

Fall 2004

Friends of Morocco

اصدقاء المغرب

friendsofmorocco.org

Ijtimaa 2004 and NPCA Chicago Conference a Success

By Tim Resch, FOM President



Over 900 returned Peace Corps volunteers, former staff and friends came to Chicago August 5-8 for the 2004 National Peace Corps Association 25th Anniversary Conference. Our local hosts, the Chicago Area Peace Corps Association (CAPCA), did a tremendous job in making the conference, whose

theme was "Peace Corps 2004: Celebrating a Legacy of Service," a resounding success.

Participants were treated to an impressive array of nationally and internationally known speakers and everyone left feeling reconnected, re-energized and recommitted to the Peace Corps ideals. Jalil Aboufaris of MoroccoUSA.com based in Chicago and new FOM member, became the de facto photographer of the conference for Friends of Morocco. The photo album is online at <http://www.moroccousa.com/peacecorp2004/>.

Opening Ceremony

RPCVs streamed into the Palmer House Hilton Grand Ballroom for the Opening Ceremony of the conference.

Peace Corps country flags draped the walls of the vast and ornate room. Things got off to a rousing start with the projection onto a giant screen of Teresa Heinz Kerry's Democratic National Convention remarks about Peace Corps. Welcoming remarks were made by CAPCA Conference Co-Chairs Trina Janes (Morocco 91-93) and Chuck Sheftel (India 69-72), NPCA President Kevin Quigley (Thailand 76-79), Jane Adams Hull House Association President Clarence Wood, Bank One Executive Vice President Linda Bammann (Philippines 78-80), and U.S. Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky.

Peace Corps Director Gaddi Vasquez lauded the work of the returned volunteer community, and provided a snapshot of today's Peace Corps. Speaking of how today's Peace Corps increasingly "looks like America," he shared the story of a Philippine woman living in the U.S. who had been so inspired by Peace Corps teachers that she wanted to join the Peace Corps. She visited the recruiting office, but was rebuffed because she wasn't a citizen. Two years later she returned having obtained her citizenship, and went on to serve in Romania. To Director Vasquez's complete surprise and the audience's delight, that very volunteer was in the room!

Speeches were also made by Ohio Governor Bob Taft (Tanzania 63-65), incoming NPCA Board Chair Ken Hill (Turkey 65-67), Wisconsin Governor Jim and First Lady Jessica Doyle (Tunisia 67-69), and Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, former Thai Minister of Foreign Affairs.

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Ijtimaa Dinner at Andalous Moroccan Restaurant

Thom Anderson (Rich./Casablanca 91-95) organized a Moroccan feast at the Andalous Moroccan Restaurant on Clark St Friday night for about 40 conference participants including RPCVs from Tunisia and Russia who joined our group. We took over the restaurant's outside terrace during a lovely summer evening. The meal included a tomato-rich *harira*, *zaalouk*, the eggplant, pepper and tomato salad, chicken with lemons and olives, lamb tagine with artichokes, onions and peas, and a seven vegetable couscous. Of course, all followed by Moroccan pastries and mint tea.

International Market Place

Participants browsed through the stalls of 102 vendors

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Ash Khabarna?

أش اخبارنا؟

Editor's note: I sincerely apologize for any errors in the last installment of *Ash Khabarna*. Most of these entries are typed and not cut and pasted, so it was just simple human error. I also rely on the information sent to us by the National Peace Corps Association. Please check with them and make sure your contact information is accurate. Clear handwriting also helps. If you don't want your personal information to appear in *Ash Khabarna*, please indicate this request on your membership renewal.

Luis Acebal—Safi 86-88 writes, "I traveled for a period after finishing my assignment. Afterwards, I spent numerous years in graduate school and completed my Ph.D. in comparative literature. I married my partner, Sharon Brisolaro, who was also a volunteer in Morocco. I've continued to travel when I've had the opportunity and I'm presently an instructor of literature at National University. We have a beautiful daughter, Isabela, who is four years-old. Luis lives in Redding, CA and can be contacted at <lmakebal@sbcglobal.net>."

Jack and Carol McCreary—Casablanca, Marrakesh, Rabat, Beni Mellal 68-74, 7-577, 99-02 write, "Jack is retired and playing his sax around Portland and composing songs. Carol has started Steel Bridge to help people get their ideas across to marking, project design, grantwriting and training." Contact Jack and Carol at <46mccreary@comcast.net> or <carolmccreary@comcast.net>."

Peg Petrzela—Tountoute 86-88 writes, "I'm working on publishing so I don't perish as an assistant professor at Utah State University. Teaching environmental sociology and doing research in same topic. Am also in the process of giving up the single life and will soon be marrying a great, great guy

named Jim—you'll be able to meet him at the reunion in Vegas in 2005!" Contact Peg at <peggy@hass.usu.edu>."

William Garvey—PC Morocco Director 68-80 is retired and lives in La Plata, MD.

Peter Jamieson—Goulmima/Meknes/El Hajeb 85-87 is an ESL teacher at Conejo Valley Adult School. Peter lives in Thousand Oaks, CA and can be contacted at <pjamieso@verizon.net>."

Ken Dethman—Taza 63-64 is an oyster farmer in Portland, OR. Contact Ken at <nboc97143@yahoo.com>."

Robert Dudley—Errachidia 77-79 is an architect and lives in Somerville, MA. Contact Robert at <bdudley@addinc.com>."

Ronald Ciras—Marrakesh 77-78 lives in Worcester, MA. Contact Ron at <ronciras@earthlink.net>."

Stella Fizazi—Casablanca 67 to present writes, "Since retiring from the American Language Center I have kept busy with activities of the American/International Women's Club of Casablanca, including fundraising for traditional charities as well as development projects, some of which are proposed by PCVs in Morocco. I am also active in the Churchill Club (social venue for English speakers), CADS (Casablanca Amateur Dramatic Society—again, in English), and my church: Greek Orthodox". Contact Stella at <mustafizazi@menar.ma>."

JoAnn and Norm McCarthy—Ouarzazate 01-03 are retired and living in Yakima, WA.

Stephen Osborne—Ksar-es-Souk 68-70 is an engineer and lives in Walnut Creek, CA. Contact Stephen at <nehpets1947@hotmail.com>."

Tom Hanson is the father of a Morocco PCV and was a PC volunteer in Liberia 70-74.

Jennifer Hembree did archaeological excavations in al-Basra during the summers of 1998 and 1999. Jennifer is now a historian/historic preservation consultant in Washington, DC. Contact her at <jen_hembree@hotmail.com>."

Henry and Elisabeth Betts Reynolds—Oujda/Settat 63-65 write, "Hank and Lisa met in training and asked to be assigned together (they were), married 2 months after coming home, moved to Chapel Hill, NC where Hank got a PhD in Political Science. They then moved to the University of Delaware for the rest of their careers. They have two children: a son (34) and a daughter (32). Henry retired from active teaching in May 02 and Lisa finished a 28-year stint as an editor at the UD Press (20 years) and coordinator of the Honors Program (8 years) in October 03. They have now moved permanently to their vacation home in northern Vermont." Contact Hank and Lisa at <ebr@udel.edu>."

Cheryl Deane—Midelt 81-83 is the director of admissions at Friends Academy in North Dartmouth, MA. Contact Cheryl at <tweela58@hotmail.com>."



In Memoriam

Peter Kresge, Education APCD 81-84

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is saddened to announce the death of Peter Burke Kresge. Peter died peacefully surrounded by family and friends on Monday, August 9, 2004, in Washington, D.C. He lived his life working to improve the lives of countless individuals around the world. His work with USAID took him to Africa, the Middle East, South Asia and Washington, D.C.

He was born in Washington State on June 12, 1946. After several years, his family moved to Paris, and later, to Washington, D.C., where his father worked for USAID during the Marshall Plan period, USAID's predecessor organization. Peter received his Master of Arts in Education from the University of Washington.

He joined the Peace Corps as a volunteer and was posted to Tunisia in the mid-1970's. From 1980 to 1981, he served as the Director of the Foreign Language Program, International Center for Language Studies, Washington, D.C. From 1981 to 1984, he served as Associate Peace Corps Director for Education in Morocco. In 1984, he returned to Washington, D.C. as the Peace Corps Director of Technical Programs.

On February 2, 1987, he joined the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) as an International Development Intern (IDI) Education Officer. He served in Egypt, Ghana, Morocco, Nepal and Washington. He served the U.S. Government for over 26 years.

He had an excellent reputation as a highly effective, solid and compassionate professional. He cared deeply about the people in the countries in which he served, the importance of economic development, the work of the USAID and the need for the Government of the United States to support developing countries.

He will be remembered as a courageous, intelligent and passionate spirit. He was known and loved for his passion for music, the theatre, his acting and singing talents and especially his wry sense of humor. He enjoyed a number of sports, particularly scuba diving and tennis.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Christiane (Chrish); his loving parents, Howard and Patricia; his siblings - Susan Kresge, John Kresge and Mari Alexander Kresge; his stepchildren, Katrina Brashares and Nicholas Sorenson; and family and friends.

Memorial services were held Wednesday, August 11, 2004, in Rabat, Morocco, and in Kathmandu, Nepal. The family is also planning to have a memorial service here in Washington, D.C., mid-September 2004.

Notes of condolence may be sent to Mrs. Chrish Kresge at 3726 Oliver Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20015.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations and specify the donation is for melanoma research, as follows: In Memory of Peter B. Kresge, Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center, Office of Development, Research Building, Suite E-501, 3970 Reservoir Road, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20057.

Editor's note: Peter was the Education APCD during my second year in Morocco. My fondest memory of him was his site visit (the first visit to Guercif by any PC Morocco staff member) when he brought two huge boxes of Mr. Salty pretzels for my roommate and a big box of Mounds bars for me. Somehow, he found out what everyone was craving from home, and we were so thrilled to get our unexpected goodies. Since we were the last stop on his trip out east, he left the giant bottle of Johnny Walker he had brought along to share with volunteers. My profound condolences to Peter's family.



Monica Potyondy, Rabat 70-73

Monica Gail Ryan was born Aug. 21, 1947, in Minneapolis and married John Potyondy shortly before they left to join the Peace Corps. They served for three years in Morocco. John as a forester working with the national forestry research station and Monica as a *garderie* (children's education) volunteer and later as an English teacher at the

national forestry school. Based in Rabat, they also spent time near Ketama in the Rif mountains where John conducted watershed research. Highly effective as a couple with John's French and Monica's Arabic, they traveled throughout Morocco visiting Tan Tan, Imchil, and Erfroud among other towns. In Rabat, they were gracious hosts to a parade of friends doing business at the Peace Corps headquarters in Rabat.

Following their Peace Corps stint, they followed John's career with the Forest Service living in Mountain View, Wyoming, Ogden, Utah, Boise, Idaho, and most recently in Fort Collins, Colorado. Along the way, Monica and John had three children and Monica attended nursing school and had a career working as a R.N. psychiatric nurse treating adolescents. She dearly loved and enjoyed her work and liked helping people.

She was a member of John XXIII University Center, an avid gardener, volunteered countless hours to numerous causes and most recently volunteered at the Fort Collins homeless shelter where one of the first people she met was a displaced man from Morocco. She had a lifelong commitment to social justice issues.

The family suggests that any memorial donations be made to the West African Development Organization (WADSO), a project of a Dominican priest, Father Marcel, from the Ivory Coast who has a vision of starting a Dominican Center of Theology and Development in his homeland. The long-term goal of the Center is to promote family life and human dignity, teach development practices that make use of appropriate technology and that are environmentally sound, and build skills in effective conflict prevention and management in a society torn apart by war and poverty. It's unclear that he will ever achieve this goal

(Continued on page 27)

Let's Help Hakim!



Remember Hakim Illi? He's been with Peace Corps Morocco for more than twenty years and continues to be one of the best receptionists in the Peace Corps world. However, he needs your help. His disability is not an obstacle, but

finances are. Hakim's current vehicle has been specially adapted to allow him to drive, but it is quickly reaching the age of no return. A new car is simply beyond Hakim's

means. Hakim is not permitted to solicit individual contributions, but he is not prohibited from accepting an outside gift. If you would like to donate to the Hakim car fund, please send a check payable to Friends of Morocco to: Hakim's Car Fund, c/o Friends of Morocco, P.O. Box 2579, Washington, DC 20013-2579. Be sure to indicate "Hakim's Car Fund" on the check. All donations to Hakim's Car Fund will be acknowledged in a future issue of the Friends of Morocco newsletter.



Morocco's Strategies for Sustainable Development

The 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development reiterated a call to all countries to "make progress in the formulation and elaboration of national strategies for sustainable development and begin their implementation by 2005." A national sustainable development strategy is not simply a document, but rather is a continuing and adaptive process of strategic and co-ordinated action. GTZ commissioned "National Strategies for Sustainable Development: Challenges, Approaches and Innovations in Strategic and Co-ordinated Action" to assist government sustainable development officials in realizing this process. This report studies 19 developed and developing countries and identifies key challenges faced by countries in relation to the strategic management aspects of national sustainable development strategies including leadership, planning, implementation, monitoring and review, co-

ordination, and participation.

Morocco was one of the 19 country case studies and the report is available at http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2004/measure_sdsip_morocco.pdf. The 23 page report reviews Moroccan strategies for sustainable development providing key challenges faced in relation to the strategic management aspects of national sustainable development strategies including leadership, planning, implementation, monitoring and review, co-ordination, and participation. The hyperlinked "list of references" is provided to access to key documents.



Prehistoric Desert Town Found in Western Sahara

RABAT, Morocco (Reuters) - The remains of a prehistoric town believed to date back 15,000 years and belong to an ancient Berber civilization have been discovered in Western Sahara, Moroccan state media said Thursday.

A team of Moroccan scientists stumbled across the sand-covered ruins of the town of Arghilas deep in the desert of the Morocco-administered territory.

The remains of a place of worship, houses and a necropolis, as well as columns and rock engravings depicting animals, were found at the site near the town of Aousserd in northeastern Western Sahara.

The isolated area is known to be rich in prehistoric rock engravings but experts said the discovery could be significant if proven that the ruins were of Berber origin as this civilization is believed to date back only some 9,000

years.

"It appears that scientists have come up with the 15,000-years estimate judging by the style of the engravings and the theme of the drawings," Mustapha Ouachi, a Rabat-based Berber historian, told Reuters.

Berbers were the original inhabitants of North Africa before Arabs came to spread Islam in the seventh century.

The population of Western Sahara, seized by Morocco in 1975 when former colonial power Spain pulled out, are mostly of Berber and Arab descent.



Sustainable Tourism to Aid Economic Growth

By Roberta Hilbruner

USAID/Morocco, George Washington University (GWU) and the Institut Supérieur International du Tourisme de Tanger (ISIT) are working in Morocco to assist sustainable tourism development for rural economic growth. The USAID Rural Tourism Development Program is a three-year project designed to attract tourists, generate rural tourism jobs, and improve the economy of local villages through training, development of new tourism opportunities, and strengthening Morocco's competitiveness in the international marketplace with targeted marketing.

For the past two years, the first phase of the project assessed rural tourism resources, explored issues and opportunities, and identified several areas for future tourism development and marketing. The current and second phase is concentrating efforts on tourism product development, restoration, and protection. The final phase will focus on marketing.

Analysis highlighted that Morocco has spectacular potential for development of rural tourism "hubs" to attract visitors for several days if "spokes" of experience are developed around Morocco's rich scenic, natural and cultural features. These hubs are organized into Northern Morocco, the Middle Atlas and the High Atlas/Agadir regions and currently provide seven distinct areas of opportunity within those regions.

Product development will focus on a few pilot projects to demonstrate what can be accomplished with directed effort and will develop models that can be replicated in other communities.

Pilot projects might include facilitation of community public/private networks for participation in tourism development, specific product development such as a walking tour of a community, trail development in a protected area, handicraft quality enhancement, or event management and promotion. Additional assistance might include small business services such as access to credit, training, and technology and ombudsman services to coach applicants through the complicated business start-up process.

Recently, the Moroccan Ministry of Tourism sponsored collaboration between GWU and ISIT through a GWU consulting practicum. Over 3-4 months this spring and early summer, GWU Business School master's degree students worked with ISIT students virtually through distance learning, tourism planning activities, and a field study to assess tourism potential, generate recommendations and present a strategy for action.

The students swarmed over the Al Hoceima and Chefchaouen areas, contacted a great number of people in government, business, and NGOs, and visited many cultural and natural sites. They generated solid ideas for on-the-ground activity to develop tourism networks, and outlined a continued collaboration that would strengthen the capacity of ISIT to address tourism in Morocco.

In July, a formal presentation of the students recommendations to the Ministry of Tourism, represented by Secretary General Hasan Kacimi, was very well received. These

recommendations will be outlined in a final paper, coming out in August, but a sneak preview of Chefchaouen pilot recommendations includes: a marketing strategy, a destination management organization plan, cluster development strategies, a call for tour operators in Chefchaouen, a marketing plan to attract visitors during the "shoulder" season, a regional access strategy to address transportation issues, a cultural festivals office, a litter awareness campaign, hospitality and customer service training, and development of caving opportunities.

Small business support projects might include: a business incubator, kayaking center, gite upgrades, mule and bicycle rentals, hiking guides and outfitters, restaurant menu development, and local web pages tying off of a national website.

The project has recommended market research to analyze local tourism situations more carefully, and to clearly outline current and potential domestic travel. Other recommendations include development of a closer working relationship, collaboration and support between the two branches of the Ministry of Tourism to more effectively promote and market rural tourism opportunities.

While it is too early yet to expect results, the foundation is set for model activities that could inform additional future efforts to effect rural economic growth through sustainable tourism.

Roberta Hilbruner is the Environmental Communication Specialist for USAID/Washington Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade Bureau, and convenes the Sustainable Tourism Working Group at USAID.



HIV/AIDS Situation in Morocco

By Paul Dowling (Burkina Faso 97-00)

While Morocco has thus far escaped the catastrophic AIDS infection rates seen in sub-Saharan Africa, there is little reason for complacency in the future. Many of the factors that lead to an explosion in HIV (the virus that causes AIDS) infection in other parts of the world - stigma, shame, ignorance, poverty and high rates of other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) - are present in Morocco. The fear is that the current infection rates, concentrated in certain high-risk groups, could explode once introduced into the general population. Experience has shown that the time to act is early, before HIV becomes established in a population.

The current infection rate in Morocco is around 0.15 percent of the adult population, comparable to the infection rate in the United States. That translates into an estimated 13,000 people infected. Infection rates are higher in cities than in urban areas and the proportion of women infected is growing: around half of all infections are in women aged 15 to 49. Typically infection rates are calculated based on surveillance of pregnant women, and this data are then extrapolated to the general population using mathematical models. In Morocco, there is little surveillance of high-risk groups so overall low infection rates in the general population could be masking epidemics in those groups. Given that it can take 10 years for a HIV infection to give rise to full blown AIDS the lack of surveillance in Morocco, both of the general population, and of high risk groups like sex workers, men who have sex with men and intravenous drug users is particularly worrying. Morocco has recently expanded its surveillance of high-risk groups. In 2003, infection rates of 0.8 percent among prisoners and 2.3 percent among sex workers were discovered.

Rates of sexually transmitted infections are useful indicators of the potential for HIV to spread throughout a population once it has established a foothold. In Morocco in 2001, there were almost 350,000 reported cases of STIs. This is important for several reasons. People infected with other STIs are more likely to become infected with HIV as the sores associated with these other STIs facilitate HIV transmission. STIs are also an important behavioral indicator. High rates of STI's point to high levels of casual sex and multiple partners. There is no data for infection rates among men who have sex with other men in Morocco. Again, this is an important high-risk group. Fear of reprisal and stigma means that this group is highly unlikely to come forward and is potentially a major risk group for HIV transmission.

There are signs of increased political leadership in Morocco around HIV/AIDS. The country has a four-year strategic plan covering the period 2000 to 2004. The plan aims to raise awareness of HIV in the general population, improve monitoring, increase the numbers of people being tested and increase access to treatment. As part of the plan, Morocco has successfully applied for funding to the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria. A non profit NGO based in Geneva, the Global Fund is a partnership between governments, the United Nations and private organizations, created as a funding mechanism to direct resources towards these three diseases.

Morocco was awarded \$4.7 million in 2003, to cover a period of two years, of which it has already received \$3.8 million. The money is being used to increase awareness, provide more testing, and provide treatment for up to 800 people by the end of 2004. The plan calls for 90 percent awareness of AIDS among young people by 2004, 12,000 people tested and 25 million condoms distributed, amongst other numerical targets.

Publicity generated around the award of the Global Fund money was an important mechanism to lift the silence around HIV/AIDS in Morocco. Discussions of AIDS and sex are taboo in the country and so an interview given on national TV by the Minister of Health was seen as an important milestone in raising awareness.

Treatment with life-saving drugs or antiretroviral therapy (ART) typically begins when a person exhibits major symptoms of AIDS, and/or their CD-4 count drops below a certain threshold. CD-4 cells are essential for our body's resistance to infection and the virus invades and destroys these cells, weakening the body's ability to defend itself. Since there are major side effect to ART, treatment does not start immediately after a person is determined to be infected. It is impossible to say how many Moroccans would benefit from ART, a rule of thumb would estimate around half of those infected - 6,500. In 2002, 167 people were receiving AIDS treatment and this was due to increase to 800 by the end of this year. This is still only a fraction of those that need lifesaving treatment.

HIV/AIDS is a global problem that requires global solutions. Returned Peace Corps Volunteers for International Health (RIH) is an advocacy group formed to advocate for more funding of global AIDS programs and to promote awareness of the problem in our communities. One of RIH's key advocacy issues is more support for the Global Fund, which is currently funding activities in Morocco. While the United States has become the largest donor to global AIDS with \$15 billion dollars promised over five years, we believe that this amount is inadequate to deal with the problem. RIH also believes that the amount being allocated to the Global Fund - \$1 billion over five years - is also inadequate. Most US funding will go to 15 selected countries while the Global Fund has donated money to over 93 countries. The Global Fund is a fast and efficient financing mechanism and one that empowers countries, since they decide how to spend their money. The Global Fund is an important complement to bilateral US funding. Individuals can give money directly to the Fund on their website (www.theglobalfund.org).

For more information on RIH or to join our efforts email rih@lists.jsi.com or Paul Dowling at pdowling@jsi.com. For more information on Global AIDS, including specific information on Morocco, go to the UNAIDS website at www.unaids.org, the Global Fund website at www.theglobalfund.org. For information on advocacy in the United States go to the Global AIDS Alliance website at www.globalaidsalliance.org.

Membership Renewal/Application

PLEASE NOTE: Prior to filling out this application, consider making a few copies to pass on to others. While many of our members are former Peace Corps Morocco volunteers, membership is open to anyone interested in the people, culture and development of Morocco.

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Current occupation: _____

Employer/school: _____

Experience in Morocco: (RPCVs and PC staffers list Peace Corps jobs. Academics: list field and research topics. Moroccans: list profession or field of study)

Years in Morocco: _____ to _____ Site/hometown: _____

I give permission to FOM to print the above information in the FOM newsletter: _____ Yes _____ No

Areas of interest: Check potential FOM activities in which you would be interested:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> local FOM chapter | <input type="checkbox"/> speakers' bureau |
| <input type="checkbox"/> trips to Morocco | <input type="checkbox"/> recruiting PCVs | <input type="checkbox"/> putting RPCVs/Moroccans in touch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> hospitality | <input type="checkbox"/> reunion/gatherings | <input type="checkbox"/> career/readjustment services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fund raising | <input type="checkbox"/> development education | <input type="checkbox"/> FOM officer position |
- Other _____

We need your support for the *Friends of Morocco Newsletter* and other FOM activities. Membership categories appear below. Joint membership includes membership in FOM and the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA). NPCA members also receive the award-winning magazine *World View*, and the newsletter 3/1/61. NPCA and FOM dues and contributions can be tax-deductible.

JOINT MEMBERSHIP IN FRIENDS OF MOROCCO AND NATIONAL PEACE CORPS ASSOCIATION

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Individual | _____ \$50.00 |
| Multiple (two people, one address) | _____ \$65.00 |

MEMBERSHIP IN FRIENDS OF MOROCCO ONLY

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Individual | _____ \$15.00 |
| Multiple (two people, one address) | _____ \$20.00 |

Overseas NPCA members - please add \$20 for postage _____ \$20.00

Additional contribution to Friends of Morocco (tax-deductible) \$ _____ (shukron!)

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED (make check payable to *Friends of Morocco*) \$ _____

Fall04



THE FOM SOUK

► Morocco featured in 2005 Madison RPCV International Calendar

The Madison (WI) RPCVs began the International Calendar Project in 1987 to share Peace Corps experiences with our home communities and to raise money for grassroots projects in the countries where we served or in which we live. Calendar sales have resulted in over \$500,000 to education and development projects worldwide. Morocco is featured for May 2005 with a photo by Justin Mog (2003) and includes a discussion on mint tea and it's role in Moroccan society. The calendar is available for \$10 including shipping (reduced prices for bulk orders) from RPCVs of WI- Madison 2714 Oakridge Ave Madison, WI 53704-5749 or www.rpcvmadison.org.

► Berber Exhibit at the Peabody Museum of Archeology and Ethnology

Imazighen! Beauty and Artisanship in Berber life. The Peabody Museum of Archeology and Ethnology at Harvard University in Cambridge, MA will open a new exhibit (Opening and reception December 1, 2004 5-7 pm) featuring an extensive collection of cultural artifacts made by the Berber peoples of North Africa in the early to mid-twentieth century. Elegant etched and cloisonné jewelry, punched and embroidered leatherwork, inlaid metal and wood saddles, and glazed pottery highlight a sophisticated artisan culture that has received little attention even within the context of Islamic world arts. The exhibit will run through June 30, 2005.

Never displayed before, the objects chosen for the exhibition express the aesthetic vision of rural craftspeople working within a distinctive design tradition, significant both for their local influence as well as for their role within the greater mosaic of Islamic world arts. Some objects show the commonalities among regions through their use of shared geometric motifs and symbols; others retain a distinctly local flavor. Yet all of the items bear the imprint of the diverse cultural traditions-Berber, Arab, Islamic, Mediterranean and African-that have shaped North African artisanship over the centuries.

Imazighen! focuses on these artifacts and the stories they tell about the daily life and culture of the Berber people in the recent past, with special attention to the craftspeople who made the objects and to the ethnographers who collected them.

Location and Hours

The Peabody Museum is located at 11 Divinity Avenue in Cambridge. The Museum is a short walk from the Harvard Square MBTA station. Hours are 9 AM to 5 PM, 7 days a week. The Museum is closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Admission is \$7.50 for adults, \$6.00 for students and seniors, \$5.00 for children, 3-18. Free with Harvard ID or Museum membership. The Museum is free to everyone Sundays, 9 AM to noon, year round, and Wednesdays from 3 PM to 5 PM (September to May). Admission includes admission to the Harvard Museum of Natural History. The Peabody Museum participates in both the City Pass and the Harvard Hot Ticket programs. For more information call (617) 496-1027 or go online to: www.peabody.harvard.edu.

► www.moroccanbaskets.com

For over twenty years, we have been committed to providing unique and quality items produced by Moroccan artisans, and, in the process, we have built a bridge between traditional crafts people and a discerning American clientele. Our products, found in the souks of Marrakech, represent the highest quality Moroccan crafts. The founder, John Wilson, has channeled his background in anthropology and a life-long love of traveling and the arts into a fair-trade business honoring the needs of two cultures. As we are primarily wholesalers, we only open to the general public a few times a year.

► www.guidedumaroc.com

This rich, French language site has the expected indexes, directories, chat, forums, major city guides, weather in Morocco, Royal Air Maroc schedules, TV and cinema schedules, a text translator, calendar, and horoscopes and many hidden gems, including photo albums of over 700 images, and about 25 recipes also linked from the FOM recipe compilation.

Morocco at the Movies #7 - "Casablanca" (1942)

By Dan Cahill (Kenitra 68-70)



Summer 1968: Morocco XI (mostly TEFL, some RPWs, and a few secretaries) are training at Red Rocks Camp outside Morrison, Colorado. The scenery is inspiring, but the camp itself is primitive: it had been used originally as a CCC camp during the depression, and later housed Nazi prisoners during WWII. Morrison proper offers little more than a couple of bars and a Dairy Queen. A short distance away is the magnificent Red Rocks Amphitheatre, but Peter, Paul, and Mary and Sergio Mendes don't play there every week.

In an effort to entertain as well as enlighten, our staff planned a party off-site at a doctor's home somewhere in the nearby suburbs of Denver. As a surprise, they rented a 16mm print of "Casablanca", the timeless masterpiece, Oscar winner for Best Picture and Director. I can't speak for everyone in my program, but it was the first time I'd seen it. I suspect most of the others were unfamiliar with it, judging by the response. While we still had the print and the projector for another few days, we demanded repeat screenings back at the camp. We roared again over the script's subtle sarcasm, admired the big issues laid out on an exotic canvas, and sparked impromptu trivia sessions in the bunkhouse ("What did Claude Rains throw into the garbage at the airport?").

Despite its entertainment value, we learned nothing about Morocco. We knew a hokey Hollywood backdrop when we saw one, and the staff reinforced our appraisal. My informal log has a tally of 8 minutes (out of the film's total 110 running time) that show Moroccans on screen. They are mostly background extras, except for two who appear as

unscrupulous merchants. None of the principal characters expresses any interest in the local population: Casablanca is merely a luxurious refugee camp for those fleeing the Nazis. In fact, many of us have had to counter this fake version of Morocco when we talk to less sophisticated Americans about our Peace Corps experience. Hollywood's power to create striking images has clearly created our culture's cliché view of Casablanca as a den of swarthy scoundrels, hatching dark plots under ceiling fans.

"Casablanca's" script is a model of structure, tone, and dialogue: indeed, Robert McKee (the guru of screenwriting depicted mockingly in "Adaptation") actually uses it in his classes as an example of how to do everything right. I know law professors who use the scene where Ilsa pulls a gun on Rick in order to teach negotiation skills. And, sadly, this has nothing to do with Morocco either.

Yet despite the lack of real Moroccan content, there is something in this film that I, for one, carried with me through my two years in-country. It derives from the concept of an American having a café in Casa. Something about it felt right, and it still does. During my first visit to Morocco's commercial capital, some six months after I'd first seen the film, I kept thinking about Rick's Café Américain. I knew it was fiction, but it felt like it should have been real. Every time we went near the Corniche, I thought to myself "That's where Rick's must be!" Call me young, naïve, too imaginative, or just silly, but I thought that every international city should have a place where people who desperately needed help could go. Nothing could deter me from believing in the idea of Rick's Café, and I think I'm better off for it.

Mark Decker, a fellow Morocco XI RPCV who taught in Casa, says there really was a seedy dive called "Café Américain", which he honestly admits he might have romanticized into "Rick's", obviously having been bitten by the same bug as I was (he's a filmmaker now, too). And I'm obliged, in the interest of full disclosure, to report that two current guide books, The Rough Guide and The

Lonely Planet, mention a *boîte de nuit* in the Hyatt Regency, variously called Bar Casablanca or Rick's Bar, which features a lot of movie posters and the appalling notion of waiters in trench coats and fedoras.

More important than his café, is the character of Rick Blaine himself. Every one of us on that summer night 36 years ago was entranced by him. It wasn't just that he looked great in both a dinner jacket and a trench coat, or that Bogart of the homely mug could attract a beauty like Ingrid Bergman. We were thoughtful people, and we responded to his strength of character—he had run guns to Ethiopia and fought for the Loyalists in Spain. We admired his activist politics, but more importantly, his attitude. This guy had a sense of cool that anyone could envy. He took the ugliness of the world in stride, but when there was a chance to act personally, he reversed his cynical "I stick my neck out for nobody" policy. Not only did he help the poor Bulgarian refugees win big at his roulette table, but he made the biggest sacrifice of all: giving up the woman he loved for a higher cause. That just about defines "cool", a word which has only gained in depth of meaning over the ensuing decades.

I don't know where I picked this up, but early in my Peace Corps experience, perhaps even before training, I learned about the prevailing concept of the ideal volunteer: someone who was tuned in to the suffering of the third world, but not so much so that he/she couldn't function effectively in that environment. I carried that standard with me through two years of teaching in an economically poor, but culturally rich, country. Writing this piece, I'm just now realizing that what helped me sustain that standard was the creation of the screenwriting Epstein brothers and director Michael Curtiz, not to mention Humphrey Bogart: the elegant and sensitive cynic Rick Blaine. And what's more, Rick has sustained me through all the following years of my life.

Barbary Pirates' Story Finds Relevance Today

Uncle Sam in Barbary: A Diplomatic History by FOM member Ambassador Richard B. Parker tells the story of America's first hostage crisis which began in 1785 with the capture of two American ships off the coast of Portugal, and provides the intriguing details of the diplomacy mobilized to address the crisis. The incident constituted America's first challenge from the Muslim world and led to the creation of the U.S. Navy and to an American naval presence in the Mediterranean, which has continued intermittently to the present.

The Algerian corsairs (also known as the Barbary pirates), who seized the American seamen, played by the strange set of rules that operated 200 years ago along the Barbary Coast. Interested in booty and ransom money, they routinely extorted "tribute" from merchant ships that were not protected by treaty or navies. With no navy of its own and no longer covered by British treaties after the Revolutionary War, the United States eventually had to buy its way to peace with the Barbary powers. By the time the episode was resolved in 1796, American seamen had spent eleven years as prisoners in Algiers and the U.S. had paid close to a million dollars in cash and in-kind to ransom 103 surviving captives from 13 ships. However, from 1801 to 1805, the U.S. was again at war with Tripoli over the tribute demanded; this struggle is celebrated in the opening lines of the Marine Corps Hymn. Although the popular slogan at the time was "Millions for defense, not one cent for tribute," the U.S. eventually paid \$60,000 for a treaty with Tripoli.

"Would to Heaven we had a navy to reform those enemies to mankind, or crush them into non-existence," General Washington wrote in 1786. The nation built that navy largely because of the pirates' hostage-taking and escalating ransom demands became politically unbearable.

Although the Barbary pirates were good at instilling terror – using cannons and scimitars – they were not waging a holy war against Americans. They were opportunists, historians say. They first declared war against us in 1785 when Algeria seized two American vessels off Portugal imprisoning 21 people, and goaded us into combat again in 1801 and 1815.

They considered themselves "privateers," authorized to confiscate ships and crews just as other feuding countries did. Their enemy? Any nation that hadn't negotiated peace treaties with their rulers in Tunis, Tripoli, Algiers and Morocco. For centuries their pirates shook down European nations for ransom and tribute money.

"This was a protection racket," notes Richard B. Parker, former U.S. ambassador to Algeria, Lebanon and Morocco, "They didn't have political objectives, they just wanted money."

Uncle Sam in Barbary is based on dispatches, personal papers, and the official communications of those involved, including unpublished Italian and Tunisian documents. Richard Parker puts flesh on the bare bones of the standard narrative of this crisis, bringing to life the fate and identity of the American captives as well as the leaders in Algiers and

clarifying for the first time the unhelpful roles played by the British and French.

This history offers insights for today about the roles of diplomacy and military force in international relations. A major episode in the foreign affairs of the early Republic, the events involved a roll call of American founding fathers, including George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, James Madison, James Monroe, and Alexander Hamilton.

Another book that set the larger context is *Christian Slaves, Muslim Masters: White Slavery in the Mediterranean, the Barbary Coast and Italy, 1500-1800* by Robert C. Davis. This study digs deeply into the "other" slavery, the bondage of Europeans by north-African Muslims that flourished during the same centuries as the heyday of the trans-Atlantic trade from sub-Saharan Africa to the Americas. Explored is the actual extent of Barbary Coast slavery, the dynamic relationship between master and slave, and the effects of this slaving on Italy, one of the slave takers' primary targets and victims.

Many people are aware of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, but not many are aware of the trans-Mediterranean slave trade, in which Christians and Muslims took each other as slaves. By far, the most successful of these slavers were the Barbary corsairs, who probably succeeded in capturing at least one million Christian Europeans from the sixteenth century to the eighteenth. In this fascinating book, author and historian Robert C. Davis, Professor of History at Ohio State University, looks at these Muslim slavers, at who and how many slaves were taken, at how they were used after capture, and the effect this slave-taking had (primarily in Italy).

Thousands of white Christians were seized every year to work as galley slaves, laborers and concubines for Muslim overlords in what is today Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Libya, it is claimed. By collating different sources of information from Europe over three centuries, the Ohio State professor has painted a picture of a continent at the mercy of pirates from the Barbary Coast, known as corsairs, who sailed in lantern-rigged xebecs and oared galleys.

Villages and towns on the coast of Italy, Spain, Portugal and France were hardest hit, but the raiders also seized people in Britain, Ireland and Iceland. According to one account, they even captured 130 American seamen from ships that they boarded in the Atlantic and Mediterranean between 1785 and 1793. According to one estimate, 7,000 English people were abducted between 1622-1644, many of them ships' crews and passengers. But the corsairs also landed on unguarded beaches, often at night, to snatch the unwary. Almost all the inhabitants of the village of Baltimore in Ireland were captured in 1631, and there were other raids in Devon and Cornwall. Reverend Devereux Spratt recorded being captured by "Algerines" while crossing the Irish sea from Cork to England in April 1641 and in

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Our Man in Morocco

By Jack Sundell, PCV Azilal

Well, another five months have gone by in what feels like the blink of an eye. These last five months, from a little before Christmas to the middle of May, have been as full and busy as the two and a half months of training. In fact, so many new and interesting things have happened, so many unique and fantastic people have entered my life, and so many bizarre and revelatory thoughts have passed through my brain, that it makes the idea of doing justice to the time in a short article into a daunting and probably impossible task. I was thinking about this the other day, and it seemed like a good analogy would be Bob Dylan's first greatest hits album. If you just listen to the album, all of the songs are good, and the album as a whole is a great introduction to Dylan's music. But when you go behind the scenes and indulge yourself in all of the albums from which these songs came, you realize how many wonderful songs had to be left out. Likewise, an article that covered everything in the past five months worth writing about would be too long to call an article. Believe it or not, there is another similarity between my Peace Corps experience and Bob Dylan's Greatest Hits, volume 1: Just as the average Dylan song released before 1967 would be outstanding by almost any other standard, the average experience I've had in Morocco would be noteworthy if taken in the context of almost any other time in my life.

We've made it through the winter here in the Atlas Mountains, I believe. The last few weeks have been very cold and wet, but now the sun is shining and people say the warm weather is here to stay. The weather has been strange because back in December and January there were beautiful, sunny days that were so warm you could go out in a t-shirt. Interspersed with these were nights so cold you could see your breath inside when you woke up in the morning. It's hard to get out of bed on those days. The Christmas season passed by, mostly uncelebrated for me except for a small get-together here in Azilal (my town) with four other volunteers. This was only the second Christmas in my life that I didn't spend with my parents, making my lifetime record 24 to 2.

The big Muslim holiday *Laid Lekabir* came a month after New Year's, right at the beginning of February and just before I moved out of my host family's house. This holiday remembers Abraham's sacrifice of a ram in place of the son God asked old Abe to sacrifice in order to test his faith. Here in Morocco and across the Arab world, this day involves the sacrifice of a ram, sheep, or goat, depending on what a family can afford. The atmosphere when I woke on the morning of *Laid Lekabir* reminded me of Christmas a little bit. The sacrifice is a morning activity, like opening Christmas presents in my house, so once everyone is up and moving it's only a matter of time until the big event. A ram had been living in a closet in our house for about 3 weeks, eating and sleeping and going about a ram's business, unaware of the impending holiday. When the time came, we

led the ram to the middle of the central room, laid him down on the concrete floor, turned him towards Mecca (which I'm sure he appreciated), and cut his throat. I was responsible for holding the back legs, which is a big job. If you've ever seen a movie in which someone has his throat cut and instantaneously slumps over and dies, know that this is completely unrealistic. Once the ram's throat had been cut, it kicked and jerked for three or four minutes, unwilling to give up the fight for survival. It eventually lost this fight, of course, after which it was hung from the ceiling to be skinned and butchered. To remove the skin, everyone gathered around, knives in hand, and pulled and sliced, finally separating hide from animal. It's hard to describe this without sounding gruesome, but it's really not a gruesome affair. It's perfectly normal here, and everyone has grown up witnessing and participating in this ritual for as long as they can remember. During the skinning, everyone joked and laughed, took turns working on various sections, and helped each other out when the going got tough. As I watched this, I couldn't help thinking of an American family coming together to decorate a Christmas tree. It's the same holiday spirit, just a different manifestation.

Now this kind of experience calls into question something that for most volunteers is a central issue: Culture. What is culture? Could slaughtering a sheep on the floor of your house ever be considered normal? The answer, I suppose, is that it depends on where you are. When you leave your native country and travel to a foreign land, it's easy to be aware of the difficulty that language can pose as an obstacle to your integration. Culture, on the other hand, is a much more subtle and perhaps more relentless beast of an adaptive issue. Sometimes you just feel strange, or uncomfortable, or out of place, but you can't figure out why. And the people around whom you feel this way can't tell you why either. Cultural integration is a slow, grueling process that involves constant observation, frequent social blunders, and the patience of Odysseus. However, it teaches you an unparalleled amount about yourself and your own culture, about things you take for granted or for everlasting truth, that are really only as eternal and substantive as the idea of a nation and its boundaries.

Despite the culture gap, I've still managed to make some friends here in Azilal. One of these, a guy named Aziz, is as close and comfortable a comrade as I could ever hope to find in the United States. He and his family, the Anfetouaks, have really taken care of me and helped me settle in and find my way around. They have had a lot of contact with former Peace Corps volunteers in the area, and one of the sons in the family, Mohamed, married a former volunteer named Amy, and they now live together in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I have often wondered whether Aziz's exposure to other Americans in the past, as well as the fact that he speaks relatively good English, made it easier to forge a fast friendship with him than with other Moroccan people. Perhaps he had a better idea of what to expect from me, and what not to expect. And his English certainly made communication much freer at a time when my

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At Last, An Ancient Tongue Will Be Taught

By: Kent Davis-Packard

From *The Christian Science Monitor*, 08/17/2004

(FEZ, MOROCCO) "What is it?" asks first-grade teacher Malki Abderrahmane, as he points to a hieroglyphic letter in pink chalk on the wall.

"It's the free man!" exclaims the classroom full of six-year-olds.

The letter "yaz," shaped like a joyful human being, is the symbol of the Imazighen people. It's one of the 39 letters of Tifinagh, the ancient language all children in Morocco will be required to learn - in addition to classical Arabic and French - by 2008.

"It's our maternal language," says Amina Ibnou-Cheikh Raha, director of *Le Monde Amazigh*, a newspaper dedicated to Imazighen, or Berber, cultural issues. "It's the first language that existed here in Morocco. What's abnormal is that it has never been taught."

Berbers - the name given to the Imazighen people because they were viewed as "barbarians" who at first did not accept Islam - have inhabited North Africa since 7,000 BC. Their ranks have included St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas, and they have managed to preserve their languages despite French, Roman, and Arab conquests.

"Thanks to our mothers, and our grandmothers, 'Tamazight' [the term used to designate all Imazighen languages] is still alive," says Lahcen Ouberka, a high school teacher in Marakech.

Tamazight speakers constitute 40 percent of Morocco's population, 20 percent of Algeria's, and 1 percent of Tunisia's. This year, Morocco's Ministry of Education and the Royal Institute of Amazigh Culture (IRCAM) have introduced the 9,000-year-old language into some 300 primary schools throughout Morocco for the first time.

"It's very important to learn so we can speak with our brothers in the north and in the south," says first-grader Zineb Sakale excitedly.

Some Moroccan educators also hope the use of the language in schools will lower the Imazighen dropout rate.

"Many Imazighen students do not follow the educational system and they do not succeed, and this is in part because

they don't study in their own language," says Fatima Agnaou, a researcher at IRCAM.

In 1967, Moroccan university students had formed the first Imazighen association in North Africa, the Moroccan Association of Research and Cultural Exchange. In the years since, new associations have continued to spring up, demanding the teaching of Tamazight in Moroccan schools.

Finally, in 1994, the late King Hassan II announced the introduction of Tamazight in Moroccan primary schools, but no move was made by the Ministry of Education until 2000.

Some worry that the initiative will stumble due to a government decision to begin teaching Tamazight in three separate dialogues, phasing in standardized Tamazight over the course of a decade. It's a decision some critics suggest was influenced by government fears of too much Imazighen unity.

There are, of course, countries that comfortably mix languages in their public school systems.

"In Switzerland, there are four official languages recognized by the state," says Khaji Mounia, director of the Tarik Ibn Ziyad Cultural Center. "There are not ethnic ruptures in Switzerland. They are taught these languages from primary school up through university, and society lives in harmony."

But there are also places where the teaching of indigenous languages is a point of contention. In neighboring Algeria, for instance, the Imazighen were harshly repressed after independence from France. It was even illegal for a child to be given a Imazighen name, and such cultural repression sparked violent reactions.

The King of Morocco, whose mother happens to be a Berber, is cautiously pursuing a politic of incorporation. "I don't think we will have the same kinds of problems that Algeria went through," says civil activist Jamila Hassoune. Use of Tifinagh, she insists, is "a cultural richness that, instead of dividing Morocco, unifies it."

A Short History of Moroccan Armed Forces

A Short History of Moroccan Armed Forces by Abdul-Haq Al-Merini has been reviewed by Lieutenant Commander Youssef H. Aboul-Enein of the U. S. Navy in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

From the review: "Al-Merini begins his book, which is enthralling from beginning to end, by discussing the frustrations Roman legions faced while pacifying Moroccan tribesmen. He mentions the importance of Moroccan tribes in the Islamic expansion beginning in A. D. 711 and concludes with Morocco's roles in World War II, Operation Desert Storm, and

peacekeeping operations in the Congo, Somalia, and the Balkans. Understanding the Moroccan military will help further the relationship between U. S. and Moroccan Armed Forces, particularly as both nations are committed to battling Islamic militancy and terrorism.

To read the complete review go to:

www.leavenworth.army.mil/milrev/download/english/JanFeb04/bob.pdf

(Earthquake—Continued from page 1)

participating in the conference's International Market Place. NGOs, large and small, graduate schools, government agencies, RPCV affiliates, and businesses of all kind were well represented. The High Atlas Foundation and Friends of Morocco shared a booth space, which, in addition to sharing information on respective activities, was a central meeting place for FOM members.

Workshops

The Honorable Surin Pitsuwan, member of parliament in Thailand and former foreign minister, was the featured panelist in a session entitled "Understanding Islam." Pitsuwan offered a vision for the future in which Middle Eastern Muslims could look to Southeast Asian Muslims for models of Islam that coexist with democracy. The panel was moderated by Liz Thomas (Siffa/Errachidia/Erhoud 93-96). Thom Anderson (Rich/Casablanca 91-95) was a speaker. David Keiser (Safi/Marrakech 98-00 and FOM Listserv Manager) was a panelist on a session entitled "Receiving Graduate School Benefits through Peace Corps Fellows/USA and Master's International". Jeri Lee Titus (92-94 and Peace Corps/Chicago recruiter) was a panelist in a workshop entitled: "RPCV recruiters: A step-by-step guide for recruitment". In a workshop entitled "Volunteering Again: International Service Opportunities", Michelle Ghiselli (Erhoud 93-96 and Peace Corps Crisis Corps staff) was a panelist along with Jeri Lee Titus. Kathleen Trayte (Guercif 80-82 and FOM Newsletter editor) presented a workshop on "Careers in International Education". Meanwhile, affiliate group leaders were briefed on the soon-to-be-launched association management software and shared ways to improve their group newsletters.

Presidents Forum and NPCA Annual General Meeting

The biennial conference is an important opportunity for group leaders and RPCVs from across the country to learn about and discuss issues concerning the National Peace Corps Association. At the Presidents' Forum last summer in Portland OR, the NPCA Board was asked to study ways to improve its performance. On Saturday morning the Presidents' Forum had the opportunity to consider a report on this effort.

The proposals put forth in the report, if approved, would reduce the Board's size and change its composition, via an amendment to NPCA Bylaws to be placed before the NPCA membership in the fall. After some discussion, the Group Leaders voted overwhelmingly to endorse the proposed changes. A motion was also passed to change the name of the President's Forum to Group Leaders Forum. This will also require a change in the Bylaws and therefore will be brought to the general membership for a vote in the fall.

Friends of Morocco received a first place award among Country of Service groups for its web site content and our newsletter won second place among Country of Service groups for newsletter. Congratulations to web master, Tim Resch (Ouezzane 70-74) and newsletter editor, Kate Trayte (Guercif 80-82).

Morocco Country Update

FOM President Tim Resch presented a country update including a review of 2003 and 2004 activities, a report from Peace Corps Morocco (published elsewhere in this Newsletter) and an overview of FOM and Morocco-related events planned for the next 12 months.

Chicago Conference Founders Day Dinner and Silent Auction

Friends of the Peace Corps and former volunteers and staff filled the glittering Empire Room at the Palmer House Hilton to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the NPCA and CAPCA. Proceeds from the silent auction will be used to support NPCA programs and Peace Corps Partnership Projects.

Incoming NPCA Board President Ken Hill, and Conference Co-Chairs Trina James and Stephanie Arnold welcomed the speakers and guests. In his remarks Ken acknowledged Connie and Chelsea Mack, mother and sister of fallen RPCV Jeremiah Mack (Niger 95-97) and creators of the Fallen Peace Corps Volunteers Memorial Project.

Political commentator Chris Matthews (Swaziland 1, 68-70) served as the evening's emcee and he regaled the audience with rapid fire reminiscences of his volunteer days, his "moveable feast." The presence of his Peace Corps roommate made the evening particularly special for Chris.

"Peace Corps," he said, "is a vital part of me. In Swaziland I learned that we are all social beings, and that I didn't like being alone anywhere...especially in Swaziland." To much laughter Chris recalled arriving on site and being told "your job is to develop this *entire* province." Poignantly he remembered how "all they (the Swazis) cared about was us. Somehow a chair would always appear...even when they didn't have chairs."

Calling the 1960s "the best decade known to man" he wished there was "more noise level" today from people with developing country experience.

Peace Corps Director Gaddi Vasquez offered his congratulations to the NPCA and CAPCA on their 25th anniversaries. And although he has "the best job in Washington," the conventional wisdom around his office is that "on any given day there's a Peace Corps volunteer somewhere in the world determined to make my day an interesting day." Chris, he guessed, was probably that kind of volunteer.

Following dinner, former Thai Foreign Minister Surin Pitsuwan spoke briefly. Returned Peace Corps volunteers, he said, "Speak softly, speak clearly and integrate values from around the world into your lives."

Next singer and activist Peter Yarrow performed. He began with a soft rendition of "If I Had a Hammer," then segued into "My Country Tis of Thee." He prefaced the next song, "I'm Leaving on a Jet Plane" with the story of a hospice patient.

Stating that people had not yet had "a chance to have a public moment," Peter invited the audience on stage to accompany him in singing "Puff the Magic Dragon." He joked about the rumored subtext of "Puff" and insisted, "Puff is clean!"

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Report Concerning the Impact of the US-Morocco FTA

The 174 page investigation, *U.S.-Morocco Free Trade Agreement: Potential Economy wide and Selected Sectoral Effects*, assesses the likely impact of a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) on the U.S. economy as a whole and on specific industry sectors and the interests of U.S. consumers. In preparing its assessment, the ITC was required to review available economic assessments regarding the agreement in question, including literature regarding any substantially equivalent proposed agreement. U.S.-Morocco Free Trade Agreement: Potential Economy wide and Selected Sectoral Effects (Investigation No. TA-2104-14, USITC publication 3704, June 2004) is available at <ftp://ftp.usitc.gov/pub/reports/studies/pub3704.pdf>

The quantifiable benefits of the U.S.-Morocco FTA are related to the immediate reciprocal tariff elimination, including the immediate elimination of duties on more than 90 percent of the value of current bilateral trade in consumer and industrial products. The FTA also provides immediate bilateral tariff elimination on many agricultural products, with most other tariffs phased out within 15 years. U.S. agricultural producers will also benefit from new tariff rate quotas (TRQs) that provide enhanced access to the Moroccan market. This trade liberalization is likely to increase the competitiveness of U.S. manufacturers and farmers in the Moroccan market not only relative to Moroccan producers, but also relative to other foreign suppliers such as the European Union—with which Morocco already has an FTA.

The FTA also establishes specific obligations in important

areas that are more difficult to quantify, but nevertheless are likely to benefit the U.S. economy—including rules of origin; trade in services; investment; trade facilitation (including customs administration, technical barriers to trade, sanitary and phytosanitary regulations, electronic commerce, and transparency); and the regulatory environment (including safeguards and trade remedies, government procurement, the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights, labor, and the environment).

Under the market access commitments of the U.S.-Morocco FTA, most originating U.S. exports of industrial goods other than textiles and apparel are eligible for immediate duty-free entry into Morocco; 12 duty staging categories apply, eliminating duties ranging up to 324 percent over periods of up to 18 years. Morocco's exports of such goods to the United States are covered by 6 different duty staging categories, with duties phased out over periods of up to 9 years. TRQs apply to some agricultural commodities with new TRQs for such U.S. exports as beef and poultry meat, durum and common wheat, and almonds. The FTA's rules of origin determine eligibility for FTA treatment and, in many respects, resemble the corresponding provisions of the U.S. FTAs with Israel and Jordan. Origin criteria are based mainly on value content, with some based on specific changes in tariff classification applicable to third-country inputs.

Morocco RPCV Running for Congress in Ohio

Barbara Anne Ferris (Youssoufia 80-82) announced her candidacy for Congress to represent the 10th District of Ohio on Sunday, June 6, 2004 at 2:00 pm at Ferris Steakhouse, 8700 Detroit Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio. Barbara Anne is the daughter of Josephine and the late Samuel Ferris, a graduate of Lourdes Academy, Ohio State and American University, and a resident of Parma (Ohio).

A non-profit executive with two decades of public policy and economic development experience in over 100 countries, Ferris brings significant public service experience combined with an acute understanding of budgets and finance to this race. As a non-profit executive she has created jobs and helped start small businesses. She comes from a family owned business and has stated her unfaltering commitment to the economic development and growth not only in the 10th District but across Northeast Ohio. Ferris has worked with both village leaders and municipal governments in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Central Asia and the Middle East. She served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Morocco 1980-82, a translator at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, is co-founder of the Peace Corps Fund, served as the Women in Development Director for the Peace Corps, has crossed the Sahara Desert, and has trekked in the Himalayas, Atlas and Andes mountains and chaired the 40th anniversary of

the Peace Corps. Moreover, Ferris has served as an advisor to the US Delegation to the United Nations. She has continued to work with the United Nations in Geneva, Vienna and New York through the International Women's Democracy Center, an international non-profit organization she established eight years ago to strengthen women's global leadership. Most recently, 6 high school seniors from the 10th District of Ohio served on the IWDC official Delegation to the last two United Nations Conferences at UN Headquarters in NY.

Barbara Anne Ferris has entered this race with a strong commitment to save and create jobs for the residents of the 10th District combined with a quarter century of a distinguished public service record of innovation, commitment and expertise.

More information at www.ferrisforcongress.com



News from the High Atlas Foundation

By Jason Ben-Meir, President, High Atlas Foundation



It has been a VERY eventful year at the High Atlas Foundation (HAF). Morocco's Ambassador to the United States, Mr. Aziz Mekouar, has accepted our invitation to be a guest of honor at a gala dinner fundraiser to be held in Washington, DC, in October 2005. Funds raised will be used to help establish development projects that local communities design, such as in potable water, irrigation, women's coops and tree planting. More on this exciting event later!

HAF and our Moroccan government and non-government partners completed our "Vision for the Rural Community Development of Morocco" book, which is available on our website (www.hihatlasfoundation.org). It describes many viable project proposals and a comprehensive rural development strategy. Please share this vision book with people who you feel can help advance the community development of Morocco.

U.S. Ambassador to Morocco, Mr. Thomas Riley, visited our 2003 tree planting and irrigation project in Tafraoute this past August. We expect him to agree to greatly expand this project for the 2005 planting season. HAF has also launched an outreach campaign, headed by RPCV and HAF Treasurer David Keiser, so that the many groups that care about Morocco can join our cause.

HAF would like to welcome the following people to our Advisory Board: Kamar Bencrimo, Office of the Ministry of Social Development, Morocco; Amina Fahim, Education Program of Peace Corps, Morocco; Hassan Kourdass, Department of International Cooperation at the Ministry of Agriculture, Morocco; and Ahmed Ouhammou, Professor of Biology, Faculty of Science, Marrakech.

Friend, we need you to renew your membership and give your continued support. A contribution of \$20 makes you a member for a full year. Simply visit our website at www.hihatlasfoundation.org. As you know, the development potential of Morocco's communities is enormous. With your support we can realize the development goals of the Moroccan people.

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Arabic could not be counted on for conversation. Aziz is also a patient and friendly fellow, but in this he is certainly not unique among Moroccans. I guess inside of each person there's a blend of culture and individual experience, sometimes favoring the one and sometimes favoring the other. In some ways, it's similar to the psychologists' debate over the influence of heredity versus that of environment. Besides Aziz, I have made some other friends in town, but I still have a lot to learn about Moroccan culture. This is not to say that I never arrive at a point of mutual understanding with people in Morocco; it just means that we're coming from two totally different places.

In-Service Training is coming up in a few weeks, and this will bring me back together with all of the other youth development volunteers with whom I did training. Some of them, like Timothy "The Prince of Denmark" Shriver, I have had regular contact with during these five months; some I have seen a time or two, enough to catch up and share stories; and some I haven't seen at all, nor heard from or talked to. It will be interesting to be reunited with all of these folks for a week, and I think it will be a good opportunity to see how the time alone in my site has affected me. Have I become a raving lunatic and just don't know it yet? I hope not, but it's difficult to monitor the ups and downs of daily life when you've been removed from the context of your former existence, an existence that you understood well enough to use as a scale to

measure yourself, your beliefs and values, and your actions and interactions. Looking into the faces of the people with whom I did training will be like looking into a mirror for the first time in six months, not at my face, but at my heart and mind. These people knew me before, and they'll know me again. Perhaps, looking into their eyes, I will be reminded of reasons I came to Morocco in the first place, reasons that have been buried with the business of making a home here. Perhaps there is some inspiration, some broad enthusiasm, that I misplaced a time ago and have forgotten that I ever had. No matter what it may hold, I can't help but look forward to being reacquainted with old friends and the inevitable joy that this brings.

Jack Sundell is a Peace Corps volunteer currently serving in Azilal. Jack writes periodically about his life in Morocco as a PCV.



News from Peace Corps Morocco

By Bruce Cohen, Peace Corps Morocco Director

Asalemu Aleikum

A new group of 37 Environment and Health PCVs swore-in last May, and PC/Morocco is expecting 50 plus new Small Business Development (SBD) and Youth Development (YD) trainees this fall. The number of Peace Corps volunteers serving in Morocco should be approximately 120 plus by winter 2005.

A few years ago, Peace Corps/Morocco (PC/M) reviewed its programs to better fit the changing needs of the Moroccan community, with a focus on rural areas where assistance is very much needed. We have reshaped the formal English teaching at the high schools and universities into a youth development program, working mainly in youth centers in rural areas. Additionally, in response to a Moroccan Government request, PC/M started in the late 90s a Small Business Development program with volunteers working with artisans and women cooperatives in order to develop the local handicrafts both in terms of marketability and profitability. Our health and sanitation and environment programs continue to refine their projects to meet the needs of Morocco.

In order to make Pre-Service Training smoother, manageable, and better fit the local government's and counterparts' schedule, PC/M is at present receiving two inputs a year: SBD and YD in Fall, and health and environment in early Spring.

Contrary to public belief, Morocco is a successful, exciting Peace Corps country, a safe country for PCVs, and requests for more PCVs to serve here continue to increase.

In compliance with the new Education Charter, Morocco is introducing English language teaching into middle schools, and, given the shortage of trained teachers and PC/M's long history in the field, the Ministry of Education has formally requested PCVs/teachers in the middle schools. This project is under study and may be incorporated under YD at least on a limited, experimental basis.

New staff have recently arrived: Gordon Mengel is the Program and Training Officer and Carmen Redlin joined us as the second Peace Corps Medical Officer, replacing Elisabeth Lancrenon who left in June. Both are former Peace Corps volunteers who bring a wealth of experience to their roles. Lisa Mirande Lind is now in Jordan as the Program and Training Officer. She was granted a third tour by the Peace Corps Director and the staff and volunteers of Peace Corps Morocco wish her much success.

These are exciting times for Morocco and Peace Corps is honored to be here as an active participant. A personal goal of mine is to meet the King. Our records indicate that in the forty-one years that Peace Corps has been here, there has been no official meeting of the Country Director and the King. If the opportunity arises, it will be the right time to share the appreciation of all Peace Corps volunteers and staff, both past and present, for the hospitality afforded us by the people of Morocco and the debt we owe to our Moroccan staff for keeping us on track throughout the many years.

T'halaou F'Raskoum Bezeef,

Morocco VI (1965-67) 40th Anniversary Reunion in 2005

WHO: Morocco VI (1965-1967) returned volunteers, staff and our family and friends

WHAT: 40th anniversary of our entry into Peace Corps

WHERE: Jekyll Island, Georgia

WHEN: October 7 - 10, 2005 (alternate date: October 14 - 17, 2005)

ACTIVITIES: Bike riding, golf, tennis, beach, horseback riding, bird watching, fishing, sitting on porch and doing nothing

Jekyll Island is located just off the Georgia coast, midway between Savannah, Georgia & Jacksonville, Florida.

Will either rent a house or block of hotel rooms (depends on how many)

Helen and Sam Perry are putting this together - that's it for now; more information to follow.



Opening Doors: Insights into Past and Present in Morocco

By Kathy Kohlman Sparks (Morocco III) and Susan Schaefer Davis (Morocco V)

A small group tour to Morocco was organized and was led by Susan Schaefer Davis in May 2004. With Susan's experience and knowledge gained through her work as an anthropologist and on various development projects in recent years, the group was able to meet people and engage in discussions that provided significant insights into Moroccan life. Kathy Kohlman Sparkes was one of the participants in the group; she and Susan have written up some of their reflections on the trip.

CASABLANCA

The first door opened for our group was into the new Hassan II Mosque. Seeing its magnificent interior, we were given excellent insights into an architectural style and tradition developed centuries ago. The intricate designs carved into plaster and wood rival those in the Alhambra in Grenada, Spain. Changes made for present times, however, were evident in the heated floors, the large public *hamman* being constructed underneath the mosque, and the provision of guided tours for all, including non-Muslims. I (Kathy) had not visited the mosque during a previous trip due to my feeling that the enormous amount of money spent on its construction should have been spent on education, health, rural development, etc. (My Peace Corps values still prevail). Yet, I could not help but admire the architecture and the wonderful craftsmanship.

An unexpected sight greeted us upon exiting the mosque. A group of youth was marching to commemorate the first anniversary of the terrorist bombings in Casablanca. They were carrying banners in Arabic and French, saying "*Touche pas a mon pays*." Some were wearing T-shirts with that same slogan under the hand of Fatima. Another banner read: "No to violence, no to hate, no to terrorism, yes to democracy." Demonstrations against terrorism and intolerance were held also in Rabat. An association against "hate and racism" asked people to observe a minute of silence, a radio station broadcast a program of songs denouncing terrorism, and a rabbi and an imam gave speeches calling for tolerance and peace. All of this gave us a significant insight into Morocco's anti-terrorism policy.

The next door opened into the home of a woman with whom Susan worked in the foyer in Sidi Kacem Zawiya during her PC days. Halima and her husband welcomed us with a sumptuous lunch, giving those of the group unfamiliar with Moroccan cuisine a delicious introduction to Moroccan hospitality. We were also able to see how a working class urban family lives in Casablanca, in relative comfort with basic amenities, entertaining us proudly in their new guest room with carpets, tiled walls, and a carved plaster ceiling.

RABAT

Walking into the medina, we were welcomed at the Center for Cross Cultural Learning, where they teach Arabic to Westerners and Berber to Moroccan children, in addition to their semester programs for international students. While there, to give us insights into women and veiling, , Said

Graiouid, a professor of communications gave a talk which included a demonstration by a young woman of the veil styles used by Islamist and "just plain" Moroccan women.

After a *tajine* lunch at the Center, we headed south to Temara to visit a small clinic where Spanish nuns and a priest/doctor provide free health care for needy local people. Malnourished infants are brought daily to eat and be cared for; their mothers are taught about nutritious inexpensive foods such as lentils. We were joined by a few Moroccan members of the American International Women's Association, who brought clothing and toys for the infants.

To top off the day, we were privileged to meet with a women's rights activist, Fatima Outaleb, who has been an advocate since her student days in 1983. She was a founding member of *l'Union pour l'action feminine* and gave us an excellent historical perspective and many insights into how doors that were closed in the past to women are now are being opened. Most significant at present is the approval of the new Family Law (*Moudawana*) which gives women equality with men in marriage, divorce and family matters. The family is now the responsibility of both spouses; they are equal partners and share equal responsibility. Various organizations and the government are promoting understanding and acceptance of this reform as a benefit to the family as a whole, not just a women's rights issue. The main focus now is implementation of the law, that is, judges must be informed, re-educated, and supportive.

Later we met with an author, Leila Abouzeid, who is rather unique in that she writes in Arabic with her books translated into English, including *The Year of the Elephant* and *Return to Childhood*. Because of the suffering her family experienced during the fight for independence, her father being imprisoned several times, she still harbors resentment against the French, therefore, she has chosen not to write in French, contrary to many other Moroccan authors. She read an excerpt from her latest book, *The Last Chapter*. Leila gave us a special insight into a woman struggling with the past, but making a niche for herself with her writing.

MEKNES

The next day the group traveled to Fez. I (Kathy) stopped at Meknes, however, to visit Zoubida, the *munashita* with whom I had become a close friend during my Peace Corps days. Staying with her gave me good insights into life these days in a middle class household.

Zoubida retired a few years ago, but now is busier than ever. All three of her young adult daughters are living at home; the two that are married each have one young daughter. The daughters live at home to save money (their husbands all have jobs, but only one daughter does). Zoubida's husband is a school teacher,

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Susan (left) and Kathy with Aziza, their supervisor when they worked at the foyers feminines during their Peace Corps days.

nearing retirement. He lends a hand with many of the household chores and childcare.

Even though their two-story house is cramped, the family is well equipped with refrigerator, large freezer, butagaz stove, washing machine, TV, and, of course, cell phones. In fact, each adult in the household has one. What a change forty years has made in the standard of living for a middle-class family!

During these first few days, we were sensing a strong upbeat, positive feel coming from people with whom we had met. I got a different perspective talking with a taxi driver in Meknes. Passing the square in front of the Bab El-Mansour, things were being set-up for a folklore festival. "What good is a folklore festival?" he asked. "What people need is jobs, not folklore. The *"dirigeants de ville"* who plan these things are rich. They just think about having fun, not about the fact that others need money more than entertainment!" Susan has noticed more people speaking out like this too in the last few years, whereas they rarely did before.

FEZ

The group arrived at Fez in the late afternoon after visiting a pottery factory. We were met at our hotel by a small group of rural Moroccan artisans, plus Peace Corps volunteers working with them in the small business sector to help better market their goods. Our group "helped" their business, buying hand woven pillows, scarves and purses and earrings decorated with the handmade buttons used to trim *qaftans* and *jellabas*, and admiring a quilt and pillow set designed using Moroccan tile patterns. The artisans were pleased that their wares obviously appealed to Americans; they hope to explore Internet marketing.

IFRANE

Traveling up into the Middle Atlas from Fez, we headed for Al-Akawayn University near Ifrane. This is a completely new campus which opened in 1995 as the first private university in Morocco, with instruction in English. It uses an American curriculum and teaching style.

While there, we visited the Hillary Rodham Clinton Women's Empowerment Center (yes, that's the real name, named to honor her when she gave a commencement address there a few years ago.) The Center's goal is to empower rural women. It supports a rural women's center nearby which provides literacy classes and organizes income generating projects. When Susan ran the Center in 2002-2003, she helped the women in the village nearby sell their rugs on the Internet, which they continue to do at www.marrakeshexpress.org. The Center also encourages students to learn about women's important roles. Last year, it invited several of Morocco's women parliamentarians to speak on how they plan to help women, and it also hosts activities during women's month in March.

BEN SMIM

Up through a misty forest and rich green mountainsides, we arrived at one of the villages in which Susan has been working with women weavers to help them market their products on-line. Here, we were invited through the door of a home where we were served a sumptuous lunch prepared by some of the village women. We ate in a room with walls covered with rugs woven in the village. The colors and designs were extremely attractive.

A special thrill for Kathy was meeting the woman who had made a rug that she purchased on-line about a year ago. Aicha, the rug weaver, explained the process she goes through to make a rug. She is very skilled at creating rather intricate designs as well as being a good weaver. Kathy felt very satisfied to know that the money spent on the rug was providing significant income to Aicha.

SOUTHERN LOOP

From Ben Smim we headed south to the fossil beds and sand dunes of the Sahara, then went east toward Ouarzazate. We spent a night in tents under the stars at Merzouga, which once had just one hotel but now with several places where one can ride camels into the dunes and see the stars with no competing urban light. We had an interesting chat with the camel drivers about the effects of the decline in tourism since September 11.

On this part of the trip we experienced another rather new trend in Morocco, hotels that look like, or actually are, the old *kasbahs*, the fortified family dwellings one sees in the south. We spent a night in the former *kasbah* of the *Ait Ben Moro* family near Skoura, located in a palm grove. It was beautifully renovated, keeping the authentic thick red earth walls, but adding a few simple amenities, including electricity and bathrooms.

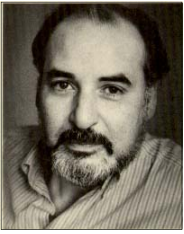
TADOULA AIT OUAYA

We visited a village near Ouarzazate, Tadla Ait Ouaya, where we were hosted by a village association that has

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Moroccan Journalist Ben Joullen Wins Prize

From the New York Times



DUBLIN, Ireland (AP) -- Moroccan-born novelist and poet Tahar Ben Jelloun won a \$120,000 literary prize Thursday after international judges picked his novel about the horrors of desert camps as the best work of English fiction for 2002.

Ben Jelloun, 59, will receive the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award along with a Waterford Crystal trophy at a dinner later this month in Dublin City Hall. He will get three-fourths of the \$120,000 prize, while the other quarter will go to Linda Coverdale, who translated the book into English.

Five international judges selected *This Blinding Absence of Light* a scathing portrait of political dissidents imprisoned in a Moroccan camp, as the best among more than 300 novels nominated by libraries from 43 countries.

Originally published in French under the title *Cette Aveuglante Absence de Lumiere*, the novel was a best seller in France in 2001.

The novel, nominated by a library in Oslo, Norway, describes atrocities at desert camps run by Morocco's King Hassan II until their closure under international pressure in 1991. Ben Jelloun, a trained psychotherapist, based his story on extensive interviews with one survivor of the camps, where inmates were confined to tiny underground cells for years, causing many deaths and deformities.

The IMPAC organizers described the book as "a

shocking novel that explores both the limitlessness of inhumanity and the impossible endurance of the human will."

Ben Jelloun prevailed in a 10-book shortlist that included *The Book of Illusions* by Paul Auster, *Any Human Heart* by William Boyd, *Caramelo* by Sandra Cisneros, *Middlesex* by Jeffrey Eugenides, *The White Family* by Maggie Gee, *Balthasar's Odyssey* by Amin Maalouf, *Family Matters* by Rohinton Mistry, *Earth and Ashes* by Atiq Rahimi and *House of Day, House of Night* by Olga Tokarczuk.

The prize, launched in 1996, is run by Dublin's public libraries and largely financed by a Connecticut-based management consultant firm, Improved Management Productivity and Control. IMPAC has its European headquarters in Dublin.

Ben Jelloun, who lives in Paris, was born in the northern Moroccan city of Fez in 1944 and emigrated to France in 1971. He earned a doctorate in psychiatry from the University of Paris, then developed a prolific and diverse career as a writer, producing more than a dozen books of fiction and nonfiction in French.

He won France's top literary award, the Prix Goncourt, in 1987, for his novel, *The Sacred Night*. He has published several volumes of poetry and four plays and is a regular contributor to French newspapers.

A Review of Moroccan-American Fulbright Commission's 20th Anniversary Special Annual Report

By Joel Teitelbaum, Ph.D. (Fulbrighter in Morocco 72-74)

This special edition of the Fiscal Year 2002-03 MACECE Annual Report has been transformed into a 40-page glossy color document celebrating the 20 years of the bi-national Fulbright Commission in Morocco since 1982. The Table of Contents focuses first on an overview introducing the mission and vision pursued by MACECE as an educational exchange organization dedicated to continuing its core academic and professional participant exchanges. The overview also states a new focus on MACECE's 21st Century goal of including business studies and direct cultural linkages, while aiding the Moroccan government's new policy of educational reform for growing numbers of youth and children attending colleges and schools, nearly two-thirds of the population.

Much of this volume comprises descriptions and criteria for each Fulbright and other educational exchange programs already underway. The Fulbright Core Programs for Moroccans and Americans focus on: graduate and

professional students, post-doctoral and senior research fellows, faculty lecturers and distinguished academic senior lecturers. Other Fulbright and related educational exchange programs administered or sponsored by the Fulbright Commission in Rabat include special short term exchanges for Moroccan and American high school teachers and school children, and American experts in specific subject matters and technologies selected by Moroccan educational institutions, etc.

The detailed database portion of this report gives year-by-year trend lines for numbers of Moroccan and American Fulbright grantees from the three Core Programs: on average half of the grantees are graduate students and post-graduate students while the others include researchers; research and teaching faculty, and distinguished lecturers

Statistics are displayed in charts and graphs for all Fulbright exchange participants over the twenty-year time frame; this lets the reader follow the ups and downs for both Moroccan and American grantees on a timeframe showing

numbers in each program per year, and total grantees year by year. The statistical section does not analyze or interpret the changing numbers over time. The only breakout shown is by grantee discipline, and, for Moroccan grantees only, a chart of demographic characteristics that includes comparisons by gender and Moroccan city of origin to show how representative the grantees are of the Kingdom of Morocco.

My own closer inspection of these data points indicates a 'secular' trend (over time) in the yearly frequency of grantees from both countries across two decades from 1982 to 2002. I summarize these results based on MACECE's frequency graphs for Moroccans, Americans, and by program, as well as overall grantee numbers over time.

Most telling is the upward trend from the mid 1980's to early/mid 1990's for all grantees, more than doubling the rate of grantee participation for Moroccans and a near tripling for Americans. However, by the late 1990's, Moroccan grantees are in decline, falling to mid-1980's levels by 2000-02. American grantee frequencies drop off rapidly by the turn of the century to a moderate level. One wonders to what extent the traumatic Islamist extremist terrorist events of 9/11 may have altered trend lines downwards for educational exchange participation between the United States and Morocco since 2001. Morocco and America are friendly countries, but Morocco is a largely Arabic-speaking and Islamic society recently affected by stringent U.S. educational visa controls. Sadly, in 2003, Morocco was a target of terrorist bomb attacks by Islamic extremists.

Longer term trends suggest a lack of sufficient funds accounts for some decline in educational exchanges since the mid/late 1990's through 2001-2002. U.S. government funding of MACECE programs rose during the late 1980's through 1993-95, and then went into decline. Moroccan government funding actually rose in the 1990's and has continued to rise since 2000, helping to prevent exchange grantee numbers from dropping even further. New sources of budgetary support for MACECE include private corporate donations over the last few years from American, Moroccan, and international companies that operate in Morocco, and from an endowment for scholarship funds named after the new King of Morocco, Mohammed VI. In short, while budgetary data show the U.S. government's Fulbright and other exchange programs funded more grantees in MACECE's

first decade, as Moroccan government funding became preponderant during its second decade.

In conclusion, this well-presented Fulbright Commission for Morocco Annual Report serves a valuable purpose in tracing two decades of educational grant programs and exchange participation levels. The volume gives an ample description of each program and a mission statement for Fulbright exchange activities for the 21st Century. The direction chosen by the Moroccan-American Binational Fulbright Commission is a big step forward compared to the previous piecemeal and scattershot exchanges varying uncontrollably over time, and ending with a net reduction in numbers of grantees due to reduced budgetary resources especially of U.S. government funds. Longer range responses to Islamist terrorist attacks in the U.S. and Morocco since the start of the 21st Century remain to be seen. However, the 2004 Free Trade Agreement between the U.S. and Morocco bodes well for future educational, economic and cultural exchanges. As both a former Fulbright faculty researcher in Morocco and a development planner for the Moroccan government before the creation of MACECE, I am gratified to read about its pro-active goals and integration with Moroccan educational reform policies. I hope to participate again as a Fulbright grantee in Morocco as well as welcome Moroccan exchangeees through the Washington, D.C. chapter of the Fulbright Association. I believe that future Moroccan and American educators and scholars can look forward to valuable improvements in both educational and inter-personal exchanges between our peoples.

To obtain a copy of this publication, *Special 20th Anniversary ANNUAL REPORT 2002*, contact the Moroccan-American Commission for Educational & Cultural Exchange (MACECE) at 7, Rue Agadir, Rabat, Morocco or by email at <macece4@maghrebnet.net.ma>

Joel Teitelbaum can be contacted at Swissflora@aol.com or joelanthro@yahoo.com.

Thank You!

Merci!

Many thanks to the people listed below who contributed to Friends of Morocco above and beyond their membership fees.

Michele Gomperts
Tom Hansen
Tom Birch

Stella Fizali
Valerie Staats
Robert Dudley
Anonymous

Stephen Osbourne
Mark Kane
Ronald Ciras

RPCV Daughter Weds in Morocco

On March 20, 2004, Diane Skelly Ponasik (Morocco 65) and Jerry Ponasik (Morocco 68) celebrated the marriage of their daughter, Amal, in Meknes. Amal, who is a graduate of Goucher College in Baltimore, Maryland, is a native Moroccan adopted by the Ponasiks. She married a fellow Goucher graduate, Dante Disparte.

Amal's heart was set on having a traditional Moroccan *hefla* and it was a wonderful occasion. Meknes is a beautiful location for a wedding and now has at least two old palaces located in the Moulay Ismail enclave of *Dar al Kebir* which have been converted into bed and breakfasts, which are referred to as *riads*. About thirty friends from the US came, among them RPCVs Tom Dichter (Morocco 64) and Susan Shaeffer Davis (Morocco 65), as well as Kathy and Ahmed Mrabet (former PC staff). We filled a whole *riad*, called the *Didi Palais* and had a wonderful week exploring the *medina* as well as outlying areas, like Fez, Moulay Idriss and Volubilis – fun for those of us who hadn't been there for twenty years, as well as for newcomers to Morocco. The wedding was held in another old palace in the *medina* called the *al-Zitoun* and was really an international affair, with at least fifty percent Moroccan friends of Amal's birth family. Like most Moroccan weddings, it started at 8 pm and lasted till 5 in the morning, but the good news was that all the food was served by 1 a.m., allowing those who were too jet-lagged to sneak out early and get some sleep.

It was a moving experience to return to Morocco, which Jerry and Diane hadn't visited since 1985. Special thanks to Hassan Samrhouni for arranging all the travel for this trip. Morocco seemed very upbeat; the people were uniformly friendly and gave the group an *accueil chaleureux* despite the

bad publicity resulting from the assassination of Sheikh Yassin in Palestine during the visit. It was particularly impressive to note the complete lack of annoying street urchins, especially in the big tourist cities like Fez, Marrakech and Tangier. They have completely disappeared, making tourism a real pleasure. The trip ended in Marrakech which was at its very best with all the orange blossoms in full bloom. The Jamaa el Fna seemed much less crowded than it had been, and the city has created a small tourist *souk* right behind it which is very user-friendly, although not as much fun as the old *souk*. The cafés on the adjoining roof-tops are still there and still very welcome for a cold drink after a day of wandering in the *medina*.

Susan and Diane went on to Tangier after the others left and spent two wonderful days there. Thor Kuniholm, Director of the American Legation, gave them a warm welcome and showed them around what is now a museum. For those who spent hot summers there with the Ponasiks in the early 70s, it is hardly recognizable. The card tables and folding chairs have been replaced by lovely antiques of the period and some interesting art work. Diane was sorry to see that the wonderful old Norfolk Pine, which she remembers as rising all the way to the second floor balcony, is no longer there, but the good news is that the lower level is much brighter without it. Tangier seemed to have changed a lot, maybe just because it wasn't full tourist season. None of the restaurants Diane remembered were there, and there couldn't have been more than 10 tourists in town. The good news: Madame Port's is still there and flourishing, as well as the *Librarie des Colonnes*.

Marrakech to Host Christian Rock Festival

The Kingdom of Morocco has developed a groundbreaking relationship with American evangelical Christians. Orchestrated by longtime friend of Morocco, Michael Kirtley, together with Moroccan Ambassador Aziz Mekouar, this historic effort has already led to several high-level exchanges inside Morocco, a meeting in Washington with the special envoy of King Mohamed VI, and the announcement of *Friendship Fest Morocco*, a major festival of American Christian contemporary music scheduled to take place next May 6-8 in Marrakech.

"Friendship Fest will be the biggest celebration ever of American-Moroccan friendship, with top-drawer talent from both nations," says Kirtley, an international photojournalist and president of The Friendship Caravan, the US-based NGO that is coordinating communication between the American evangelical community and Morocco. "We hope that many Friends of Morocco will come join in the fun in Marrakech, and also offer their help beginning today to make this an

unforgettable milestone of global understanding and hope for the future."

Founded by Kirtley in the aftermath of 9/11, The Friendship Caravan is committed to promoting media-friendly grass roots exchange between Americans and people of the Arab World. In fall 2003, the Caravan organized a weeklong series of events in Maryland where Morocco was prominently featured, including walks for American-Arab friendship, a nationally televised town meeting with Arab ambassadors, a cultural festival, and a videoconference between high schools.

Kirtley, also Executive Producer of Friendship Fest Morocco, said that air and hotel packages will be obtainable at very competitive prices: "We will be offering these packages beginning in late September. Keep looking for updates on The Friendship Caravan web site (www.friendshipcaravan.org) or on the site of the event

(Continued on page 23)

itself, at www.friendshipfest.org."

Friendship Fest Morocco is the fruit of more than a year of reflection and decisions made within Morocco and inside the American evangelical community. In May 2003, Reverend Richard Cizik, Vice-President for Government Affairs of the National Association of Evangelicals, spearheaded a "Consultation on Islam" that led to a sweeping declaration urging evangelicals to moderate their rhetoric toward Islam and

Under the agreement reached in Marrakech, Friendship Fest Morocco will be a jointly-organized 4-day high-profile celebration of shared values and friendship through music and dialogue that is anticipated will draw over 50,000 people daily from all over the world – including many Americans and Europeans. Already numerous well-known Christian music groups have agreed to go to Morocco without compensation, among them Stacie Orrico, Phil Keaggy, Toby Mac, Jeremy Camp, with Newsboys and other top groups soon to be announced. Several Moroccan contemporary and traditional groups will also be on the program. Tim Landis will be the American producer and Saad Zniber, former director of the Fès Sacred Music Festival, will manage production from the Moroccan side. Moreover, Reverends Cizik and Schenck will coordinate a "theological exchange" to bring high-profile Muslim and evangelical Christian leaders together for conversations that are "not just academic but also spiritual," according to Rev. Schenck.

The goal, says Rev. Cizik, is not to proselytize, but to build friendship and break down hostile images. "One thing the evangelical members of the delegation agreed on is that any Christian witness in the Muslim world must be a passive type of witness – by our lives, our actions, our disposition," he said. "We have stereotypes of Muslims, and they certainly do of conservative Christians. They are both caricatures we need to dispense with".

In mid-July King Mohamed VI sent his personal envoy H.E. Taïb Fassi-Fihri, Minister Delegate for Foreign Affairs, to meet with Kirtley, Cizik, Schenck, and other evangelical leaders at the Moroccan Embassy. He confirmed Morocco's commitment to

opening ties of friendship with the American Christian community, making it very clear that evangelicals were welcome in Morocco: "His Majesty hopes this will become a long-term friendship between our two peoples, mirroring the historically strong ties between our two nations." Noting that it was crucial to "avoid this so-called clash of civilization" by "pursuing shared values," he voiced his optimism that the ongoing exchange would "help combat the image of America promoted by Islamic extremists as a hedonistic society."

H.E. Fassi-Fihri concluded his remarks by saying that Morocco and the American evangelical community had the potential to "make history" together through such events as Friendship Fest and by opening up a dialogue between Evangelical and Muslim intellectuals.

Ambassador Mekouar is personally committed to further developing this exchange: "Here in the U.S.," he said, "most people have absolutely not the slightest idea what Islam is. It is coming from the same revelation, the same scriptures, and American Christians don't know that, nor about the aspirations of moderate societies like Morocco. . . On the other side, Moroccans didn't know who evangelicals are, and they saw nice people humbly expressing love and wanting to do good."

"Everyone's hope is that this event will foster peace & friendship on a people-to-people level during a time of suspicion and warfare," said FOM President Tim Resch. "In view of the Government of Morocco support, Friends of Morocco is working with the Friendship Caravan to determine a role for FOM, our membership and the National Peace Corps Association."

Contact Michael Kirtley at (203) 468-8313 or by email at mkirtley@snet.net if you would like to help in getting the word out about Friendship Fest Morocco or with the overall organization, and look for updates about package deals in late September on the FOM web site.

El Guerrouj Sprints to Gold

From the BBC Online



Morocco's Hicham El Guerrouj joined the all-time greats after finally winning an elusive 1500m Olympic title at the third time of asking.

El Guerrouj, denied in two previous Olympic finals, somehow held off Kenya's Bernard Lagat in an epic duel over the final 100m to take gold.

El Guerrouj, the world record holder and world champion, collapsed in tears as he crossed the finishing line.

Portugal's Rui Silva took bronze, with Britain's Michael East a fine sixth.

"Four years ago I cried tears of sadness, now there are tears of joy," he said. "I have experienced something wonderful with

the people I love.

"It has been a tough year after working hard for eight years. I had respiratory problems and I didn't even know if I was going to go to the Olympics.

"I went to Rome (on July 2) and finished eighth. That is not good for me but I have come back through my will-power and the help of those around me."

East, the Commonwealth champion, was delighted with his performance.

"At the beginning of the season, I would have snapped someone's arm off just to be in the Olympic final," he said.

"Some people will say that I should have tried to get closer to the leaders, but these guys can run the final 800m in the time I run normal 800m.

Peace Corps Cookbook Need Recipes

Many of you have already heard of the efforts to establish a Museum of the Peace Corps Experience in Portland, Oregon. The Committee for a Museum of the Peace Corps Experience (CMPCE) is involved in these efforts and is currently seeking funding to proceed with the project. One of our ways to do this is to develop a cookbook made up of recipes from countries of service sent in by RPCV's. Once we prepare this cookbook, we will sell it and use any profits for the museum. Please help us with this goal. If you are not familiar with our work please look at our website for further information: www.peacecorpsmuseum.org

Part of what made your service in your host country special was the food you encountered. Share recipes for some of those special dishes with the rest of us so we can get a glimpse of your experience and share a bit of the culture of a different part of the world. We plan to compile a cookbook that will enable thousands of Americans to experience some of what you encountered; along with your stories telling about the role this food played in your experience of the host country. This cookbook, tentatively entitled *A World of Food: the Peace Corps Experience*, will then be published, and as men-

tioned above, the proceeds will benefit CMPCE's efforts to establish a Museum of the Peace Corps Experience.

Along with each recipe, please share some background information so the reader will gain better understanding of the food item and its place in your experience. Please explain any uncommon ingredients and suggest how to obtain them. Be sure to give us your name, country and years of service. Also classify each dish as to type, e.g. appetizer, beverage, dessert, soup, main dish, main starch, vegetable, or side dish. Be clear about amounts, times and temperatures. If an ingredient is very difficult to obtain can you advise about a substitute or the impact of omitting it? By sending us this recipe you agree to permit us to use the information you send for the Museum cookbook at no charge. No personal information will be divulged to others for any other purpose.

Send your recipe and accompanying information to: [<pcmuseum@comcast.net>](mailto:pcmuseum@comcast.net).

News From Morocco

President Bush Signs Morocco-US FTA Implementation Act

WASHINGTON, Aug.17 - US president George W. Bush signed this Tuesday the implementation act of the Morocco-US free trade agreement signed by the two countries last June 15.

The FTA, approved by the US Congress and House of Representatives at end of last July, "will help create jobs and new opportunities for Americans by deepening our trade ties with an important friend in the Arab world", says White House spokesman, Scott McClellan, in a press release.

He added that "Morocco's leadership has been steadfast in its support for economic and political liberalization", stressing that it will promote "an ever-widening circle of free trade that will help integrate the Middle East region into the global trading system."

The US chief executive had insisted in a message urging the Congress to pass the agreement that it "enhances our bilateral relationship with a longstanding partner in the North Africa and Middle East region", highlighting Morocco's official support to "a reformist and tolerant vision that includes free parliamentary elections, the sale of state-owned businesses, the encouragement of foreign investment that can be connected to broad-based development, and better protection of the rights of women and workers".

The Morocco-US FTA is the first agreement of the kind ever concluded by the USA with an African country and the second one with an Arab country, after Jordan.

HM King Mohammed VI and President Bush agreed to negotiate a Free Trade Agreement in April 2002 during a visit of the Moroccan sovereign to Washington.

The U.S.-Morocco FTA will immediately eliminate tariffs on

more than 95 percent of bilateral trade in consumer and industrial products. All remaining tariffs on these goods are to be eliminated within nine years—the best market access package of any U.S. free trade agreement with a developing country signed to date. The agreement also significantly reduces barriers to agricultural products and services.

Morocco hailed as a model of religious freedom by US institute of religion and policy

BRUSSELS, Aug.09 - "Morocco is a tremendously important model as an Arab Muslim state that recognizes the integrity and importance of religious freedom as a national policy", says Joseph K. Grieboski, founding chairman of the US institute on religion and public policy.

This came in a report submitted by Grieboski to a panel on "Religious Freedom, Terrorism, and National Security", held part of the Second Session of the Inter-parliamentary Conference on Human Rights and Religious Freedom organized by the Institute in Brussels this Aug. 5-7.

"The promotion and advancement of the religious rights of all religious minorities by the Moroccan government distinguish it as a unique paradigm in the Arab Muslim world", says the institute which also notes that "the King of Morocco also serves as head of religion, no one is persecuted or denied his rights because of his religious beliefs. No discrimination or privileges based on affiliation or rejection of affiliation to a religion is acceptable to the King or the Government."

The Kingdom was also credited for its efforts "to

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(News from Morocco—continued from page 24)

eradicate the pockets of extremism within its borders" and for the revamping of the Ulema (Islamic theologians) council to ward off religious terror ideologies. The report also cites as other positive developments in the Kingdom the initiative taken by King Mohammed VI last October, in an effort to provide equality for all of Morocco's citizens, and to introduce a Family Law, which aims to place men and women on equal footing in Morocco. Parliamentarians unanimously approved the monarch's proposal, the report notes.

The report recalls that Morocco has been on May 16, 2003 a target of terrorists that suddenly raised awareness about the dangers of Islamist extremist groups.

Participants in the conference expressed "gratefulness to "his Majesty King Mohammed VI for his generous appreciation to the conference". The sovereign had addressed a message to the conference opening session stressing the conference as a initiative that tends to replace confrontation by complementarity between humans and illusions of self-sufficiency by the imperious need for cooperation.

Participants also agreed to hold the third session of this series of conferences in Morocco. The session will explore the theme of "human rights and religious freedom".

US dedicates \$1 million to help Morocco fight locusts

Agadir, Aug. 21 - US ambassador to Morocco, Thomas Riley, said his country has dedicated a budget of nearly US\$1 million to help Morocco fight locusts. This statement was made in an interview Thursday with MAP on the fringes of the American diplomat's visit to the south-western region of Souss-Massa-Daraa.

The US ambassador visited Thursday the Anti-locusts National Center (CNLAA) in Ait Melloul (near the south Atlantic city of Agadir) to inquire about the efforts made to stop the advance of locust swarms threatening Morocco and neighboring countries, the US embassy said in a release.

The anti-locust struggle in Morocco had started in November 2003, in southern provinces, and knew an unprecedented activity in the spring of 2004. Desert locust swarms can travel more than 80 miles a day. Adults eat their own weight in food daily and swarms can devastate entire crop fields in minutes.

The US diplomat was informed about the actions made to eradicate locusts part of coordination with neighboring countries, notably Algeria, Mauritania, Mali and Niger.

During his visit to Souss-Massa-Daraa, the US ambassador also inquired about the progress of two development projects on the management and use of water resources and environment sustainable protection. These projects are financed by the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

Projects launched in northern Morocco to boost the region

AL Hoceima, Aug. 11 (MAP)- The projects launched by HM King Mohammed VI in the north of the country will open up the region and give a fresh impetus to its development process, said US ambassador to Morocco, Thomas Riley.

The US ambassador, underlined Tuesday at the end of a

visit to the northern cities of Al Hoceima and Nador, that northern Morocco is highly important at the social and economic levels. He added that he was impressed with construction works made in Al Hoceima following the quake that hit the region last February 24, killing over 600 people and leaving hundreds others injured and homeless.

Riley, who was accompanied in his visit by the British ambassador to Morocco, Haydon Boyd Warren-Gash, recalled the support the US brought to the victims of the quake, saying the purpose of his visit is to inquire about the progress of construction works in the region.

Besides, the US ambassador highlighted the importance to develop rural tourism in the region, underlining the disposal of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) to help initiate such projects.

As for his visit to Nador, the American diplomat said the talks he held with local officials allowed him to inquire about the high tourism and economic potentials in the region. He added that the port of Nador plays an important economic role and helps promote trade exchanges.

On his part, Warren-Gash said his presence in Al Hoceima is a sign of the British people and government's solidarity toward the victims of the quake-stricken region.

20% more tourists visited Morocco in H1 2004

RABAT, Aug.02 - The number of tourists who visited Morocco during the first half of 2004 rose by 20% compared to the same period last year, according to figures released Monday by the tourism department.

Some 1.92 million tourists visited the kingdom during this period as compared to 1.6 million in 2003. The number of guest nights also increased by 14%, according to the source.

The most significant rises were scored in Spanish (+38%) and U.S. (+32%) tourists. The French, however, still top the list with 376,000 tourists during the four first months of 2004.

The two imperial cities of Marrakesh and Fez, the department said, enjoyed the biggest rise of tourist numbers with respectively 22% and 20% since January.

Tourism receipts, which amounted to around 3 billion Euro, are, along with phosphate exports and expatriates' remittances, the major hard currency sources of Morocco, which ambitions to draw 10 million tourists by 2010.



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“People tell me they grew up on my songs. Well I have news for you—so did I! I wrote it when I was barely 20. There was none of that stuff then. Now later....” The crowd laughed. “Puff is about when you can no longer dwell in the world of childish things. Tonight our magic dragon is Peace Corps.”

Peter also sang “Don’t Laugh at Me,” the inspiration for and cornerstone of his new organization Operation Respect. He issued a call to action to the Peace Corps community. “If there is one thing I have learned it is how much you have learned about the decency of the people with whom you have served. You have an enormous resource and I want to make a challenge to you. I want to become a Peace Corps volunteer, but in a practical way. I want to find the linkages with you on a platform around these songs. Now is the crucial moment and I could not be more energized.” Peter finished out his performance with “Blowing in the Wind.”

NPCA President Kevin Quigley brought the evening to a close by asking audience members to thank Chris, Surin and Peter in the languages of their Peace Corps countries. No one seemed to want the evening to end as the speakers lingered to chat with—and in Peter’s case, hug—the guests.

Flag Procession and Closing ceremony

As is NPCA tradition, the closing ceremony started with a parade of flags along the Chicago waterfront before a closing ceremony at the Art Institute of Chicago. The closing ceremony included a “Chicago Thanks You” from Chicago 28th Ward Alderman Ed Smith (India 66-68). Hedayat Amin-Arsala, Vice President of the Transitional Government of Afghanistan was the main speaker. During his student days at George Washington University, Amin-Arsala was a Farsi language instructor and coordinator for four consecutive Peace Corps training programs; he married a Peace Corps volunteer, Betsy Thomas, and they have two daughters. Between 1969 and 1987 he worked for the World Bank and in 1987 left to join the Afghan resistance against the Soviets.

Another speaker was Nobel Laureate, Bobby Muller,

President of the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation. In 1991, Mr. Muller co-founded the International Campaign to Ban Landmines to continue the work begun in Cambodia. The global landmine campaign received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997. As a Marine Lieutenant, he served as a combat infantry officer in Vietnam. In April of 1969, Muller was leading an assault when a bullet severed his spinal cord and left him paralyzed from the chest down. He founded Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) in 1978 and Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation (VVAF) in 1980. His efforts as head of VVA resulted in the passage of landmark legislation granting veterans compensation for Vietnam-related maladies, including Agent Orange and post-traumatic stress disorder. In 1981, Mr. Muller led the first delegation of American veterans to return to Vietnam since the end of the war. As a result of that trip, Muller and VVAF became leading advocates of reconciliation with America’s former enemies in Vietnam.

Trina Janes, Conference Chair, Morocco 91-93 and the daughter of a RPCV Liberia spoke on legacy volunteers honoring those families who have had multiple members serving in Peace Corps stressing the importance of RPCVs as inspirations to others in volunteering for Peace Corps service.

Chris Mathews and Peter Yarrow again spoke (and lead songs) at the closing ceremony. Songs included “We shall overcome”, “Where have all the flowers gone” and “If I had a hammer”. Peter Yarrow was made an honorary Returned Peace Corps Volunteer recognizing his lifelong dedication to social and political activism as well as more personal projects such as the Hospice Movement and Operation Respect.

The closing ceremony concluded with recognition of the thousands of volunteer hours contributed to make the Conference a success with special recognition to Trina Janes as conference chair.

(Barbary Pirates - continued from page 11)

1661 Samuel Pepys wrote about two men, Captain Mootham and Mr Dawes, who were also abducted.

Although the black Africans enslaved and shipped to North and South America over four centuries outnumbered Prof Davis's estimates of white European taken to Africa by 12-1, it is probable they shared the same grim conditions. "One of the things that both the public and many scholars have tended to take as given is that slavery was always racial in nature - that only blacks have been slaves. But that is not true," said the author.

While Africans labored on sugar and cotton plantations, the European slaves were put to work in quarries, building sites and galleys and endured malnutrition, disease and maltreatment. Ruling pashas, entitled to an eighth of all captured Christians, housed them in overcrowded baths known as baños and used them for public works such as

building harbors and cutting trees. They were given loaves of black bread and water.

The pasha's female captives were more likely to be regarded as hostages to be bargained for ransom, but many worked as attendants in the palace harem while awaiting payment and freedom, which, in some cases, never came. While some slaves bought by private individuals were well treated and became companions, others were overworked and beaten.

"The most unlucky ended up stuck and forgotten out in the desert, in some sleepy town such as Suez, or in the Turkish sultan's galleys, where some slaves rowed for decades without ever setting foot on shore," said Prof Davis.

(Continued from page 19)

been recently formed to raise funds and work cooperatively on projects deemed important by the villagers, such as literacy, health, and irrigation. The village has suffered greatly from the recent drought years, so water is a major concern. Each house is supplied with water piped from a cistern, but there is not enough irrigation water for more than one crop of wheat or vegetables a year. They were just harvesting the wheat.

To bring in some extra income, there are two groups of women weavers. We were able to observe women working on one rug and even tried tying knots ourselves - we were very clumsy and slow compared to them! The quality of the rugs was good and some of the designs were innovative.

Here, again, doors were opened with many *marhabas* and we were shown typical Moroccan hospitality with a delicious lunch prepared by some of the village women. During the lunch, we discussed numerous topics with men of the Association who ate with us (women in the kitchen). We asked about their work, their children, how they had chosen spouses, etc. One man asked if America was a matriarchal society (seeing all of us women in this group)!

MARRAKESH

In Marrakesh we visited the *souks* and some historical sights, but the interpersonal highlight was lunch with two young working class women who are officers in a neighborhood association that helps other young women. There are 25 members, and each donates two afternoons a week to speak at 25 local government-sponsored women's centers, discussing women's rights and sexually-transmitted diseases. These associations are another rather recent development in Morocco and are springing up all over with different goals: village development, human rights, aiding women, protecting the environment, and many others.

ESSAOUIRA

In this lovely fishing port, we were privileged to spend the evening with some women artists. One of them spoke excellent English which facilitated the discussion for those in the group who didn't speak Arabic or French. She told us a bit about her life, married to an artist, dividing her time between being an artist, a farm housewife, and a mother. These women are members of an association formed to support each other in their work. They are beginning to get significant recognition; one will have an exhibition in New York City soon and others have exhibited in Germany. For us, they displayed pen ink drawings and watercolors.

RABAT

After the tour group departed, we returned to Rabat. There, we were able to visit Aziza El Krami, who was one of the supervisors of the "*nadi*" program when we were in the Peace Corps. We met her 20-year-old son, Mourad, who is a university student, a handsome, bright young man. Aziza was thrilled to entertain us and reminisce about days in the *nadi*. We delved a bit into the origins of the Promotion Feminine program to get some historical insight. Apparently, in 1959,

Mohammed V asked that talented and bright young women be selected to participate in a training program which would eventually lead to the establishment of the women's centers. Aziza spent her whole career working at various levels with the program, her last assignment being at Dar Bargash in Yousoffia directing a national training center before she retired.

FINAL REFLECTIONS

As we walked through many doors, physically and figuratively, we became aware of the many problems, some old, some new, that Moroccans still face. Yet, we felt energy and motivation in many of the people we met to tackle problems and work for a better life. The newspapers gave evidence of this with articles about development projects, new housing, reforms in education, reorganization of the governance of mosques, and efforts to deal with drug trafficking in the Rif..

One basic insight we gleaned was into the doors being opened by King Mohammed VI, giving people more hope for the future and moving gradually toward more democratization and greater freedom. When a documentary film about prostitution in an Atlas village was recently produced, some officials asked the government to ban it. The Minister of Information declared that films are in the domain of creativity which is a basic liberty. The film was shown, although for only a few weeks. This is a good example of how the government is trying to balance pressures from the past with pressures to allow more freedom of expression and more "open doors."

Note: The full trip itinerary is described at www.marrakeshexpress.org under the travel link. Susan may offer this trip again. Anyone interested, contact her at sdavis@uslink.net.

(In Memoriam: Monica Potyondy—continued from page 3)

given the unstable nature of the country or if he will survive the violent elements in this society. Monica hoped to someday go to the Ivory Coast to volunteer as a nurse.

Donations in Monica's memory should be made out to WADSO and sent to the Potyondy Family, 3130 Worthington Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80526.



Are you still an FOM member?

Membership in Friends of Morocco brings you, in addition to all issues of our newsletter, special mailings announcing the annual meeting, reunions, seminars, and special Moroccan arts and craft showings. Membership also brings you the satisfaction of contributing to the goals and aims of Friends of Morocco. At least once a year we do a system-wide mailing to keep our address database accurate and to give people the opportunity to join us. The mailing label below indicates when your membership expires

If you have not paid your membership dues of \$15.00 (individual) annually to the Friends of Morocco, please consider doing that now. We appreciate any additional contributions and recognize special contributors in the Friends of Morocco newsletter.

Contribute to the FOM newsletter

FOM members are encouraged to submit original contributions for the newsletters. Please send any contributions by email as a Microsoft Word attachment (I can't guarantee a typo-free contribution if I have to re-type it) to Kate Trayte, FOM newsletter editor at <k8tr8@yahoo.com>. Any type of contribution is appreciated: photos, book reviews, recipes, fiction or non-fiction, but please make it Morocco or Peace Corps-related.



اصدقاء المغرب

Friends of Morocco Newsletter is published quarterly by the Friends of Morocco and is circulated to its 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 is \$15 annually. FOM is governed by a five-member national advisory board. Mailing address: Friends of Morocco, P.O. Box 2579, Washington, DC 20013-2579. For further information, contact FOM president Tim Resch at 703-660-9292 or by email tresch@att.net.

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