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FRIENDS of MOROCCO

A Newsletter

Vol. 3, No. 3, September 1991

PC Morocco Update

A Report from Darcy Neill

The following is written by Darcy Neill, Morocco In-country Peace Corps Director, on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary Peace Corps Celebration in August.

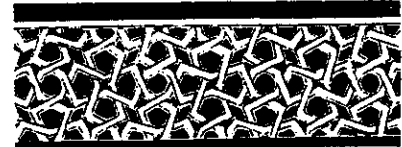
Greetings from Morocco--we wish we could be there with you (although we can get pretty good Moroccan food here!) to acknowledge the accomplishments and the ambience of your group and the Peace Corps in Morocco.

Thought you might want some update on the return of the repatriated Volunteers and the visit last week by Paul Coverdell and Jody Olsen. While 137 PCVs were evacuated, only 37 have returned. But this statistic can be misleading...of the 100 who did not return, approximately half were due to complete their service

this June anyway and clearly it was not productive to return for a month or so...of the remaining 50 who had another year to serve, approximately half have transferred to other programs from Paraguay to Romania to Thailand. So, in fact, the commitment to Peace Corps was strong even if it was not demonstrated in Morocco.

The group who have returned have a deep sense of personal commitment as well as a mission to represent those of you who have gone before in rebuilding and reshaping our partnership here with the Moroccan people. Most have been able to return to their own jobs and their own sites, although several have displayed incredible flexibility in being willing to go where Morocco's priorities were in terms of project and location.

We had a productive two-week re-entry training,



concentrating on language and project updates, but also including guest speakers who could describe and decipher some of what has happened here and in the world during the past six months. From the news which is filtering back as PCVs get back to work, it appears that the response is overwhelmingly positive and Volunteers are being welcomed back to work and home with open arms.

PC Director Paul Coverdell and Chief of Staff Jody Olsen, spent an intense, but fruitful twenty-four hours here which included meetings with the Prime Minister, Dr. Azzedine Laraki; Ministers of Education, Agriculture, and Culture; Princess Lalla Amina; the heads of USAID,

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Catholic Relief Services, Helen Keller International; and the American Embassy staff. Our intention was to reaffirm Peace Corps' commitment to its old friends and long-standing programs and to discuss plans to get back up to our pre-evacuation scale within the next eighteen months.

There has been extensive press coverage of late of Peace Corps, through Mr. Coverdell's visit, and exclusive interview with Ambassador Ussery and an interview held with Maroc Agence Press (MAP) back in Washington. We have plans for doing a new Peace Corps brochure and some radio and television shows intended to raise the consciousness about our work here and to acknowledge what has taken place over the past 28 years through the 2,800 PCVs who have served throughout the Kingdom.

The upcoming State Visit by His Majesty, Hassan II, can only serve to reinforce as well the long-standing friendship and cooperation between our two countries.

Of course, all that takes place on the official front...while so much more takes place on the unofficial front...which means YOU! Believe me, whether

you realize it or not, every contact, every positive memory, every story told by you in the USA, strengthens the foundation of the vision which we are turning into reality...site by site, project by project, Volunteer by Volunteer.

This seems like an appropriate time to acknowledge OUT LOUD the completion of the LYCEE TEFL project and the passing of the baton to the Moroccan teachers of English which many of you trained and influenced...and the invaluable resources which you have left in place for their use and the use of future classes of young Moroccans. Know that in every encounter, official and personal, we are reminded of the work of the early English teachers...no doubt who wondered "What am I doing here? Does it really matter? Will it ever add up?" It made a difference as Morocco takes a stronger and more visible role in the world today.

Naturally, the work of each Volunteer in every project makes a difference...some of which you know full well, the rest of which we can only surmise, but on behalf of those of us who are reaping the benefits today of what you did yesterday, thank you! It is a proud tradition and one which we hope to uphold.

Morocco Desk (DC) Notes

The following is a new regular report from Pam DiMeo, PC Morocco Desk Officer in Washington.

ASSISTANT DESK OFFICER

Christy Schildwachter joined the Morocco Desk as Desk Assistant in August. Christy was an ESP teacher at the Institute of Applied Technology in Beni Mellal from 1988-90. She remained in Morocco as a Volunteer Leader until the program suspension in January.

NEW VOLUNTEERS

Thirty-six volunteers are back in Morocco and doing well (although we're sure they are missing those of you who couldn't return). They will be joined by about 46 new trainees on October 24th, working in the areas of forestry, natural resource management, environmental education, health extension, veterinary science, and as teachers of the visually impaired. Another group of around 50 Volunteers will be recruited to go to Morocco in June of 1992. We'll keep you posted...



Presidents' Column

Past-president Laugharn

A letter from outgoing FOM President Peter Laugharn.

Democratic transitions have been sweeping the globe recently: the Soviet Union, Haiti, Berlin, Benin,...and now Friends of Morocco. As of our April General Meeting, I have stepped down from the FOM presidency, and I am celebrating my retirement by starting a new adventure as Save the Children Deputy Director in Mali, West Africa. Tim Resch and his new line-up of directors and officers will do a terrific job.

I have had the greatest of pleasure working with Friends of Morocco since its beginnings in December 1987. The best part of building the organization has been the enthusiastic response I've gotten from all of you. And after many a grueling day at my regular nine-to-five job, there was nothing like working on FOM to rebuild energy, interest, and a sense of purpose. I'll miss it.

Please come by to visit me in Bamako, even if it's a bit out of your way. Timbuktoo is just a couple of days up the Niger River. My address is c/o Africa Region, Save the Children, 54 Wilton Road, Westport CT 06880 (Mali Telephone: 011-223-22-61-34).

Yallah, ajiu tzuru-ni. Marhaba!



New President Resch

An article by new FOM President Tim Resch.

With immense respect for the energy Peter Laugharn has committed to the Friends of Morocco over the last four years, I have accepted the Presidency of Friends of Morocco. The commitment was not taken lightly and without introspection. I reflected on the opportunities to volunteer that I have accepted in my lifetime and remembered that it is in the giving we receive.

An excellent management team has been assembled which, I believe, will allow us to fulfill the Thirtieth Anniversary Celebration of Peace Corps theme "Continuing to Serve". Key members of the team include Noreen Polk as Treasurer, Carolyn Spicer-Russ as Secretary, Bill Gaisser continuing as Newsletter Editor, Dave Brooks as Membership Chair, Susanah de la Torre as Moroccan Community Liaison, Beth Burns as National Development Education Coordinator, Becky Mangus as 1992 Membership Directory Production Coordinator, and Rorie Valadez who will develop an education outreach kit. Other opportunities will arise, some spontaneously from you and others where we ask for help. We are now starting the 1991/92 membership year. As you complete the membership form and send in your dues, let us know how you like to help. Share with us, through the newsletter, your activities.

As a founding member, and for the last four years a member of the Board of Directors and Treasurer, I strongly support our basic purposes. I'd like to take this opportunity to restate them as they are listed in our Articles of Incorporation. This is why we exist and

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why we need your support, financial and otherwise.

+ *Uniting Morocco returned Peace Corps volunteers, staff, and others with an interest in Morocco;*

+ *Keeping members and others current on events in Morocco;*

+ *Organizing an implementing development education and outreach activities;*

+ *Funding or otherwise supporting charitable projects and scholarship focusing on Morocco and Moroccans;*

+ *Improving the awareness of Americans regarding the culture, needs, and achievements of Moroccan peoples, and*

+ *Supporting projects of the U.S. Peace Corps and private charitable organizations in Morocco.*

Marrakech Suite: Washington Exhibit



One of Wm. Kendrick's Marrakech drawings.

FOM Grant

FOM has granted \$250.00 to Rorie Valadez to help with here outreach kit project. The project consists of creating a curriculum, complete with handouts and artifacts, for teaching about the Middle East and North Africa, using Morocco as a case study. Rorie will give us a full report for the newsletter once her project is completed.



PC Chief Resigns

Peace Corps Director Paul Coverdell, has submitted his resignation, effective 1 October 1991 (according to some reports), to run for a U.S. Senate seat from Georgia.

A former Republican leader of the Georgia Senate and former chairman of the Georgia state Republican Party, he headed the Southern steering committee for the 1988 campaign of President Bush.

Coverdell became Peace Corps Director in 1989.

Friends of Morocco, along with the Embassy of Morocco and the Tangier-American Legation Museum Society, hosted a private showing of over thirty watercolors of Marrakech by artist William Kendrick.

Kendrick's admiration of French artists Henri Matisse and Eugene de la Croix, along with his curiosity and experience in the Middle East, led him to Marrakech in 1990. Kendrick's extended stay in Marrakech led to the *Marrakech Suite* of paintings and drawings.

The event was held at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., on 18 September 1991.

Center of the Earth PC Tags

After 30 years and more than 130,000 volunteers, the Peace Corps, as an expression of America's abiding hope and idealism, is firmly established in the national consciousness. With this maturity a body of literature is being produced by writers whose Peace Corps service in a Third-World country marked them, as well as all volunteers, with a profound life experience.

Now, for the first time, Clover Park Press brings together award-winners and gifted new writers--all of whom are Returned Peace Corps Volunteers. The stories tell of perplexing, tragic, funny, bittersweet encounters in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean, and include fiction and per-

sonal memoir.

Though none of the 13 authors writes about Morocco, all of their experiences ring a familiar bell with our many encounters in Morocco.

Editor and publisher, Geraldine Kennedy, served in the Peace Corps in Liberia. She is an urban and university planner and author of *Harmattan, a Woman's Journey Across the Sahara*, to be published in January 1992.

This 224 page paperback volume will be available after 1 October 1991. It will sell for \$12.95, and, if not in your local bookstore, can be obtained from Clover Park Press, P. O. Box 5067, Santa Monica CA 90409-5067 (tel: 213/452-7657).

The Northern California (NorCal) RPCVs have a fund raising project that would allow you to "advertise" your Peace Corps country and service, while helping the NorCal group continue their overseas and domestic help projects.

The project is an automobile license plate frame that has your country name across the top and your years of serve bracketing "Peace Corps" across the bottom. It is available in various frame and printing colors.

For more information and prices, contact NorCal RPCVs, P. O. Box 2547, San Francisco CA 94126.

Who's Who?

The Reference Press International is still looking for missing names, addresses, and other statistics about Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, to be published in a new reference, *Who's Who in the Peace Corps*.

All known RPCVs will be included in the book. Extended biographies may be included for a small fee.

For more information, contact Reference Press International, P. O. Box 4126, Greenwich CT 06830, tel: 800/786-6777 or 203/629-4900.

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Friends of Morocco



JOIN

GET A FRIEND

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*Just fill out the insert in this
or send \$15.00 with your name
Friends of Morocco, P*





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FRIENDS of MOROCCO

P.O. Box 2579, Washington DC 20013-2579

Membership Application

PLEASE NOTE: Prior to filling out this form yourself, consider making a few copies to pass on to others. Though most of our members are former Peace Corps Volunteers, our aim is to reach out to all persons with an interest in the people, culture, and development of Morocco.

DIRECTORY INFORMATION:

Name: _____
 Street Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: Home: _____/_____ Work: _____/_____
 Current Occupation: _____
 Employer/School: _____

WORK EXPERIENCE IN MOROCCO: (PCVs: list Peace Corps job; Academics: list field and research topics; Moroccans: list profession/study, etc.)

Years in Morocco: 19__ to 19__ Site/Hometown: _____

AREAS OF INTEREST: Please check those potential FOM activities which you would be most interested in.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Reunion/Gatherings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trips to Morocco | <input type="checkbox"/> Development Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality | <input type="checkbox"/> Speakers Bureau |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Putting RPCVs/Moroccans back in touch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local FOM Chapter | <input type="checkbox"/> Career & Readjustment Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recruiting PCVs | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

FOM membership dues are \$15 annually, covering the period 1 October to 30 September (dues paid in July, August, or September cover the following dues year). All members will receive FOM's quarterly newsletter and our nationwide directory of members and RPCVs who served in Morocco. Make checks payable to *Friends of Morocco*. Additional donations to help the cause are gratefully accepted. FOM dues and contributions are tax deductible.

We also urge all RPCVs to join the National Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (NCRPCV) to help in building a national RPCV network. We will forward your dues to the NCRPCV.

Amount enclosed: FOM Membership (\$15) _____
 FOM Contribution _____
 NCRPCV Membership (\$20) _____



TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____ Date _____

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Please help us by answering the following questions:

1/ Briefly, what have you done since leaving Peace Corps?

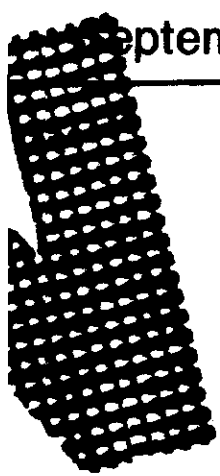
2/ What projects or programs, in Morocco or the United States, would you like to see *Friends of Morocco* get involved with?

3/ What sorts of news and features would you like from the *Friends of Morocco Newsletter*?

The information collected on this form will be used by *FOM* and will be made available only to those organizations whose purposes are consistent with the aims of *FOM*. It will not be sold or traded for commercial purposes. It will be used in the *FOM Directory* unless you request otherwise.



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PLEASE JOIN

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Friends of Morocco

*subscribe to the Friends of Morocco Newsletter,
provide your name, address, and dates/site of service to:*

P.O. Box 2579, Washington DC 20013-2579

DC RPCV Project

RPCV/Washington DC has a continuing project to develop a professional slide show and a possible traveling photo exhibit.

The group is encouraging all RPCVs to send copies of their two best slides, together with narrative descriptions. If you cannot limit yourself to two slides, then send as many as you would like. Note that your slides become a donation to the project and cannot be returned.

The slides will be catalogued and stored at the new DevEd library at Catholic University in Washington. The slides will be used in DevEd speakers bureau engagements and may be used to develop a photo exhibit of the Peace Corps Experience around the world through the years.

For more information contact Brenda Brown, 6037 Bonnie Bern Court, Burke VA 22015, tel: 703/440-8531.

(Ed. note: While looking through your slides, don't forget the slide bank that Friends of Morocco has been developing. For more information contact FOM, P. O. Box 2579, Washington DC 20013-2579.)



Tangier/American Legation Director

The Tangier American Legation Museum Society has announced the selection of Thor Kuniholm as the new resident director of for the Legation.

Mr. Kuniholm served in the American Consulate in Casablanca during the 1970s, and as Country Officer for Morocco in the State Department in the early 1980s. After retirement from the Foreign Service, he attended the

Morocco and the development of a resident program for American scholars and artists. The Legation will also increase its importance as a conference center, particularly for the northern portions of Morocco.

The Tangier American Legation Museum was given to the United States in 1821 by the Sultan Moulay Soliman, to be used as an embassy. It is the only

".....(the Legation) is the only U.S. Historic Landmark outside of the United States....."

Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and training programs at the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

His plans include expanding the Legation role as an American academic and cultural presence in

U.S. Historic Landmark outside of the United States.

The Legation building houses an important research library on North African affairs and art, along with documentary collections on the region.

TEFLers Needed

The Peace Corps is looking for teachers of math, science, English, special education, and industrial arts, to serve as teachers in the classroom or trainers of future teachers.

Africa, Asia, Latin America, Central Europe, and the

Pacific are the sites--- most of you know the rest.

If you want to re-up or have a friend who would like to join for the first time, contact the Peace Corps at 202/606-3000, ext. 892 (or call a regional office near you).

PC 30th Anniversary

Next Friends of Morocco Ijtimaa: 1993

Despite broiling 96 degree humid temperatures, 2,000 RPCVs had a great time celebrating the Peace Corps' 30th Anniversary on the 3rd and 4th of August in Washington, D.C.

Those 2,000 included a small but exuberant contingent of Morocco RPCVs, who did their part in making the conference a wonderful success. Some of us volunteered to "fix-up" and help improve the neighborhoods of our nation's capitol by participating in the two dozen Volunteer Day projects. Others attended workshops, country updates, helped make the largest living world map, and just kept the show going.

The group swelled to nearly 4,000 on Sunday morning, when everyone assembled in Arlington National Cemetery by country of service, to march to the grave of President Kennedy, and then across the Potomac, national flags waving overhead, to the Lincoln Memorial. Once arriving at the memorial, a Peace Service was held, honoring all of the people of the planet, standing together for peace.

The Friends of Morocco, along with friends from the Moroccan Embassy and

the Moroccan community around Washington, met at the Casablanca Restaurant in Alexandria for a Friendship Luncheon. An update of PC Morocco was presented, while everyone dined on wonderful Moroccan salads, roast lamb, and bread. Over 100 attended the luncheon, giving us time to renew old friendships and to make new ones.

On Saturday evening, FOM continued the celebration with an informal get-together. About 35 people showed up to talk, eat (again), listen to music, and to watch FOM's new videos, *Moroccans in Boston* and *Letters from Morocco*. (We'll tell you more about the videos in future newsletters.)

The next formal gathering of Friends of Morocco will be Ijtimaa '93. The time and place will be decided soon.



The 1992 Returned Peace Corps Volunteer National Conference will be in the Ozarks. It will happen at Fayetteville, Arkansas, home of the University of Arkansas and surrounded by wonderful mountain scenery.



In the High Atlas.

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Friends of Morocco

Morocco File on Hold

Morocco File, the FOM clipping service collection of news and views from, and about, Morocco, has been suspended with the departure of editor Peter Laugharn to Mali.

Subscribers will be contacted to arrange return or credit for subscription fees paid.

So that the *Morocco File* can be put into full swing again, FOM is in need of an editor to take charge and implement the project.

The ideal volunteer would be at or near a major

university or news source with access to a diversity of publications. Plan on committing at least fifteen hours per month to produce a 10-20 page monthly collection of information culled from reviews, newspapers, magazines, etc., to be mailed to nearly 100 subscribers. The task could work well as a team project.

The editor candidate must be completely objective, unbiased, and balanced.

For more information, contact Tim Resch at 703/660-9292.

P&G Maroc

Proctor & Gamble has announced the purchase of *La Croix* bleach and *SaniCroix* household cleaner from ONA Morocco. P&G said the purchase will help the company expand in Morocco.

Proctor & Gamble already manufactures and sells *Tide* & *Ariel* laundry powder, *Camay* and *Zest* bath soap, and *Pret Plus* shampoo in Morocco, through its affiliate, Moroccan Modern Industries.



Sahara Cease-fire

A United Nations supervised cease-fire went into force in Western Sahara at 6 AM, on 6 September 1991.

It is the first stage of a peace plan designed to give inhabitants the choice between independence or becoming a part of Morocco. About 100 U.N. peacekeepers were deployed in the region as a first contingent. Eventually, there will be 2,800 U.N. military and civilian peacekeepers and advisers in Western Sahara.

Fighting has been going on in Western Sahara since 1975.

Amy Beth Simon

Amy Beth Simon (TEFL, Meknes/Rabat, 1989-'91) died on 23 August 1991, in Denver, Colorado, from injuries from an automobile accident in Utah. Survivors include husband Abdeslam (Assou) Hamdaoui of Meknes, Morocco; parents Judy and Al Simon of Deerfield, Illinois; and a brother, Steve Simon.

Amy returned to Morocco in February, 1991, and married Abdeslam in Meknes. Amy and Assou came to the United States together at the end of July and spent three weeks in Deerfield visiting family and friends. They left Illinois on 20 August to drive to California, where they planned to settle and start a new life.

Amy's parents would love to hear from friends. Please call or write to Judy and Al Simon, 330 Forsythia Drive, Deerfield, Illinois 60015, 708/945-8771. Memorials may be made to the Amy Simon Foreign Language Book Fund at the Deerfield Public Library, 920 Waukegan Road, Deerfield, Illinois 60015.



Ash Khabarna?

أش اخبارنا ؟

CORRECTION: *Aziz Erraziqi's* name was misspelled in the last FOM Newsletter. He also told the Newsletter that he gives instruction in French & Arabic, as well as doing translation. Contact *Aziz* at 1700 Harvard Street, NW, Apt. 613, Washington DC 20009, 202/745-0775.

Peter Laugharn (TEFL, Sefrou, 1982-84), immediate past president of FOM, is now living in Bamako, Mali. *Peter* is serving as Deputy Director of Save the Children, where the program consists of work relating to health, agriculture, education, and micro-enterprise. Contact *Peter* at: c/o Africa Region, Save the Children, 54 Wilton Road, Westport CT 06880.

Soraya Sebti, Assistant Director in charge of Health for Peace Corps Morocco, will be acting as liaison between the Friends of Morocco Newsletter and the Morocco in-country volunteer organization. She can be reached at Peace Corps (Corps de la Paix des USA), 1, rue Benzerte, Rabat, Morocco.

The summer 1991 issue of *World View* reports that *Jim Nuttall* (Voc Ed, Chefchaouen, 1980-82), and now a emergency program coordinator for Save the Children, was active in the

temporary settlement of Gulf War refugees. He was charged to build from scratch a transit camp for thousands of penniless Indians, Bengalis, Sri Lankans, Pakistanis, and Filipinos who had been homeless in the desert sun for over a week. The camp was on the Jordanian/Iraqi border.

Roger Thompson reports that 30 RPCVs, along with forty-five spouses and children, made for one of the best annual *mischouis* ever for the 1971 ag/forestry/chemistry intern programs reunions. It was held at the farm of *Mary* and *Dan Duncomb* for

two days (August 31-September 1) in Cannon Falls, Minnesota.

Among those attending were *Doug Teschner* who brought his slides; *Fred Gustafson* who parodied some of the '60s classics, to tears of "excessive laughter"; *Steve Dennison* who traveled from the east coast; the *Chryslers* and the *Skirvings* who came from the west coast; *Maggie* from Texas; and *Helen* from Tennessee.

For more information about future reunions, contact *Roger Thompson*, Rt. 2, Box 10, Kensington MN 56343, 612/965-2486.



MRPCV & SCF staff member *Jim Nuttall* directs relief efforts on the Jordanian border.

Information Please.....

Friends of Morocco is trying to compile a source list for things Moroccan. We would like for you to send us the names (and addresses) of restaurants, retailers of Moroccan goods, sources of Moroccan musical recordings, speakers from or about Morocco, exhibits of Moroccan art and artifacts, sources for cooking spices, books, tours, etc.....

We will eventually be able to produce a source book for our members if enough information is submitted. We will also put mini-lists in the upcoming newsletters.

Send your information to Bill Gaisser, FOM Newsletter Editor, 219 Oak Street, Evansville, Indiana 47713-1254.

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Friends of Morocco Newsletter is published quarterly by the Friends of Morocco and circulated to their members and other interested parties. The organization was formed in 1988 to reunite PCVs who have served in Morocco, to inform members about current events and conditions in Morocco, to promote a better understanding of Morocco and Moroccans on the part of Americans, and to fund or otherwise support development activities in Morocco. Membership dues are \$15 annually. FOM is governed by a nine-member national board. Mailing address: Friends of Morocco, PO Box 2579, Washington DC 20013-2579. For further information, contact 1991 president Tim Resch at 703/660-9292.

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