Dakar**. There, I'll be one of two General Services Officers, and will have a considerable level of management responsibilities. I'm very excited about working in Dakar, and even though I've never worked there, I've visited several times and really loved the city and its environs. Further, the ambassador is a

former Upper Volta PCV.

On the surface, events within FBF have gone pretty smoothly, if fast-paced. We've built new relationships with new Ambassadors in Ouagadougou and Washington, and new Peace Corps leadership in-country. We've reached new levels and charted new directions with our Projects Committee, but all under the firm



Bob Osborne

hand of Chairperson **Tom Vollrath** and a special core of dedicated Committee members. Our newsletter juggernaut, the **Burkina Connection**, just rolls along and racks up new awards, under the great direc-

tion of Editor **Denny FitzPatrick**.

But a few waves and currents roil under the surface, as we move to turn over leadership to a new group who will, we hope and believe, raise Friends of Burkina Faso to even higher levels of excellence and service. Through hard work, perseverance and more than a little good luck, we've brought many new members into the fold, and it's their turn now. I'm confident they'll succeed. This too, has been a great ride for me, and I'm sure, guys, it'll be the same for you.



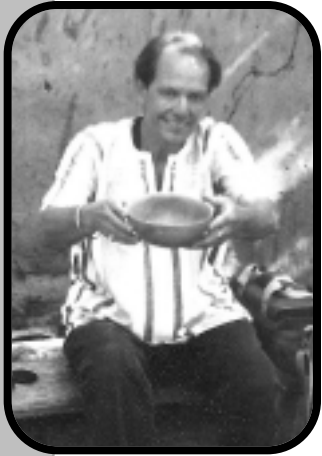
***“ . . . raise Friends of
Burkina Faso to even
higher levels of
excellence and service.”***

YIRI



FBF Annual Report

by Bob Osborne, '67-'69



The past year of 2003 has been a seemingly contradictory combination of **continuation** but also **transition** for Friends of Burkina Faso (FBF). Growth in fundraising and the consequent increase in financing of projects in Burkina Faso;

FBF's enhanced image

within the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA); its relationship in the international sphere with the two Embassies and the Peace Corps' program in Burkina Faso — all continued at an increasing pace, built upon solid past accomplishments. But 2003 was also a transition year, as the organization established relations with new Ambassadors in both Washington and Ouagadougou, as well as new leadership in Peace Corps Burkina and Peace Corps Washington. Internal transition also began, as the FBF Board of Directors amended By-Laws to facilitate elections in 2004 and change the makeup of the Board, and new members became increasingly active, particularly in fundraising, project management and member services such as the newsletter and other communications.

CONTINUATION: FUND-RAISING AND PROJECT FINANCING

Since its establishment in 2002, the Projects Committee, chaired by **Tom Vollrath**, '67-69, has raised over \$35,000, \$19,335 of that in 2003. Further, a fundraising campaign in late 2003 will increase that number still

more, as checks continue to arrive even at this writing. FBF's status as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization allows all personal contributions to be fully deductible on Federal income tax returns. Project financing in 2003 was more than double the level of over \$7,000 the previous year, and yet another significant increase will likely occur in 2004.

CONTINUATION: RECOGNITION

Friends of Burkina Faso continued to grow in prestige within the NPCA, which is especially satisfying since it was only 1998 that the national organization was about to revoke our affiliation status because of inactivity. We regularly have a substantial delegation to all NPCA annual conferences, and our newsletter, the *Burkina Connection*, edited by **Denny FitzPatrick**, '67-69, took the NPCA's First Place award among Country of Service Groups at the 2003 Annual Conference in Portland. This was the fourth consecutive year to win an award, something not matched by any other group in any category.

The organization also continued to be active within the diplomatic/international scene in 2003. A group including FBF members **Bob Winterbottom**, **Anastasia Hopkinson**, **Holland McKenna**, **Molly Chambers** and **Marianne Bailey** went to the Burkina Embassy on Mass Ave. and met with new Burkina Ambassador **Tertius Zongo**, who took over from **Bruno N. Zidouemba**, and veteran First Secretary **Babou Bama**, continuing our tradition of maintaining strong ties with the local Embassy. We haven't had a delegation to the U.S. Embassy in Ouagadougou since 2001, but we none the less continued close contacts with the

2003



Embassy staff there, and with new Ambassador **Tony Holmes**. He, like his predecessor **Jimmy Kolker**, promises to keep us informed and advise us where he sees we need it. Finally, though we had to bid farewell to friend **Nelson Cronyn** as Peace Corps Director in Burkina Faso, we continued to work closely with remaining staff and Volunteers, and welcomed Nelson's replacement, **Julie Donahue**.

TRANSITION

The "continuation" items described previously also had distinct "transition" elements, as FBF established new relations with new Ambassadors Zongo and Holmes, and new Director Donahue. Leadership changes always present unique challenges, if for no other reason that both sides need to get to know each other and establish new relationships. As always, we have been able to make these transitions quickly and smoothly. In addition, the growing Washington area contingent of active FBF members has begun to interact regularly with the increasingly active Burkina Faso expatriot community.

Finally, FBF is undergoing significant internal changes. The Board made several significant By-Law amendments in 2003 to foster expeditious **elections** in 2004, and provide for automatic Ex Officio status for five years for past Presidents, in order to smooth transitions and ensure institutional memory. Unlike some policy making bodies, this Board is actively involved in turning over leadership to new members, and this is truly a reflection of FBF's strength, not a move out of weakness.


AHEAD, 2004 AND BEYOND

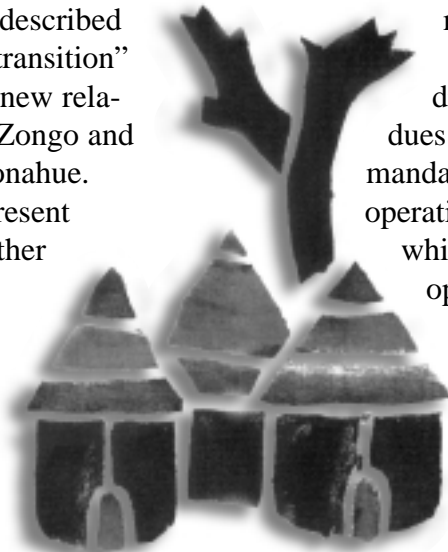
Despite the obvious successes, important goals need to be addressed in the coming year. As we ease into new leadership, both existing and future policy-makers have to address the likely need for a strong **membership** campaign. Though our mailing list is large, the number of dues-paying members "in good standing" is relatively small. An aggressive membership campaign, along the lines of our excellent fundraising

campaigns, needs to be made, possibly in conjunction with the dreaded possibility of a dues increase. We have mandated ourselves to be operationally self-sufficient, which means that routine operations should be funded out of dues and merchandise sales, but this has not yet occurred. We quite properly separate our project funds from day-to-day budget

concerns, but we continue to

draw down on previous surpluses to balance the operations budget, and this obviously cannot continue. The new Board will also have to elect new Officers, take care of committee assignments, consider how to revitalize merchandise sales (one person acting alone can't do it all), decide how to deal with the IRS if our income continues to grow (as is highly likely), organize financial audits (we can likely do this ourselves indefinitely) and possibly begin laying the groundwork for a new group trip to Burkina Faso.

In all, 2003 was an excellent vintage year, but even better ones lie ahead. 



2004





Field notes from Julie



Julie Donahue,
Country Director

Greetings from Ouagadougou. The last six months have been exciting times for Peace Corps Burkina Faso. I believe we have made changes to every system we have in the last few months — we are firmly established in our new office building, we moved training sites from **Bobo Dioulasso**

to **Kaya**, we converted from Macintosh to IBM computers, we changed training paradigms from a center-based approach to community-based training, we added a second pre-service training, the Small Enterprise Development project started and we swore in a total of **58** new Volunteers.

Our first training group of the year comprised of health and secondary education Volunteers swore in on August 29th. Despite inclement weather, the swearing-in ceremony was a great success. For the first time in recent memory all 35 trainees who stepped off the plane three months earlier were still there to take the oath of office (one left a couple weeks later unfortunately). We had no sooner got those Volunteers installed and settled in their new sites when we received the next group of 24 trainees. This group had less good fortune and lost one member within days of arrival. The remaining 23 swore in as Volunteers on December 12th. Swearing in just before the holidays certainly presented some challenges to the group and by the time New Years had come three of them had decided to leave us. The rest are in their villages and seem to be doing very well.

We are taking a short breather now and don't receive the next group of trainees until April 7th.

The other major event that took place in January was the annual AIDS Bike-a-thon. This is the third year Peace Corps has organized the Bike-a-thon in Burkina Faso and in my opinion the most successful *tour cycliste* to date. The event took part over three weeks in January. Volunteers biked from **Fada** through **Bulsa** to **Kaya** in the first week, from Kaya through **Bolkin** and **Yako** to **Tougan** the second week, and from Tougan through **Dedougou** to **Bobo** the final week. Each leg covered about fifteen villages and 250 to 275 kilometers of biking. In each of the villages the Volunteers met with groups of the population and conducted AIDS *sensibilizations*, causeries and condom demonstrations.

I had the opportunity to observe the Volunteers last week and it was fabulous. The Volunteers were nervous about doing the animations themselves (in past years PSI has supplied *animateurs* who conducted all of the sessions) but they were doing a great job. The first village I saw them in was **Song Naba**, just outside of Yako. The Volunteers had over 200 people from the community broken into six different demographic groups. Young men in one group, old men in another, two groups of women, a group of kids, etc. Each group had two Volunteers and usually an HCN from the tour conducting a discussion on AIDS, how it is transmitted, how to live and care for infected individuals, and of course how to prevent it. Each group distributed wooden penises and condoms to the villagers and had them demonstrate that they could properly use the condoms. The Volunteers left Song Naba around 10:30 a.m. and pro-



From top down:
 •AIDS Bike-a-thon
 •PCV Rebecca
 McSorley - demon-
 stration in Bagare
 Middle School
 •PCV Ryan Wessels -
 demonstration in
 Song Naba
 •PCVs C. Shaffer
 White and RasHaille
 Ferguson in Bagare
 Middle School



Photos by Julie Donahue



ceeded to **Bagare**, a village 25 km away. After lunch in the village the Volunteers went to the middle school and started their animations all over again. Breaking the students down by gender and age and passing appropriate messages to each of the four groups. I was really proud of the

Volunteers — they were putting an incredible effort into the work and the results were evident. It certainly served as a strong reminder to me of why Peace Corps is here, the important work Volunteers can do and why I am here supporting them.

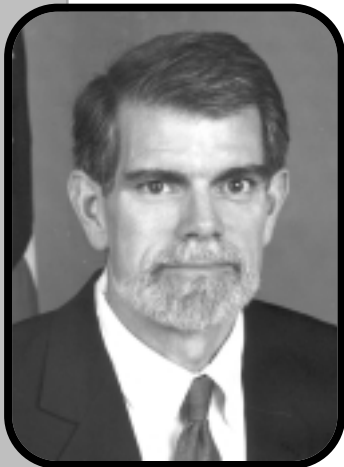


PEACE CORPS





Field notes from Tony



Tony Holmes
U.S. Ambassador

In my travels around Burkina during the fall, I was struck by how green and full the fields were. Corn, millet, and sorghum were as tall and as green as they've been anytime in memory. Clearly, the rainy season's record rainfall had paid off.

As fall turned into winter and the last grains were harvested, the agricultural economists confirmed what we all expected – Burkina had not only a great harvest but its best harvest ever. In fact, according to Ministry of Agriculture statistics, Burkina's farmers produced 50% more cereals (corn, sorghum, and millet) than the estimated national demand, while the cotton crop is 25% above last year's. While crop yields have certainly been helped by extraordinary rainfall levels during the rainy season that ended in early October, the crop was also a product of Burkina's (and donor agencies') investment in better agricultural production techniques over the last 5-10 years.

For those who've experienced life in a village during the lean years, rest assured that this year's harvest has already dramatically improved nutrition levels and overall food security in the vast majority of villages around the country. While there will still be some isolated pockets of scarcity (given the difficulties of economically transporting cereals to/from certain regions and regional variation in rainfall and crop productivity), the vast majority will enjoy better than average nutrition throughout the dry season.

However, despite the reasons for celebration, government officials, NGOs, grain traders, and even individual farmers have become concerned. While bumper crops are good for consumers, they can and in the present case have driven down cereal prices dramatically – corn is selling for 30% less than the 5-year average price in Ouagadougou, for example. This has hurt virtually all rural families, as almost all subsistence farmers must sell a portion of their crop to get the cash they need to participate in the formal sector of the economy. As prices have dropped, traders have slowed their purchases for their warehouses (many of which were already well-provisioned as Burkina has had generally good harvests the last few years), causing additional price declines.

"Burkina had not only a great harvest but its best harvest ever."

Given the traders' reluctance to make major cereals purchases, many donor agencies have become worried that Burkina's farmers will arrive at next year's planting season with full bellies and empty wal-

lets. While this year's surplus is a blessing and not simply a problem, Embassy Ouagadougou, USAID, and the majority of donor agencies are concerned about the long-term implications of this surplus.

For our part, we have been working with USAID regionally (as well as our local nongovernmental organization partners) to develop an appropriate assistance strategy that uses market-based approaches to help the farmers and traders effectively manage this surplus. At the same time, our new Small Enterprise Development PCVs have just settled in their villages where they are hard at work helping launch and manage a whole range of small-scale enterprises that I believe can help equip villagers with the skills they'll need to prosper both now and in the future.



FBF Projects Annual Report

by Tom Vollrath, '67-'70

Following the terrorist events of September 11, 2001, an FBF Response Committee was formed, consisting of **Bob Coffey, Don Easum, Anastasia Hopkinson, and Eric Figueroa.**

The group composed two letters, one was sent to President Bush and the other served as a template for our members to use in writing to local newspaper editors. Both letters called for an increased dialogue and communication across the cultural divide, the existence of which generates misunderstanding and resentment. The group found that they could not simply ask the President or other Americans to act without also asking themselves to do so likewise. As a result, members were encouraged: 1) "to act in

our own communities to promote understanding of Africa," 2) "to support our schools in educating children about foreign cultures and perspectives," 3) "to seek every means to renew and fulfill our pledge to constructive, non-violent approaches to global problems," and 4) "to encourage our fellow Americans to support private efforts and government programs that educate and improve the lives of young people in the developing world." (See the Winter 2002 *Burkina Connection*.)

In response to this call for action, FBF has deepened its commitment to think globally and act locally to bring the world's cultures closer together. We have raised money in support of promising development projects at the grass-roots level.

FBF Projects launched two fund raising campaigns this year, one in July and the other at the end of year. Contributions for the year, earmarked specifically for projects (as opposed to dues), totaled \$19,335,

exceeding donations last year of \$15,969. A total of 110 individual/families (comprising one-fifth of the number of people on our mailing list) made contributions, some making donations at regular intervals throughout the year.

End-of-the-year results were very heartening. The Committee had set a target of being able to provide funding to enable 200 new students to embark upon a primary school

education through the "lambs" project, beginning in the fall. We fell somewhat short of that goal because of depreciation in the U.S. dollar (which lowered the CFA-value of our donations by nearly a quarter), and because of other project commitments (the Summer

Camp program and the Babora-Pegora *Karité* Cooperative). Ultimately, we were able to send another 138 girls to primary school.

During the last two months of the year, a total of \$11,898 was earmarked specifically for projects, accounting for over 60 percent of this year's donations! I do believe these results suggest that we are building financial momentum.

We continue to receive many expressions of interest from the field, in terms of informal inquiries, formal proposals, and personnel willing to make sure that FBF-sanctioned projects are successful.

If you or anyone you know would like additional information about any of the projects FBF supports, or extra fundraising brochures, please let me know.



Tom Vollrath

***"Contributions for the year
... totaled \$19,335,
exceeding donations
last year ..."***

PROJECTS





FBF supports new partnership

by Mike O'Sullivan, '01-'03



Mike O'Sullivan

Over the past few months, **Rose Armour**, the new Small Enterprise Development Assistant Peace Corps Director, conducted site visits within local communities to ascertain factors

that are inhibiting the emergence of small commercial enterprises. An "overwhelming" number of local people identified the lack of technical and business skills as being one of the major barriers preventing *Burkinabè* entrepreneurs from embarking upon promising income-generating activities.

Rose established, in the course of her investigation, a relationship with **Le Bureau des Artisans (BA)**, a non-profit organization that has focused on technical training, project management, and marketing since 1991. The pairing of the skills of BA trainers with the energy and enthusiasm of PCVs and community leaders generated much excitement. As a result, the **BA/PC Small Development Business** partnership was formed!

A proposal was submitted to Friends of Burkina Faso through which funding for this initiative would be channeled to BA. Some folks at the U.S. Embassy Ouagadougou have already made generous contributions

to FBF in support of this initiative!

The principle aim of the BA/PC project is to impart technical and business skills to potential *Burkinabè* entrepreneurs. This will be accomplished via training workshops, follow-up visits by PCVs, and training evaluations. Plans call for local Volunteers, working in collaboration with local counterparts and village associations, to lead community need-assessment studies and develop training proposals. BA trainers will be responsible for developing and delivering training designed specifically to address the needs of the community group.

A committee, consisting of BA/PC

staff, will be responsible for project selection and project evaluation. Feedback is envisioned in all phases of the project.

Trainers will evaluate group workshops and report results back to

the BA/PC staff committee. In turn, the local community group will evaluate the training received and will submit evaluations back to the committee. Adjustments in training modules will be made as needed.

The BA/PC project promises to address constraints confronting village communities. It also has the potential of enhancing institutional capacity and effectiveness.

The Friends of Burkina Faso Projects Committee looks forward to working with BA and Peace Corps Burkina to ensure the success of this new partnership.

"FBF looks forward to working with BA and Peace Corps to ensure the success of this partnership."



New committee members

The FBF Projects Committee is pleased to announce the addition of two new members to the committee, **Rachel Zerbo** and **Patti Thomas** — as well as **Mike O'Sullivan** who is assuming the role of project manager for an exciting new initiative between the *Bureau des Artisans* and Peace Corps Burkina. All of these individuals bring valuable expertise both from their experience as PCVs as well as from their professional training and experience.

Rachel Zerbo graciously agreed to coordinate FBF Project Committee finances. For the past six years, Rachel has worked designing, managing, and evaluating public health programs overseas and in the United States. In 1994 she instructed and supervised staff at the Ryder-Cheshire International Center in India where she worked with the disabled to impart occupational skills. Subsequently, Rachel coordinated disaster relief efforts in San Francisco and worked with Planned Parenthood in New York. Rachel earned a Masters degree in Public Health from Columbia University in New York in 1997 and shortly thereafter joined Peace Corps Burkina as a community health educator. After that she joined Plan International in Burkina to mobilize resources for an infant vaccination campaign and to train community leaders in reproductive health issues. Currently, Rachel is managing childhood asthma programs for the state of California.



Rachel Zerbo

Patti Thomas is the newest member to the Projects Committee. She greatly strengthens our analytical capacity. In 1977 she was assigned to teach at the Quezzin Coulibaly Lycee in **Bobo Dioulasso** as a Peace Corps volunteer. She remained in-country for another two years following her 3-year stint with Peace Corps, working with micro-credit programs and *Caisse Populaire* in villages in the Southeast. Patti earned a master's degree in sociology from Laval University in Quebec. Patti's professional expertise lies in social and gender analysis, community development, capacity building, project planning and management. In addition to Burkina, Patti has worked in Mali, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Niger, Cameroon, Morocco, Egypt and China.



Patti Thomas

Mike O'Sullivan has agreed to monitor developments for the new BA/PC initiative, serving as project manager. He earned a B.A. degree in International Affairs at George Washington University in 1999. Mike entered the Peace Corps in 2001 and was assigned to the village of **Loropeni** in the southwestern region of Burkina. As a community health development volunteer, Mike worked on eradicating water-borne parasitic disease, promoting educational programs about HIV/AIDS, and establishing satellite health clinics in remote areas for improving the delivery of medical and preventive services to the rural population. Currently, Mike is working at Chemonics, a consulting firm in Washington D.C. and is responsible for developing training programs and coordinating logistics for visitors to the United States.



MEMBERS



FBF "Lambs" project

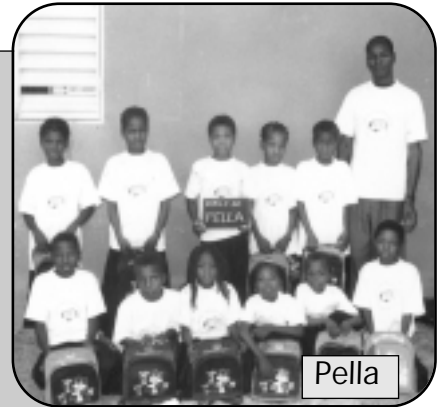
— ceremonies enroll 138 new students



Le parrain de NEEDED
remet des fournitures



Filles parrainées



Pella



Sounkouissi



Sonh



Ouôh



Goko



Kebakoro



Kolkom

NEED



Making a difference

by Suzanne Plopper, '67-'69

Some FBF members have engaged in fun and interesting ways of raising funds for projects supported by FBF. Well before FBF organized its Projects Committee and began seeking support for community-based projects in Burkina, two former PCVs were active in supporting the “lambs” project in the Tangaye region.

While a PCV in Ouahigouya, **Cathy Seeley** ('99-'01) introduced the project to her church and started the fundraising while on home leave.

Another former PCV, **Linda (Lanting) Gerra** ('67-'69) heard about the “lambs” project and shared the idea of raising funds for this project with her daughter **Emily**. In high school, Emily promoted the idea with a club called “Youth in Action” whose purpose is to raise awareness of economic problems in

the world and to consider how to help improve the lives of people less fortunate. She and her mother prepared a slide presentation of Burkina and shared photos of young *Burkinabè* girls with their lambs. The club held bake sales, car washes and sold candy to raise money. In addition, certain classes contributed money toward the project.

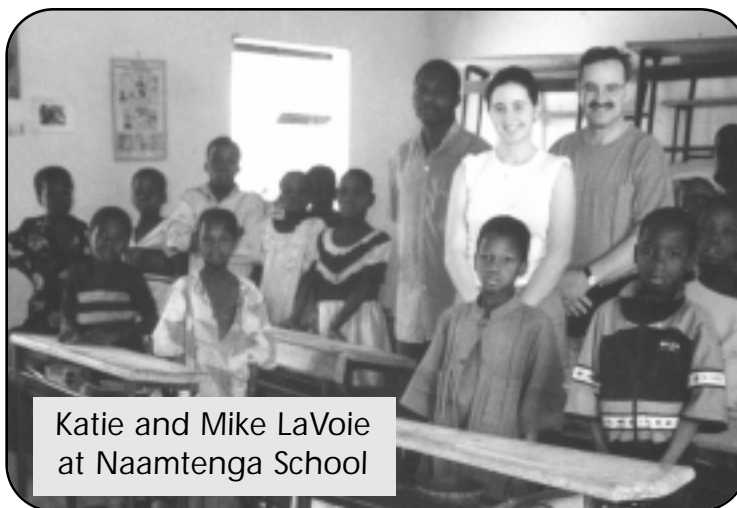
Emily, who is now in college, is thinking of sponsoring a fundraiser for the “lambs” project at her college.

If anyone you know has tried other ways to raise funds for FBF projects, we would love to share your experience with our membership. If you are interested in organizing fundraising activities for the “lambs” project, in particular, please know that we have photos as well as a video sent to us by the project which we would be happy to share with you.



Mike Lavoie, RPCV well-digger, has collaborated with **Marcy DeCraene**, faculty member at Cranbrook Schools Brookside, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, to help the students of **Naamtenga**. Over the past three years, Brookside has sent 48 large boxes of very needed school supplies, first aid items, decorated book bags, and handmade t-shirts for the children. Ambassadors **Jimmy Kolker** and **Tony Holmes** at the U.S. Embassy have given tremendous assistance in receiving and delivering the supplies.

Brookside also raised money for uniforms, and funded a proposal to promote and encourage girls attending school.



Katie and Mike LaVoie
at Naamtenga School

Marcy sums up their caring efforts: “We are committed to maintaining and enhancing our relationship with Naamtenga. This work has provided our students (elementary school age) with an authentic, concrete lesson in another culture and in helping someone in need.”

GOOD WORK



Que serons-nous demain?

— Summer camps funded by FBF



Classroom instruction



Fada N'Gourma



Koudougou



Tenkodogo



Dedougou



Self-defense

QNSD



FBF karité press project

Par Forogo Doro et Salibo Somé

RAPPORT D'ACTIVITES DU PROJET PRESSE A KARITÉ AU PROFIT DES FEMMES DE BABORA DANS LE DEPARTEMENT DE KOPER



**Le projet de presse à karité des femmes de Babora est fin près pour démarrage.
Les activités menées au compte du projet ont concerné surtout:**

- **La sensibilisation des femmes et leur formation**
- **La construction de l'abris de la presse à karité**
- **L'installation de la presse**
- **La formation des femmes à la manipulation et à l'entretien de la presse**

Le bilan financier du projet se présente comme suite:

Matériels de construction: 223,900

Main-d'œuvre de construction: 25,000

Equipements (presse, concasseur, moteur, accessoires): 3,248,000

TOTAUX: 3,496,90

ASUDEEC





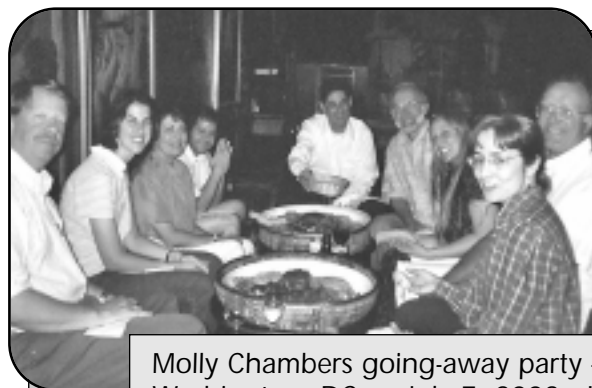
RPCV Reunions

by Anastasia Hopkinson, '67-'69

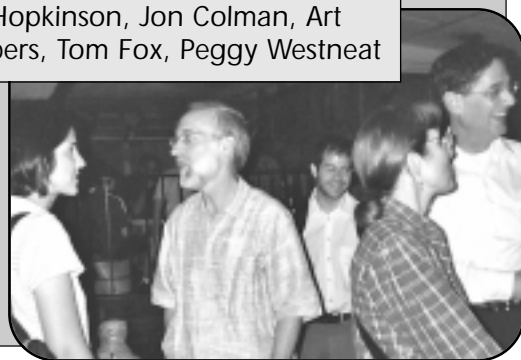


A group of recent RPCVs were welcomed home at a gathering in DC. Reminiscent of parties in Ouaga, it was warmly dubbed the "Ouaga Dinner."

Left to Right: Mike O'Sullivan, Damon Roberts, David Fitter, Rosalind Newton, Wende Smith, Anastasia Hopkinson, Tom Vollrath, Kara Garbe, Phil Reed, Quincy Diep. Not pictured: Tom Fox and Tom Connors



Molly Chambers going-away party — Fasika Ethiopian restaurant, Washington, DC — July 7, 2003. Upper left clockwise: Holland McKenna Angela Calarco, Anastasia Hopkinson, Jon Colman, Art Westneat, Tom Vollrath, Molly Chambers, Tom Fox, Peggy Westneat



Mark it on your calendar: **Chicago — August 5-8, 2004.** The NPCA Annual Conference "Celebrating a Legacy of Service" will also be the setting for a grand reunion of all Friends of Burkina.

Special times being set aside for Burkina activities include:

- Friday evening, 8/6, Dinner at a local ethnic restaurant
- Saturday afternoon: 8/7, Burkina update
- Sunday morning: 8/8 Flag procession

Register at www.rpcv.org — Look for more details in the next *Connection*.



FBF election coming up

by Bob Osborne, '67-'69

Last year, the FBF Board amended the By-Laws to change election to the Board from staggered terms to identical three-year terms. The first such election will be this year and all five Board slots will be open. We believe that this will be a more viable system, and won't involve any more time or effort. Another part of the Board reform stipulates that past Presidents will automatically remain on the Board as Ex Officio members for five years. This new category will have the same rights and responsibilities as regularly-elected members, except they will not have voting rights. This should ensure better institutional memory so important to an organization with such scattered membership as ours, but will limit actual voting power to elected Directors. I will be the first President to be covered when I actually step down later this year, and the reform also grandfathers in John Sneed, our first and only other President, when he leaves the Board as a regular member.

In this issue of the *Connection*, we are **soliciting candidates** to run for the general position of Director, not for a specific office, in accordance with our By-Laws. The By-Laws stipulate that there are five Directors (though the new Board may want to increase the size), and the Directors then select Officers, which now include President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Any person who is a member of Friends of Burkina Faso, in good standing (dues must be paid up-to-date) may run for the Board, through self-nomination. I personally know of at least five very viable candidates, and others will no doubt make themselves available. The duties are not great, but require a certain level of dedication to the namesake country that we all love so deeply. Most business is conducted by email and telephone.

The positions of President and Treasurer are the most demanding. The

President is the "CEO" and has considerable authority, and is also the chief official presence of the organization. Some travel is usually recommended, mainly to National Peace Corps Association conferences. The Treasurer keeps the books, pays the bills and watches the Budget, and will soon have to prepare for occasional audits, as provided by yet another By-Laws change. The Vice President does jobs as assigned by the President or the Board, but we have not filled this office in recent years; one good possibility is that the VP might be authorized membership on all standing committees. Finally, the Secretary keeps the Board and organizational records, and may be assigned correspondence duties.

The Board is also involved in approving committees, and though the President has the general appointing power, there are certain times when the Board will be directly involved in committee membership. Existing committees range in size from the large Projects Committee to several one-person committees, such as Membership, Merchandise Sales and Website. In between is the Newsletter Committee, which assists the Editor in mostly operational areas.

So that's it. Nominate yourself by notifying either me or Editor **Denny FitzPatrick**. You should include a brief biographical paragraph, with a second paragraph describing how your election would benefit FBF. Send by snail or e-mail. It is optional to state whether you wish to pursue a specific office if elected to the Board. Eligible candidates will have their bios and campaigns reprinted in the Spring issue of the *Connection*, and will appear on the official ballot in the same issue. Your ballot will be mailed in to a provided address, and we will try and provide secure electronic voting. The top five vote-getters will become the new Board, and will assume power immediately.



ELECTION





Alleviate plight of refugees

From ABURWA (Association of Burkinabè in the Washington Area)

For over a year now, the civil conflicts in Côte d'Ivoire have caused terrible hardships for *Burkinabè* living in that country. Many have lost their lives, leaving behind widows and children. Many more have lost their livelihoods and have had to flee Côte d'Ivoire. At times, the Stadium in Ouagadougou has been filled with these refugees. The Embassy of Burkina Faso in Washington, DC, in an ongoing "Time of Solidarity" initiative, is collecting funds to contribute towards the needs of these refugees: food, clothing, bedding, and other longer-term needs.

We invite you to contribute to this worthy cause. Any amount is welcome. Checks can be made out to ABURWA and mailed to: **Alex Bambara (President of ABURWA), 213 E. Howell Avenue, Alexandria, VA, 22301.** Or, if you prefer, I can provide bank information for direct transfer to the banks in Burkina Faso participating in this effort.

I regret that ABURWA has not yet obtained tax-exempt status. We are working on it.

Please see the following note that we provided to our own community, and please accept my sincere thanks for your cooperation in this worthy cause.

Sincerely,

Alex J. Bambara

A l'initiative du Ministère Burkinabè de l'Action Sociale et de la Solidarité Nationale, le mois de novembre a été déclaré "mois de la solidarité" dans notre pays. Pour l'an 2003, il sagissait de demander à tous les *Burkinabè*, de l'intérieur comme de l'extérieur, de manifester leur soutien à nos compatriotes rapatriés de Côte d'Ivoire,

dans des circonstances souvent dramatiques. L'Ambassade du Burkina Faso à Washington a relayé cette information au niveau de notre association.

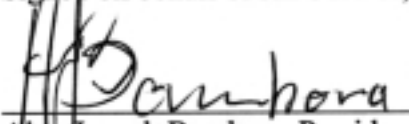
Il va de soi que nous ne saurions rester insensibles devant cette situation, quand on sait que le donateur d'aujourd'hui peut devenir, par la force des choses, le nécessiteux de demain. Le bureau de l'Association des Burkinabè de la Région de Washington (ABURWA) avait prévu d'aborder la question lors de l'assemblée générale prévue le 14 décembre. Celle-ci n'a malheureusement pas pu se tenir, faute de quorum. Toutefois, dit l'adage populaire, mieux vaut tard que jamais. C'est pourquoi, nous lançons une campagne de collecte de fonds avec effet immédiat, pour réunir un fond qui sera remis en notre nom à tous aux autorités Burkinabè, pour aider à la réinsertion sociale des rapatriés de Côte d'Ivoire.

A cet effet, j'ai le plaisir de vous informer que deux membres de l'ABURWA ont déjà annoncé une contribution de cents dollars chacun. Vos contributions peuvent être remises aux personnes dont les noms suivent pour acheminement :

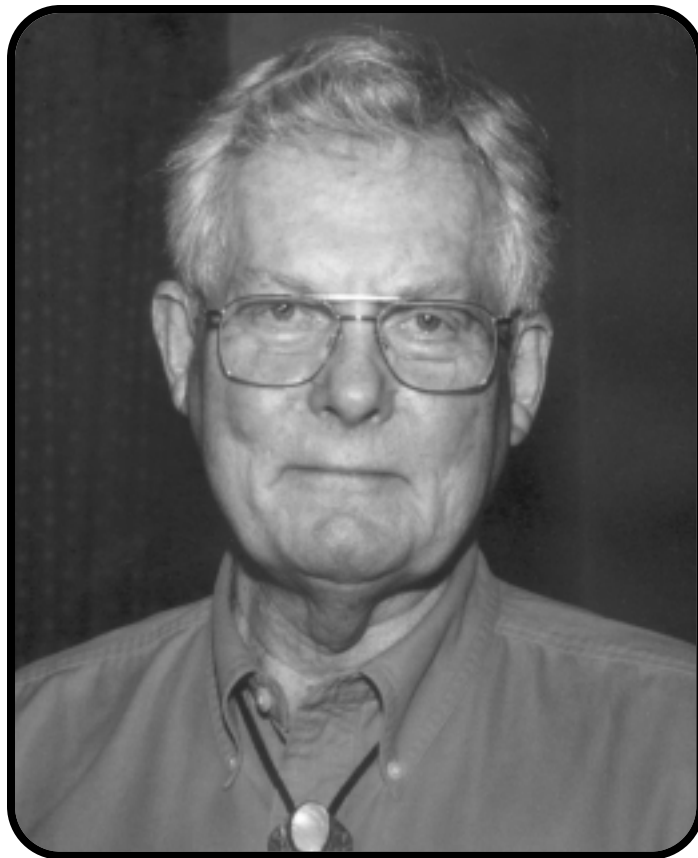
- District de Baltimore: Korogo et Bazié
- District du Maryland: Mme Assita Barry et Sibir Sawadogo
- District de Virginie: Alex Bambara et Samuel Kiendrebeogo
- District de Washington: Christian Konaté et Awa Twitty

Merci d'avance et bonne année à tous.

Signed on behalf of ABURWA,


Alex Joseph Bambara, President
Washington DC

In Memoriam — Julius Walker



Ambassador Julius Walker Jr. — 1928-2003

Julius W. Walker Jr., 76, longtime dedicated member and supporter of Friends of Burkina Faso, died of congestive heart failure December 5, 2003, at his home in Washington, D.C. He was a retired Foreign Service officer who served as ambassador to several African nations, including Burkina Faso.

He spent much of his diplomatic career in Africa, including his tour as Ambassador to Burkina Faso from 1981 to 1984. He was ranking U.S. diplomat during the 1980 coup in Liberia. He retired from the Foreign Service in 1989 as diplomat-in-residence at the National Council of World Affairs Organizations, then was called back as acting ambassador to Cameroon and Chad. He was awarded the State Department's Superior Honor Award.

He lectured on foreign policy and the Foreign Service to World Affairs Councils, Elderhostels and other groups; taught at the Foreign Service Institute; and led teams that trained diplomats from Kazakhstan, Albania, Ukraine and other Eastern bloc nations. He was president of the board of the International Eye Foundation and a director of the Harvest With Heart hunger organization.

Survivors include his wife, Savannah Tunnell Walker, whom he married in 1956, of Washington; three children, Savannah Waring Walker of Pelham, N.Y., Lucile Lenore Walker of Washington, and George Julius Stewart Walker of New York; and two grandsons.

We will miss him enormously. He was so gentle, patient, kind, and committed.

IN MEMORY . . .





Surfin' safari

by Andrea Joseph-Adams, '79-'80



andrea
joseph-adams

Long winter nights in the midwest took me to the following sites. Maybe one or two will be new to you.

<www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations/africa/burkina-faso>

I couldn't use the above URL and get directly to that page but <www.lonelyplant.com/destinations> got me to where i could enter "burkina faso" and thus reach that first URL. What follows is 11 pages designed to assist the traveler to Burkina. The text and context have a british accent and there were a couple of word usages that were new to me - "blackbirding" as a verb, anyone?*. The tone is informal bordering on flippant, but the information is quite comprehensive and interesting.

<www.ouaganet.com>

This site has a variety of interesting items. There are a few forums (fora?), a photo gallery, links to current "BBC News: Africa" stories, even "Burkina Classifieds" and "Burkina Chat" (or what will someday become the classifieds and a chat room). The coolest feature is a mini Mp3 player that has a short playlist of tunes by Mamadou Diabate. Visit this one.

<www.primature.gov.bf> "a la decouvert du Burkina Faso"

This is the official website of the *Burkinabè* government. It is very extensive with many, many pages of information ranging from the history of the country, to the complete text of the constitution, to the words of the national anthem . . . all in french. It also has an extensive listing of links to websites for government agencies, organizations with a presence in Burkina (altho' i didn't see a link for *Corps de la Paix* anywhere, hmmm?), media websites, cultural websites and so on. Whew.

<www.abcburkina.net>

A tri-lingual (english, french and spanish) website operated by Maurice Oudet, a priest with the Missionaries of Africa - better known as the "*Peres Blancs*" - and an animator with SEDELAN (*Service d'Editions en Langues Nationales*) which creates publications in the various languages of a country to promote rural life. (I'm finding out all KINDS of new things! - or rediscovering things i've forgotten, heh, heh) This site has lots of photos.

<www.fespaco.bf>

Thank goodness! This site has the english language option which can be a real boon after several all-french language websites. But i digress. This is the website for the world famous biennial film festival. The information it offers is kinda dry but the "Discovering" page offers links to other sites, some of which you might otherwise never discover. One of those links led me eventually to . . .

<www.glc.org/jcolman/primer>

This is the Friends of Burkina Faso's own *web-naaba* Jonathon Colman's website - offering instruction in the *Mooré* language. Good stuff.

Email me at <ajadams52@hotmail.com> and tell me where you've been.

Wend na kond laafi.

*"Blackbirding" means to engage in the slave trade.



Veggie delights

by David Marcham, '83-'85

Casting about for another *bonne recette* led me to the vegetarian side o' life once again. Just tapping out this recipe makes me want to start cooking and smelling those wonderful spices.

Bonne preparation — On bouffe!

This comes courtesy of my favorite tome of flavorful African food, *The Africa News Cookbook*, published by those fine folks at Penguin Press:NY, 1985. To all fellow RPCVs, world travelers and persons who long for pungent dishes I wish you *bon appetit!*

A la prochaine — Faites bon cuisine,

— Frere David

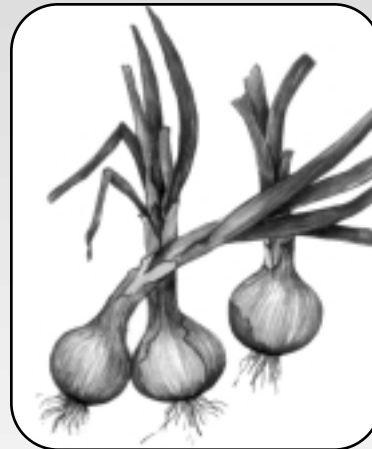


David Marcham

DESS B'L-BESLA LENTILS WITH ONIONS

Algeria — Serves 6-8

2 cups dried lentils, pre-soaked
2 cloves garlic, minced
pinch of cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon cumin
pinch of black pepper
1 chili pepper, or 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper
1/2 teaspoon salt
2 large onions, thinly sliced
3 Tablespoons olive oil
3-4 bay leaves



Bring the lentils to a boil in enough water to cover them.

At the same time, make a spice paste by crushing together the garlic, cinnamon, cumin, peppers, and salt, along with 2 teaspoons of water.

After 2 or 3 minutes, drain lentils thoroughly and transfer to another pot. Add the spice paste, followed by the onions, oil and bay leaves.

Stir over moderate heat for several minutes, then once again add water to cover. Reduce heat, cover the pot, and simmer until lentils are tender.

Uncover for a few minutes before removing pot from the heat so liquid may thicken a bit.

RECIPES





DVDs of Art in Burkina

Four video DVDs by Chris Roy, 70- 72, are currently available, including *African Pottery Techniques*, *African Masks: Burkina Faso*, *Arts of Ghana*, and *African Weaving*. You can order them on the web at <http://www.uiowa.edu/~africart>. All of the DVDs can be used in K-12 classrooms. FBF members may use the code HAW2DLYE to receive \$5.00 off when you order on-line.

Friends of Burkina T-Shirts



Show your support! T-shirts are short-sleeved, 100% cotton, pre-shrunk beefy-T, natural muslin-colored fabric. Our famous design 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" below the design.

FBF T-Shirt Order Form

Please complete and return this form to:

DIANNE FERGUSON ☎ 430 EAST PARK DRIVE ☎ SPARTANBURG SC 29302

Name _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

(NOTE — For shirts in L & XL sizes, please specify if you want the words "Peace Corps" below the design)

HOW MANY: T-SHIRTS: M ____
T-SHIRTS: L ____
T-SHIRTS: XL ____

PRICE PER SHIRT: \$16
POSTAGE: \$3 Domestic

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





Friends of Burkina Faso Projects Contribution Form

Please complete and return this form to:

**FBF PROJECTS COMMITTEE
C/O RACHEL ZERBO
2156 MURIETA WAY
SACRAMENTO CA 95822**

Date _____

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Relationship to Burkina Faso _____

My contribution to support projects in Burkina is enclosed: \$ _____

In addition, I would like to include

☐ \$15 for annual FBF membership and newsletter subscription.

☐ \$35 to join the National Peace Corps Association (NCPA).

Other comments, suggestions or ideas? _____

Friends-of-Burkina-Faso membership is open to all. If you, or someone you know, would like to become an official member of our nonprofit 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) nonprofit organization.
Contributions are tax-deductible.

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



CONTRIBUTE





BURKINA CONNECTION

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FRIENDS OF BURKINA FASO



"Lambs" project — student ceremonies



In this issue:

- **FBF annual reports**
- **Call for FBF elections**
- **Project work updates**
- **Tony Holmes**
- **Julie Donahue**
- **Julius Walker**
- **ABURWA**
- **Internet links**
- **Lentils with onions**
- **Committee members**
- **FBF/NPCA reunion**
— **Chicago 8/6/04**

BURKINA CONNECTION



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