



friends of morocco

اصدقاء المغرب

summer 2003

<http://home.att.net/~morocco>

Peace Corps to Return to Morocco in September

The Peace Corps' Europe, Mediterranean and Asia Region is pleased to announce that Director Gaddi Vasquez has given his authorization to resume full operations of the Peace Corps program in Morocco and Jordan. The Peace Corps re-entry assessment team headed by Country Director Bruce Cohen in Morocco, and Country Director Darcy Neill in Jordan, Volunteer Safety and Overseas Security (VSOS) Coordinator Audrey Shadd, and Peace Corps Safety and Security Officer (PCSSO) Bill Colwell

visited Morocco and Jordan in June 2003 and met with officials to review the safety and security environment, political situation and programming requirements necessary to support future volunteers in Jordan and Morocco. The Peace Corps Morocco staff in Rabat plans to welcome back a new group of Trainees on September 14 for Morocco and new Trainees for Jordan mid-January. In addition, some of the Volunteers and Trainees evacuated from Morocco in April 2003 will resume their service on October 26

May 16 Bombings in Casablanca and the Aftermath

By Tim Resch, FOM President

The Bombing

The May 16 attack in Casablanca, Morocco's largest city, left 44 people dead (32 victims and 12 bombers) and about 100 others injured. The suicide bombers used

homemade explosives stuffed into backpacks and detonated at almost precisely the same time in five locations. Twelve of the 15 attackers – all Moroccan – died.

The bombings that targeted a major downtown hotel, a Jewish community center, a Jewish cemetery and a Spanish restaurant shocked this Muslim North African kingdom that prided itself on the peace that prevailed here despite a bloody Islamic insurgency in neighboring Algeria.

Officials also believe that some 50 potential suicide bombers were gearing up for a wave of attacks planned for May 23, a week after the Casablanca bombings, in three popular tourist destinations – Marrakech and the beach resorts of Agadir and Essaouira. Looking to finance and arm themselves, the extremists were believed to be planning robberies of banks and arms depots., but a series of sweeps and arrests in the days following the Casablanca bombings thwarted the planned follow-up attacks.

A staunch ally of the United States, Morocco was a Muslim country listed as "most eligible for liberation" in a tape believed to be from al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden. The tape, released in February, said any Arab leader who supported America would be "an apostate whose blood should be spilled".

The blasts came just four days after a series of suicide bombings in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, killed 34 people at three foreigners' housing compounds.

Morocco has been a staunch U.S. ally, but expressed regret that a peaceful solution could not be found in the Iraq

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Ash Khabarna?

أش أخبارنا؟

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.

Janice Williams/Ahmed Ashad—Ezz Hilliga/Asilah 66-68 live in Dudley, MA. Contact them at <therifi@mac.com>.

Francis X. Cunningham is a retired foreign service officer living in Arlington, VA.

Ellen Brown—Taza/Rabat 70-73 is an economist with the EPA in Washington, DC. Contact Ellen at <ellenskb@aol.com>.

W. Russell Pickering specializes in Moroccan textiels. Contact Russell at <usapasha30@aol.com>.

Kate Nesbit Elledge—El Gara/Rabat 84-86 writes, "Briefly, I got an MSW and an M.Div. at the University of Chicago; was ordained to the Episcopal priesthood; served as a school chaplain in Hawaii and then a parish priest in the Midwest; got married and had Charlie (6) and Mary Rose (3); survived cancer and I'm now trying out the role of suburban soccer mom/part-time priest." Contact Kate at <knelledge@hotmail.com>.

Diane Skelly PonasiK—Maazziz 65-67 writes, "I've just retired from USAID which I joined in 1977. During that time, I worked in Yemen, Mali, Egypt, Haiti and most recently in Macedonia. The last ten years I was mostly involved in democracy and civil society programs. Before that, I did rural

development.

Now that I'm retired, I've written a novel about Morocco in the 1880-1910 period. I'm looking for an agent without success so far and would appreciate any suggestions on agencies or publishers interested in North Africa." Contact Diane at <dponasiK@hotmail.com>.

Casey Troy—Aït Ahmed 99-01 writes, "Spent a few months at home in Massachusetts in Fall 2001, but since then I have been living in Washington, DC. I am working at the Embassy of Morocco as assistant to Ambassador Aziz Mekouar. Even got to meet the King last year!

I returned to Morocco in June 2002, but did not even have time to go to my site, so hopefully this year I'll make it back. As for non-Maghreb-related activities, I traveled to Ireland for field hockey tournament and I've fall in love with DC Gaels hurling team—the greatest sport on the planet!" Contact Casey at <casey_maroc@yahoo.com>.

Diana Howell is an importer of Moroccan goods and an artist living in Pacific Grove, CA. Contact Diana at <artemy2001@yahoo.com>.

Amy Vastine—Goulmima 98-00 is a student at Johns Hopkins University. Contact Amy at <avastine@jhsp.edu>.

Frank Golino—Tangier 64-65 is an international affairs consultant at the US Department of State. Contact Frank at <FGO1156726@aol.com>.

Nancy Watson Talbott—Casablanca 75-77 writes, "Mostly I have worked as a teacher and counselor for the past 25+ years. Currently, I am working as a substance abuse counselor the Indiana Department of Corrections. I live in Santa Claus, Indiana with my husband Terry." Contact Nancy at <talbotts@psci.net>.

Georgia K. Asher—Taroudant/Agadir 64-66 is a real estate broker in New York City. Contact Georgia at

<gasher@invensoft.com>.

Sonya Gail Malone—Ouarzazate/Rabat 89-91 lives in Pensacola, FL and can be contacted at <sgm32514@yahoo.com>.

Peg Petrzelka Toundoute/M'semrir/Tilani 86-88/93-94 is an assistant professor of sociology at Utah State University. Contact Peg at <peggy@hass.usu.edu>.

Robert Just—Ksar es South 74-76 teaches English at Yuba City (CA) High School.

Peaches Joyal—Tangiers 71-73 works for the U.S. E.P.A. and lives in Arlington, VA.

Glen Hurley and Lois Hurley—Rich 91-92 are retired and live in Waverly, IA where they do volunteer work for Heifer Project International and other agencies.

William Besselievre is a retired engineer/manager living in Cheyenne, WY.

Barbara Klarmann Summers—Rabat 64-65 is the marketing manager of Crotches Mountain in New Hampshire. Contact Barbara at <bksommers@aol.com>.

Lori Kurtz-Larkin—Rich 84-86 lives in Cave Creek, AZ. Contact Lori at <lorinoguns@earthlink.net>.

Gordon Gray—Oued Zem 78-80 is the Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo.

William Wernik—Safi 78-81 is an oncology nurse in East Alstead, NH. Contact William at <zathros@sover.net>.

Nina Hannoun is a studies TESOL at DePaul University in Chicago. Contact Nina at <ninabee@earthlink.net>.

(Continued on page 9)

1980 TEFL “Stage With a Serious Attitude Problem” Reunion Memories

By Barb Ferris (Youssoufia 80-82) with contributions from Dan Troyan (Souk Sebt 80-82), Tom Tolen (Taza 80-82), Ann Bissell Luke (Goulmima 80-83), Mary Malloy (Fquih ben Salah 80-82) and Kate Trayte (Guercif 80-82)

Carova Memories

It is impossible to do justice to the 1980 TEFL Stage Reunion, which was quite excellent! So, try to imagine 25+ folks with their families who served in the Peace Corps in Morocco in the infamous “Stage with the Serious Attitude Problem” coming together after going their separate ways for 21 years and picking up where we left off – catching up with our lives and appreciating the gift from the experience of crossing paths in this life.

It was a week on the beautiful beach of Carova on the Outer Banks of North Carolina where we all had to drive 11 miles on the beach, then drive over a sand bank to get on the dirt road to the 3 beach houses we shared and, as we unpacked, the “reunioning” and memories began:

- Beer
- Laughter
- Food
- Laughter
- Not missing a beat in 21 years and missing lots of beats
- Peeling shrimp and eating asparagus and drinking more beer
- The Snow Storm
- Laughter
- Roasted leg of lamb with rosemary and garlic and roasted potatoes with onions
- Laughing so hard you can't stand



On the front porch of our zween house



Lots of hair lost, lots of pounds gained



Waiting for help to rescue the beached car (yes, that really is Bob Hollinger on the left)

- up
- Great music all the time, courtesy of Steve Secrist
- Sand
- Beer
- Laughing so hard the tears are streaming down our cheeks
- Sending photos to those who couldn't make it – by “mandate through the P.T.T.!”
- Black bean soup
- Fabulous fireworks
- Omelets
- The Christmas lights hanging from the zween House in the Middle
- Taking a nap in the middle of it all
- Laughter
- The warmth of the gathering
- Planning for the one next year on the west coast
- Doing nothing for 5 consecutive days
- Award for distance goes to Jennifer Scott who traveled two days from Uganda to the Outer Banks – with presents for everyone!
- Beers at 11 am – nothing has changed since Morocco
- Watching a whole new group of RPCV kids play together
- Tearful goodbyes
- Driving on the beach
- The dead beached whale
- Getting Kate's car off the beach
- The great drunken midnight car ride in the dunes courtesy of Dan Troyan and a fog lamp
- The garbage cans overflowing with beer bottles
- The fact that everyone remembered to buy toilet paper, but nothing for washing dishes
- The line to use Tom's computer to
- check email – just like waiting at the Rabat P.T.T. to call home, only faster and in English
- Lots of hair lost and lots of pounds gained since 1982
- Bob Hollinger as a father
- Bob Hollinger as a mother
- Scott Hyder's hair piece/weave
- If that's the big dipper, where's the little dipper??
- Who put that ocean so close??
- 4 year-old Rina Hollinger driving a Chevy Suburban
- The serious consideration given to jumping off the deck into the pool. I think you can make it!
- "Hot tubbin"
- ATV Rides with Uncle Scott
- Smokin' & tokin' on the beach
- Mary's "servin time" story
- Kids...what kids?
- Stealing a kiss..who, when, where?
- Late nights & even later mornings
- Early morning yoga & walks on the beach
- Food, food & more food
- Beer, beer & even more beer
- Where's the white wine?
- Scott's Truth Serum
- Wild horses
- Missing those who couldn't make it
- Barb Ferris playing Easter bunny for the junior set
- Creative cooking and leisurely feasting
- Long walks on the beach, seeing nothing but seagulls
- Late, late nights of silliness and teasing
- Ann's artichokes



JOIN OUR PARTNERSHIP FOR MOROCCO

Former Peace Corps Volunteers from Morocco formed the High Atlas Foundation in order to utilize their professional relationships, friendships and knowledge gained during their years of Peace Corps service for the continued benefit of the Moroccan people. Please consider joining us.

The partnership of the High Atlas Foundation, Morocco's Ministry of Waters and Forests and the Marrakech 21 Foundation (a Moroccan national NGO) had an incredible year.

- We facilitated community meetings in 20 rural villages in the High Atlas which resulted in proposals submitted to the World Bank and USAID for potable water and tree planting projects. Grant writers and prospect researchers, we need **YOU** to help us get funding for projects in irrigation, women's cooperatives and education.
- With the strong support of U.S. Ambassador Ms. Margaret Tutwiler, we procured funding from USAID to plant 8,500 fruit trees this past season. Over 2,000 rural Moroccans will benefit from the job creation and food production. **ALL OF US** benefit from the environmental enhancement.
- Did you know it costs only ten dirhams to purchase and plant a tree in Morocco? We developed a beautiful poster (written in Arabic, French and English) to "PLANT A TREE!" The poster and an attractive donation box will be placed in hotels and civic centers in Marrakech. RPCV David Keiser provided the idea and coordinated this project. We need to hear **YOUR** ideas for realizing the development goals of the Moroccan people.
- HAF's highly distinguished Advisory Board includes Morocco's Ambassador to the U.S. Mr. Aziz Mekouar, former U.S. Ambassador to Morocco Mr. Edward Gabriel and former Peace Corps Regional Director and Country Director Ms. Ellen Paquette. **YOU** can join this prestigious group of people who love Morocco.

We welcome and need **YOUR** involvement! Let us know how you would like to participate. You can become a member of the High Atlas Foundation for only \$20 or a voting member for \$100.

For more information, contact the High Atlas Foundation at :

P.O. Box 40314
 Albuquerque, NM 87196
www.hihatlasfoundation.org
HAF@highatlasfoundation.org

*The High Atlas Foundation is a 501c(3) non-profit organization.
 Your tax deductible donation goes towards implementing projects local communities designed.*

A Rural Development Strategy for Morocco

By Jason ben Meir (93-95)

There are two fundamental lessons learned through decades of development interventions. First, inclusive participation in the design, implementation and management of development projects creates lasting projects and provides a diverse range of important benefits. Participation manifests into prosperity-generating development because:

- Projects reflect the priorities and interests of communities and incorporate the appropriate economic, cultural, historic and environmental factors.
- The collaborative development experience enhances the ability of the parties to work as a team and make informed decisions.
- Inclusion leads to projects that adapt well to evolving conditions.
- The designers have "ownership" of the projects and are likely to continue and build upon the direct returns they generate.

The second lesson is that third party facilitators are necessary to forge productive partnerships among local parties. Objective facilitators serve to catalyze the dialogue among the stakeholders, build consensus and maintain the momentum towards establishing projects. Through this model, local parties can design projects and create action plans that assign tasks and responsibilities to each involved.

The following four initiatives will help achieve the rural development of Morocco. The goal of the initiatives is to create productive partnerships among local groups and others, build projects that provide for their needs and to do this on a regional and national scale.

1. Establish Participatory Planning Centers: These centers function as third-party space where community members, government and NGO representatives come together and collaboratively design projects. This

type of center, located in the communities they serve, also transfer skills in areas deemed important by local people, such as in agricultural technologies, healthcare and financial management. Centers are transferred to local control once the necessary management, facilitation and technical skills have been successfully delivered.

2. Establish an Agency of Coordination: An Agency of Coordination is a section of government that works solely to bring together government agencies, communities and NGOs for the purpose of planning and implementing community development. It performs this coordination task at the local, regional and national levels and the intended results are projects that satisfy the objectives of all the parties involved.

3. Train Teachers, NGO and Government Personnel in Facilitation: School teachers can serve as a critical vehicle through which country-wide development can be advanced. Teachers can conduct activities that help communities prioritize the issues they want, design projects and create an action plan.

Morocco has also seen an incredible proliferation of indigenous non-governmental associations over the past several years. Training local NGO personnel and government officials in facilitation (beginning with those working in community extension) will help them respond directly to the needs of people. Training is most effective when it is done through experiential learning; that is, hands-on facilitation of community meetings.

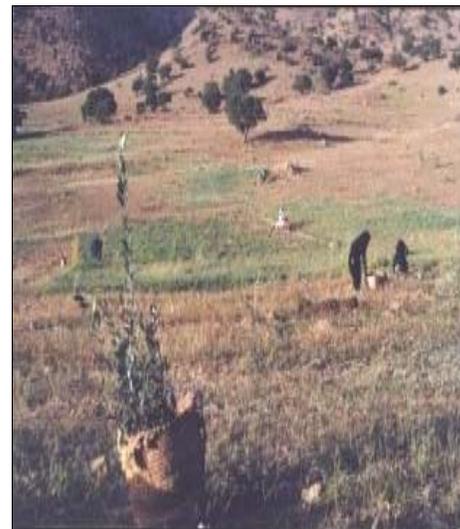
4. Annual Tree Planting Campaigns: Fruit and forestry tree planting is consistently identified as a top priority of communities. Indeed, trees provide income, job creation, food production and environment enhancement. The late King Hassan II called tree planting "an act of faith." Experiences in Morocco and in many developing nations have shown that tree planting in conjunction with modern irrigation brings water to new areas and can lay a foundation for potable water and building service

centers such as schools and clinics. Teachers and others can be catalysts of tree planting projects and can assist in their implementation.

A development strategy that brings communities together to design and implement projects requires funding for the initiatives that catalyze the design of projects (the Participatory Planning Center, Agency of Coordination, etc.) and the implementation of the projects designed. As this strategy satisfies multiple development objectives, the pool of potential sponsors is broadened. A major goal, however, is to become less reliant on outside funding as community resources improve.

Participation in community development realizes opportunities and the above initiatives aim to encourage productive partnerships across Morocco and generate true prosperity.

The French version of this article was



Women planting olive trees in Souss Massa (2003)

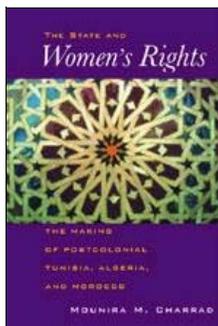
Photo by Aimee Petras

published in Maroc Hebdo International, June 20-26, 2003.

New Books about Morocco

States and Women's Rights: The Making of Postcolonial Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco by Mounira M. Charrad

Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2001.



At a time when the situation of women in the Islamic world is of global interest, here is a study that unlocks the mystery of why women's fates vary so greatly from one country to another. Mounira M. Charrad analyzes the distinctive nature of Islamic legal codes by placing them in the larger context of state power in various societies.

Charrad argues that many analysts miss what is going on in Islamic societies because they fail to recognize the logic of the kin-based model of social and political life, which she contrasts with the Western class-centered model. In a skillful synthesis, she shows how the logic of Islamic legal codes and kin-based political power affect the position of women. These provide the key to Charrad's empirical puzzle: why, after colonial rule, women in Tunisia gained broad legal rights (even in the absence of a feminist protest movement) while, despite similarities in culture and religion, women remained subordinated in post-independence Morocco and Algeria. Charrad's elegant theory, crisp writing, and solid scholarship make a unique contribution in developing a state-building paradigm to discuss women's rights.

This book will interest readers in the fields of sociology, politics, law, women's studies, postcolonial studies, Middle Eastern studies, Middle Eastern history, French history, and Maghrib studies.

COMMENTS

"Brilliantly conceptualized and thoroughly researched, Mounira Charrad's book breaks important new ground in the explanation of legal changes affecting women's rights. We learn why apparently similar countries have taken very different paths. This book is a 'must read' not only for students of North Africa, but for everyone interested in the impact of nation-building and state policies on gender relations."--Theda Skocpol, author of *States and Social Revolutions*

"Theoretically powerful and historically rich, this is an important study in comparative political sociology. Using the comparative method at its best to make a provocative argument about kin-based politics, Charrad gives us a new way of looking at state-building strategies."--Seymour M. Lipset, author of *Political Man*

"In a stunning scholarly achievement, Charrad identifies the links between Islamic legal codes, kin-based political power and the subordination of women. She traces the inner logic of political systems, showing how the different bases on which nations are built have very different implications for the rights of women."--Ann Swidler, author of *Talk of Love: How Culture Matters*

"Charrad's book is a wonderful example of the strength of the comparative method . . . Her study is a major contribution to the literature on women's rights and to the tradition of historical sociology."--Randall Collins, author of *Macrohistory: Essays in Sociology of the Long Run*

"Charrad adds a new dimension to the consideration of women's rights and state formation not only in the Middle East, but throughout the world. In a rigorous comparative analysis of the origins and development of women's rights in Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco, she demonstrates how history and politics shape family law."--Elizabeth W. Fernea, author of *In Search of Islamic Feminism*

"Necessary reading for those who wish to understand the role of state formation and cultural identity in diverse patterns of Muslim family law reform, a legacy which continues to impact contemporary Muslim politics."--John Esposito, author of *Islam and Politics*

"Charrad has offered one of the most systematic and insightful comparative analyses of the relationships between family systems, family law, and state. That the 'personal is political' becomes very concrete as she persuasively demonstrates that family relations are inseparable from state politics."--Sud Joseph, editor of *Citizenship and Gender in the Middle East*

"Dr. Charrad's convincingly argued and meticulously researched book raises the bar of comparative studies of gender and the State, while making a unique contribution to knowledge about the rights and status of Muslim women in general and of the women of the Maghrib in particular."--Rae Blumberg, author of *Engendering Wealth and Well-being*

"A new interpretation that will change the way we think about women's status and family law in North Africa."--Nancy Gallagher, author of *Approaches to the History of the Middle East*

Mounira Charrad is an Assistant Professor of Sociology, Middle East Studies, and Women's Studies at the University of Texas at Austin.



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 are 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*) \$ _____

Summer 03



THE FOM SOUK

► **Morocco VI lab techs are meeting for a reunion in Sedona Arizona from October 22 to October 26, 2003.** Those who will be present are: Bob Beck, Bob Madsen, Pearl Chan Walsh, Marsha Duncan Fenner, Karen Kelley, Jim and Joyce DeDeo, Sam and Helen Perry, Janet Fegel Kirkpatrick, John Wilmington, Michael Mulvihill, Brenda Paccioretti Starr, Ellen Mather Eldridge, Phyllis Hiotis Supino - those unable to attend are: Gabriella Sardo Burnat, Sizanne Drost Modjean, MaryMartha Beaton, Hank Sefocvic, Billie Trowbridge, our adopted member Jacques VanDerWater, Phylliss Pelletier, AnnMarie Flanagan Reperant. As you can see we have been able to relocate all of our group with one exception - we are still searching for Linda Kroeger who hails from New York. The group has tentative plans to head to France next year so that we can meet up with AnnMarie. For more information, contact Brenda Starr at <zstarr@sbcglobal.net>.

► **Tour Northern Morocco with Friends of Morocco October 5-15, 2003** Building on the successes of the 2001 and 2002 Friends of Morocco tours combining visits to serving Peace Corps volunteers, development activities and general tourism, Friends of Morocco is searching for interest in a tour of northern Morocco. The tour would arrive in Casablanca and depart to Tangier via Lixus. In Tangier, visits would include the Tangier American Legation to hear about Medina restoration and visit to the Museum of Moroccan Arts in the Dar El Makhzen. Is there interest in the Forbes Museum? We would then go one to Tetouan with possible visit to deaf school, then to Chefchaouen, Ketama, where we would look at *kif* substitution activities, Targuist and to Al Houceima to examine the tourist industry transformation. Travel would then be via Taounate to Fes, where we visit the English Language Training Center and view *riads* under rehabilitation. A trip to Ifrane and Azrou would include a visit to the English language Al Akhawayn University. From there we would visit Meknes, the ruins of Volubius and the city of Moulay Idriss. Tour would then continue to Rabat to meet with Peace Corps staff and exit out of Casablanca visiting the Hassan II Mosque and lunch at a women's shelter. To express interest or get more information, contact Tim Resch at <tresch@et>.

► **Morocco: Window to Islamic Culture & Friendship April 13-27, 2004** www.originalworldjourneys.com/AFRICA/moroccointro.html. Journey through this unique cultural portal with former Peace Corps volunteer Paula Jeane, and truly meet the people. There will be an interactive forum in Rabat between our group and the local Muslims, facilitated by Paula Jeane and Farah Cherif/director of Center for Cross-cultural Learning. Includes Casablanca, Rabat, Fes, Marrakesh including visits to several villages to meet the Berbers, and a closing retreat at Essaouira, a coastal town. Our Escort Paula Jeane, a teacher of visually and neurologically impaired children for 35 years, lived in Morocco for 2 years instructing the blind in life skills at Fez School for the Blind as a Peace Corp volunteer. In 1995 she facilitated a meetings of 11 Moroccan administrators, teachers, and students from various schools to the United States to visit seven different types of training places for the visually impaired in California. Over the years, she has presented workshops and speeches to many community organizations, boards, and schools for special causes, such as Catholic Charities, Community Resources, Inc., The Conflict Center, and the Season for Nonviolence. Paula has recently completed a 9-month facilitation training in group process. Her volunteer work and dedication to the well-being of others has been life-long. 5861 Fax 415-381-6919

(Continued from page 2)

Stephen O'Dowd and Rhonda Brown-Khouribga/Tetouan/Guercif/Rabat 81-84 live in Damascus, Syria where Stephen is a Foreign Service Officer. Contact Stephen and Rhonda at <o'dowdsp@state.gov>.

Nancy Cusick works at the Ryerson-Burnham Library of The Art Institute of Chicago. Contact Nancy at <ncusick@artic.edu>.

David and Andrea Riley-Taounate/Fes 76-78 write, "Dave went to law school

and has been practicing law since we left. Andrea worked for Waldenbooks for 17 years and is currently working for Dave as a legal secretary. We have two boys, both of whom we brought to Morocco. One of our sons traveled all over Morocco by himself for a month two years ago." David and Andrea live in Poulsbo, WA and can be contacted at <andreariley@hotmail.com>.

IN MEMORIAM: Charlie McDonald-Karia ba Mohammad/Fes 76-78 died of cancer in April 2003. He taught English in Costa Rica before he died.

Most of the time, he was a painter for living. Friends of Morocco sends its condolences to Charlie's family and friends.



A Country To Be Proud Of

By George McFadden (Ksar Souk 77-80)

The last time I had seen Morocco was in November of 1980. I had arrived an eager Peace Corps trainee in June, 1977 with 78 others. When I left, I had spent a good percentage of my life in my adopted country during a period of tremendous upheaval in the Islamic World. While I was there, Palestinians continued fighting on all fronts, Israeli hit teams roamed Europe, the Shah of Iran was displaced by the dour Ayatollah Khomeini who proved the concept that Islam could be used as a political force in the modern world (and the Shah would end up living in Morocco briefly where I once saw him driving his Rolls Royce to Marrakech), Israel and Egypt made peace at Camp David (with Anwar Sadat stopping in Rabat to brief Hassan II on the way back to Egypt), fundamentalist rebels seized the Grand Mosque in Mecca during the Hajj, and the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan. Little did we realize the full import of what was happening then, so concerned was the world with the drawn out superpower struggle that seems so straightforward in retrospect.

I came home a few times during those years. On my last trip back during the summer of 1980, I flew back to Morocco on Royal Air Maroc on a flight that was going on to Cairo. In the departure lounge in JFK, a group of Egyptians in *galabiyas*, *tagiyas*, sandals and long beards, spread out cloths on the floor and one intoned the call to prayer. They prayed and boarded the aircraft where, after we were aloft, they prayed in shifts, always two in each hatch entryway, all the way to Casa. I asked a Moroccan woman sitting next to me who these people were. "They're a religious brotherhood," she said. "They go to America to spread the faith, to proselytize - and to collect money for the Afghanis who can't use their country now." And proselytize they did. Upon hearing me speak Arabic with my seat mates, one called me over at one point, wanting to know if I was a

Muslim. If not, why not? It took me decades to realize the full import of that encounter, which was just one of many like it that we all had. This was everyday stuff - nothing sinister about it at the time.

In the following years, I had the chance to visit many other parts of the world in the course of a career in telecommunications, but nothing brought me back to Morocco. I figured that I had spent a lot of time there and it was a big world. I might as well try seeing the rest of it. Three years ago, I had a close brush with death. During two weeks in the hospital and months more convalescing, I remember thinking, "But I'll never see Morocco again!"

Time does heal all wounds, but creates others. Pulled out of the abyss by modern medicine, I began resuming a normal life - until September 11 when the whole world changed. I was working in Washington and some of us decided to walk home to Virginia rather than fight the



crowds in the Metro. Walking across Key Bridge, we watched the Pentagon burn while commuters next to us scanned the skies with fearful faces, afraid more terror would fly in at any moment.

It was no surprise, really. Those of us with experience in the Islamic world had seen this building up a head of steam for 30 years. Any thoughts I had of returning to Morocco were dashed as the world went mad.

When the suicide bombers finally hit Morocco on May 16 of this year, I was not as surprised as most. This was the Mafia wrapped in a religion, preying on people's most basic beliefs and cherished traditions. The children of the children I had worked with in Morocco were having their world pulled out from under them. They were being robbed of their future by a group of pious gangsters with more money than brains. If ever there was a time to go back to Morocco, this was it.

Morocco also had been hard hit by September 11, the war in Iraq and the general economic malaise that has

settled on the world during the past few years. Just as all the economic development was beginning to pay dividends and the tourism industry was kicking into high gear, the world situation conspired against it. I couldn't stand idly by.

I set out just after the Fourth of July, determined to retrace my steps as a Peace Corps volunteer. This wouldn't be easy. I had served my first year in Ksar Souk - now the provincial capital of Errachidia. July in the Sahara wasn't pleasant when I was 25 years old. It couldn't have improved in the intervening 25 years.

Flying from JFK to Casa was almost as easy as flying from Boston to Ireland - possibly one of the most painless international flights you can make. Once in Casa, I was dismayed to find the old terminal I had passed through in 1977 was now a small, abandoned building at the edge of the tarmac. The new Mohammed V Airport is probably one of the easiest to negotiate in the world. Spacious and well designed with a train station underneath, you can go to almost any major city in Morocco with just a change of trains in Casablanca.

I went to Rabat to reacclimatize myself for a few days. One of the first things I noticed was the incredible degree of freedom of the press. Street vendors and news stands had literally hundreds of newspapers and books, ranging from *Salafi* religious books to a newly-published history of Abdelkrim and the Rif Rebellion. A history of Moroccan-American relations in Arabic sat next to essays on the Skhirat coup attempt and the career of Mohammed Oufkir, the dreaded former Interior Minister. These used to be the most taboo of topics. Whereas there used to be only a handful of national newspapers in Arabic and French, there were now national and local newspapers in Arabic, French, English and BERBER! This used to be unthinkable.

Next, I set out for the Sahara. Determined to relive my Peace Corps experience, I took the bus. Arriving at

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the intercity bus terminal shared by CTM and independent lines, I got a ticket on a 9 p.m. bus to Errachidia. At the ticket counter, I asked for a ticket to Ksar Souk. The clerk laughed, as did several other people in line. "You mean Errachidia," he said with a smile. I felt like Grandpa McCoy.

Gone are the 'souk' busses with cramped, smoked filled interiors, and luggage and livestock lashed to the roof. These are all large touring buses with assigned seating, cargo holds and...AIR CONDITIONING! We rode through the night with several rests in Middle Atlas villages and passengers stops in Azrou and Midelt. In Rabat, I had spoken with a fellow passenger, a Health Ministry manager who was returning to his hometown of Errachidia for a long weekend. He revealed that he had been a student of a Moroccan English teacher I had known well when I was there. At the first rest stop, he introduced me to his wife, sister-in-law, and children, and bought me a coffee. By the time we got under way, everyone on the bus knew I was an American coming back for a visit, and all were solicitous of my well-being.

More than the name had changed in Errachidia. I didn't recognize much of the town. In a building spree that would rival anything in Northern Virginia, Errachidia has grown exponentially. I had known a little burg with two lycées, a post office, a police station and an army base built by the French Foreign Legion. The provincial government now dominated the town, together with the military. There were now four lycées, a university and an airport! (And a new provincial prison that I stumbled upon walking through the back streets one day. All the big city amenities!)

I met Mohammed, a Moroccan who had worked with the Peace Corps and lived in Errachidia. Introduced via email by John and Becky Bringewatt, a volunteer couple who served in Errachidia until 2001, I walked around town with Mohammed as he patiently explained the recent history of the town to bring me up to speed. One afternoon, as we tried to find a house I had lived in, we walked along a school yard wall, reading the graffiti. One large

scrawl said, "Long Live Saddam Houssein!" A few yards down, an equally large message screamed, "Down With Arab Dictators!" This wall and the news stands I had seen in Rabat summed up the new political diversity here. This is a degree of freedom and expression unknown in most parts of the world. I had seen the coverage of the recent arrest and imprisonment of newspaper editor Ali Lamrabet, but I had not seen the rest of the story. This is a country successfully working out its own freedoms in a way that can be a model for others.

And so it went as I revisited places I hadn't seen in a quarter century. One day I took a day trip to Merzouga - literally the end of the road where you meet the first erg, or area of sand dunes, in southern Morocco. Merzouga used to be three small buildings and an eight-chair café. The road stopped at Rissani and there were only desert tracks down to the small town at the edge of the sands. Today, the asphalt goes right up to the dunes, and five star hotels are not far away. Merzouga has become a sort of Sedona of the Sahara. Moroccan tourists go there for desert tranquility and to be buried in the summer sand, in the belief that it draws out bad humors and can cure any number of ills. As we walked into the dunes, a number of Merzougans were there with holes dug, ready to bury early morning customers. I passed, saying that I would only be buried once and I wasn't looking forward to it. Talking to a small group of Moroccan visitors from Tangiers at an outdoor herbalist's stand, I was regaled with stories of miraculous cures that had come to some who had been through the treatment.

Going back to Rabat, I sought out more of my old haunts. One I went back to again and again was the Moorish café in the Oudaia. Walking through the extensive gardens just inside the walls, you walk into the beautifully tiled café where there are always cool breezes coming in off the ocean at the mouth of the Bou Regreg. Playing with the children of a Moroccan couple who were back for vacation from their home in Belgium, I looked out on the mouth of the river and stretch of Sale that juts out to the river's edge. It was ironic to feel such tranquillity looking out on that area, which had been used as a set for the movie *Blackhawk*

Down. This was as far from that type of chaos as you could get.

Everywhere, Moroccans were welcoming and courteous. Quick to start a conversation and offer a glass of mint tea, they were as friendly as ever. Gone were the "guides" and touts that used to be the bane of our existence. I was only approached a few times by people who quickly retreated when I said I didn't need help. The most persistent was an enterprising, young shoeshine boy in Errachidia who insisted he could shine my suede sandals!

The foreign Arabic speaker still ranks up there with the talking seal in novelty appeal. People seem more willing to speak Arabic now instead of insisting on speaking French and showing their erudition. They were curious and quick to ask how I learned it. After the initial joke of "I studied it in the plane on the way over here", I would explain myself and how I was visiting for the first time in 23 years. I would add, "After May 16, I came to show them that we're not afraid of them!" That was unflinching well received and everyone understood all too well who "them" referred to.

Most impressive was the public debate that is going on in Morocco over the May 16 attacks, which had the same effect on them as September 11 had on Americans. The biggest difference being that, as a Muslim society, it shook them to their very foundations. Endlessly, in the press, on television and in round table meetings in all parts of the country, people are confronting the reasons and impact of the extremism that led to that horrific incident, and others like it in which Moroccans were killed in a less spectacular manner by deranged killers wrapping themselves in religion. The hand of Fatima symbol inscribed with the motto "Don't Hurt My Country" (*Ne Touche Pas A Mon Pays; Ma Nqich Bledi*) was in evidence everywhere and people were eager to discuss the problem. A recurring theme that emerges in

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such conversations is that this is foreign to the Moroccan mentality and the type of Islam practiced in the country. The puritanical form of Islam being imposed on Muslims as "THE true Islam" is as foreign as anything introduced by Western colonial powers. This is the new colonialism and most Moroccans can see it for what it is - and where it comes from. Anti-Saudi sentiment is rife. And the Saudis are their own worst advertisement. Stories of their bad behavior while visiting Morocco abound. I was able to see something similar in my hotel in Rabat, when Yemenis and Emiratis would congregate over tea, trying to straighten themselves out after a hard evening in the nightclub next door. Stories of their behavior in smaller towns were lurid. These are the people building mosques, preaching 'true Islam', holding themselves up as the custodians of the religion and lording it over the Moroccans?

The Moroccans are having none of it. After watching over 100,000 people

get slaughtered in neighboring Algeria in sectarian violence over the last 11 years, they know well where this extremism can lead. In his Throne Day speech on July 30, HM Mohammed VI stated very explicitly that "Morocco will not tolerate importing religious rites that are alien to its traditions because they are incompatible with the Moroccan identity." Bravo!

There is even movement on the seemingly intractable problem of the Western Sahara. James Baker visited under UN auspices while I was there and outlined a plan that was badly received in the press at the time. There has since been movement in the right direction, with the Polisario agreeing in principle to an autonomous region under Moroccan sovereignty.

The trip demonstrated that there is sanity being introduced into this chaos, and Moroccans are taking the lead in tackling the most daunting problems head on. I came away with a great sense of relief. And a great sense of pride for my adopted country. Yes, it has problems but it is also crafting and implementing solutions that go way

beyond the usual hot air that passes for progress in most of the world. I am proud to consider myself, as one person on my trip put it, "an honorary Moroccan".



Arab American National Museum

You can be a part of Arab American history. The Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS) proudly announces the establishment of the Arab American National Museum. The museum, the first dedicated to the preservation of Arab American history, will be located in Dearborn, Michigan (metro Detroit), the home of the nation's largest concentration of Arab Americans. The dedication and grand opening is scheduled for October 2004.

The Arab American National Museum will narrate the rich history and diverse experience of the Arab American community. Three main thematic galleries—**Coming to America**, **Living in America** and **Making an Impact**—will preserve and showcase the community's rich cultural heritage and continuing contributions to American society. The museum will include permanent and traveling

exhibitions, an auditorium, meeting and reception facilities, classrooms, resource center, library, and museum shop.

Contributions of personal belongings, documents, photographs, art, film and oral histories that reflect the Arab American experience are actively being sought for the Arab American National Museum's permanent collection, and needed by the end of this year.

ACCESS also proudly announces that the Arab American Heritage Campaign, the brick and mortar fundraising drive has raised \$10.7 million of its \$16 million goal. The Kresge Foundation has awarded a \$1.5 million challenge grant, triggered upon raising the \$5.3 balance by June 30, 2004. Financial donations are welcome, and naming opportunities are abundant.

To learn more about donating artifacts to the museum's permanent collection,

please visit the ACCESS website at: www.accesscommunity.org or contact: Sarah Blannett, Curator, (313) 843-2844; Email: Sblannett@accesscommunity.org

To become a charter member of the museum or make a tax deductible contribution contact: Maha Freij, (313) 842-7010; Email: Mfreij@accesscommunity.org or Ruth Ann Skaff (202) 352-1572

The Colorful Berber Brothers

By Linda Maich (Essaouira 02-03)

Abderrahim Hachtoff has his name written in bold, navy blue letters on his white business card. Above his name is his name again, only this time it's written in dotted, jointed, and curved Arabic script. Below this information are the words *tissage traditionnel* written in italics with the Arabic script again just above. In a smaller, more delicate print is the address of Abderrahim's shop on rue Zayane in Essaouira, a town on the Central Atlantic coast of Morocco. There is also a cell phone number at the bottom right-hand corner of the business card.

Yet Abderrahim's small shop on rue Zayane, as well as his slightly larger one within twenty-five feet of the first, has no signs whatsoever. Nothing written in fancy letters tells us that Abderrahim weaves textiles there. I simply know the shops are open when the blue, arched wooden doors are open and closed when the doors are closed. Oh yes, occasionally there are thick skeins of wool in cream, pewter, and carob hanging against the walls outside the shops, or a large, chalice-shaped wicker basket overflowing with colorful remnants, but this is as close to publicity as the textile shops get.

I wandered into one of Abderrahim's shops about four months ago. Two men were weaving on a treadle loom, passing a wooden shuttle back and forth, guiding it through the array of threads that looked as tautly fastened as the wires under the lid of a baby grand. What struck me most of all were the purple and chartreuse colors in the piece they were weaving. I thought of the flowers and leaves of wild lavender. I fell in love with the textiles.

Abderrahim is a forty-two year old Berber man. He has been weaving for thirty years. I've seen him in a bright orange jacket riding through the medina on a bicycle, and I've observed him sweeping the cobblestones in front of his shops in the early morning. I have seen him winding yarn and working at the loom, but mostly I have watched him move from shop to shop with elfin agility and focused attention. He is a

maalam, the Arabic term for a master craftsman. He guides the handful of weavers in their work. He chooses the colors for his textiles and oversees the dyeing of the wool, cotton, silk, and polyester in a souk in Marrakech. We communicate by using a nebulous alchemy of French and Moroccan Arabic. He also speaks the Berber dialect, Tashelhit. The language barriers can be daunting, but Abderrahim always comes across as kind, pious, generous, and patient.

Mohammed, Abderrahim's brother, is also a weaver in the shops on rue Zayane. He has a lazy eye, and a scruffy, chocolate beard. Whereas Abderrahim has an almost boyish demeanor, Mohammed has the look of a ruffian in his faded, shiny jeans and heavy boots. He wears a little wool cap with five putty-colored connecting circles at the crown that resemble the contour of a flower. On a recent visit to one of the shops, in my slowly progressing Moroccan Arabic, I proudly named the different colors of the textiles that were on display that day. I pointed to piece after piece saying such words as cumin, milk, red pepper, coffee, and cinnamon. Mohammed laughed, held up a textile, and said something in Arabic which I confessed I didn't understand. He quickly left the shop and returned moments later with a shard of warm charcoal, evidently culled from a nearby brazier where incense was burning. He held the fragment up against a textile making sure to scratch away the white ashes so that I could compare the darkest part of the charcoal with the pitch-black fabric. Indeed, the raven hues were nearly identical.

On the day before I left Essaouira, the day before spring, I passed by the shop on rue Zayane to collect some textiles that I had ordered. Mohammed offered me some tea, as shopkeepers often do in Morocco, and when I accepted, he pulled a large sack of wool from a corner for me to sit on. Before I could take my place, Abderrahim immediately put two folded textiles onto the sack to make me more comfortable, and he offered me a bit of flat, round bread with butter spread through the center. Mohammed began to make the tea and added about twelve

cubes of glittering sugar to the small pale yellow teapot. I wondered just how many cups of tea had already been poured from that battered and chipped vessel. The customary fresh mint leaves that usually accompany the ritual of tea in Morocco were absent. Mohammed's tea, dark as maple syrup, misty as a caldron, with the smoky flavor of Lapsang souchong and a compact sweetness, had a character all its own.

Mohammed began to sing a song that marries Berber traditions with the bluesy, Ganoua music of West Africa. In a raw and uninhibited voice, Mohammed sang of a certain Madame Mamounia using a language that seemed both primordial and otherworldly. A burly man who was sitting behind the wooden wheel of a manual yarn winder in the shop, and who I had barely noticed, began to tap a rhythm with his fingertips on a plastic, beehive-shaped spool. Between the tea, the music, and the colors of the textiles that surrounded me like curtains in a theater, I felt that all my loves, all my dreams and desires, had come together for a short space of time in this unlikely sanctum to remind me of the delicacies in life. A convergence, or a balance, that had been seeking me out while I was setting the stage for the improvised celebration to alight.

Linda Maich was a PCV in Morocco from August 14, 2002 until Peace Corps Morocco was temporarily suspended in April of this year. A singer and songwriter, Linda is currently living in Colorado and hopes to return to Morocco in the near future.



You CAN Go Back Again

By Bobbi Prees (Khenichet 66-68)

It's been nearly 37 years since I stood on the hot tarmac of the Rabat airport in front of the charter aircraft that carried the Morocco IX PCVs to our country of service. Over the past couple of years I've been thinking about returning to Morocco and taking some friends along to share the country's hospitality and beauty. The three women friends who joined me on this nostalgic 12-day visit met each other for the first time at the Dulles and Frankfurt airports as our journey together began. Our flights on United and Lufthansa were arranged by Hassan Samrhouni at Casablanca Travel and Tours.

Our itinerary included five nights in a three-bedroom time-share resort in the Marrakech *palmeraie*, two nights in a 19th century restored house in Fes, a night in Chefchaouen, two in Rabat, and the final night in a Casablanca corniche hotel prior to our afternoon departure flight. I wanted my friends to experience different areas of the country at ground level without spending long days on the road or flying between cities.

Armed with a 1966 edition of the Blue Guide to Morocco, Lonely Planet's Morocco and Moroccan Arabic phrasebook, and the Michelin 2003 Morocco roadmap, we picked up our rental Peugeot at Mohammed V airport outside Casablanca, spent 650 dirhams to fill the tank, and set off on the nearly-empty toll road toward Marrakech. When the toll road ended, the highway quickly filled with buses and trucks top heavy with loads of onions. My friends gasped as the other cars wove among the slower vehicles and passed on hills. I'd driven in Morocco before and was the designated driver throughout the trip. We noticed that our car got great mileage, as the smog controls appeared to have been disconnected, according to the message that came up on the dashboard each time I turned the key in the ignition.

Lack of signs made finding our timeshare resort in the *palmeraie* a

frustrating experience, a situation we would run into again and again as we drove in the cities. Once we arrived at the resort, we found it to be a relaxing location for tourists who want to have down time in beautiful surroundings away from the noise and smog of the city.

Unlike the streets, the nearby Marjane supermarket (picture a Walmart, but with wider aisles) was well signed and appeared to be a popular Sunday evening destination for Moroccan families. We waited several minutes for a parking spot. Inside the supermarket section of the store, a half-dozen varieties of bread, long shelves of boxed milk and cereal, a wine section, bag your own produce and have it weighed, and everything else we needed for our five night visit was waiting for our decisions. There were even young women offering free samples of coffee. We filled our cart and paid at a special checkout line for shoppers purchasing alcoholic beverages.

As we headed back to the *palmeraie*, I noticed the produce spilled across the right lane of the street first, then the overturned bicycle and the body, an apparent casualty of night driving. It was a sobering introduction to Morocco for my friends. We hadn't planned on driving after sunset, but our supermarket excursion had taken longer than expected, so we were maneuvering among the cars, trucks, bicycles, and donkey carts at dusk.

Monday morning we drove downtown. We made a few wrong turns, but eventually found the *Ensemble Artisanal*, where we priced handicrafts prior to getting into bargaining mode in

the medina. After lunch, we claimed the car from the *gardien de voitures* and headed for the Majorelle Garden and Museum of Islamic Art. With its collection of plants from around the world, vivid blue villa, and museum of carpets, jewelry, pottery and Majorelle's paintings, this was one of our favorite places in Morocco.

Tuesday's destination was Essaouira, a town I remembered as small and quiet, where I once bought a table directly from the woodworker. Now it's full of tourists and souvenir shops. Linda spotted a henna artist and decided to have her feet painted. When I was a PCV we used toothpicks to make intricate geometric henna designs on our hands; now the artist



Bobbie at a fantasia

uses a large syringe to paint vines and flowers. Lunch at the fishermen's stands was disappointing, and I'd opt for a restaurant next time. On the way back to Marrakech we spotted goats near an argan tree, and when we braked to the side of the road to photograph them, the goatherd picked up a protesting goat and set it on a branch. And I always thought the goats climbed up there by themselves!

Over the next two days, we explored more of Marrakech, visiting the restored Bahia Palace, shopping, reading email at a cybercafe (at a bargain rate of 10 DH an hour),

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watched the fantasia and fireworks at Chez Ali's folkloric/dinner show, and floated in the beautiful swimming pool in our resort. Wednesday and Thursday were holidays to celebrate the Prophet's Birthday and the birth of King Mohammed VI's son, Prince Moulay el Hassan.

Our drive to Fes was the longest day in the car, partly because we stopped in Khenifra to change money and waited in line at the cashier for an hour as shop keepers deposited receipts collected over the holidays. One woman had a suitcase full of currency that was put through the counting machine twice. I had hoped to explore Azrou and Ifrane, but we knew if we did, darkness would catch us before we got to Fez.

Finding our way to Bab Boujloud



With Khadija in Sidi Kacem

was a true Moroccan experience. We arrived in Fes at 7:00 p.m. on a Friday evening, a few hours after the king had departed. While we had mapped out our intended route through the ville nouvelle to the medina, people and cars crowded the streets and we couldn't see any signs. Two young men on a motor scooter drove up beside us and asked, "Which hotel?" When I responded, "Bab Boujloud," they said, "Follow us." Fifteen minutes later, we were at the gate and then drove on to another nearby gate with a large parking lot.

Eventually, we met up with our concierge/guide, Rachid, who took us to the Pasha Bagdadi Massriya, our home for the next two nights. Our rooms, which were on the upper two

floors of a building occupied by other families, were beautifully decorated with tilework and painted plaster. We had two bedrooms, a salon, a small kitchen area, and a four-person *hammam*, complete with scrubbing mitts, pumice, and bathrobes. From the terrace I looked out over Fes rooftops with their satellite dishes facing the southern horizon. Rachid spent most of the next day with us on a comprehensive tour. We enjoyed a wonderful lunch comprised of 16 different salads and appetizers, a tajine, dessert, and mint tea. Then we went rug shopping, and yes, we bought three.

When planning this trip, I decided I wanted to see Khadija el Menaoui, with whom I had worked at the foyer feminine in the village of Khenichet in 1967. I'd visited her for lunch at the

foyer in Zoumi during a brief visit to Morocco in 1975, but had since lost contact with her. I wrote her a short note and mailed it to her in Ouezzane, her family home, but without a street address because I didn't know it. Weeks later, I received

an email in French from Khadija. In my response to her, I said I'd call her from Marrakech, which I did. When I asked for her street address in Sidi Kacem, where she's now the director of the provincial delegation of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Khadija said I should call her from a *teleboutique* and she would find me.

From Fes we went the Roman ruins of Volubilis for an hour or so, and then headed for Sidi Kacem. Since our two prior encounters with printed telephone instructions had been so frustrating, I gave the number and my name to the *teleboutique* manager and he made the call. Khadija and her husband arrived in their car and we followed them home. What a lovely visit we had with the family! Fourteen-year-old Imane, just a

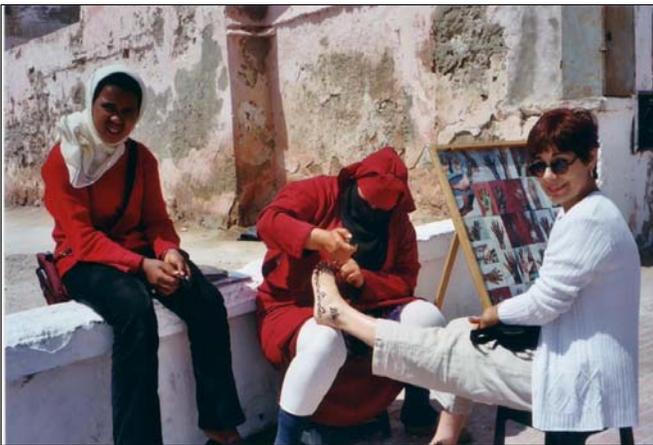
few years younger than Khadija was when she began working in the foyer, is studying English. We perused her lessons and sang the alphabet song. Between Imane's British accented English, Lois's self-taught French, and my rusty Arabic, we learned that Khadija and Mohamed, a college math teacher, own their apartment, Khadija made the pilgrimage to Mecca last year, and her mother had passed away earlier in the month. Khadija's nine-year-old son, Mohamed Reda, loves soccer, and Imane plans to study engineering. When I asked about a few of our Moroccan counterparts from the late '70s, Khadija told me that some are still working in the foyers. Of course, during all this conversation, we enjoyed the mint tea, cookies, kefta, eggs, and oranges that were set down before us.

We declined Khadija's invitation to spend the night in their home and continued on our planned itinerary, which included Khenichet, where I had worked for nearly a year. I knew about Morocco's population explosion in the cities, but I hadn't expected to see such growth in the villages. What had been a dusty crossroads with a post office, the foyer, my house, a souk wall, a school, the khalifa's office, and a few stores was now a bustling village several blocks long. My house, which used to be surrounded by a field of fava beans, isn't occupied and is sadly in need of whitewash.

We continued on past farms in the Oued Ouerrha valley and then headed north into the Rif to Chefchaouen, which I knew as just Chaouen in my PCV days. A guide introduced himself as we parked in the Plaza de Makhzen and helped us locate our hotel in the medina (90 DH each for a twin-bedded room with bath down the hall and a cooked breakfast on the roof terrace.) Said also made our dinner reservations and took us on an excellent tour the next morning. Chaouen is a photogenic location where women wearing red-and-white striped foutas are still seen in the streets. The medina buildings had just been blue-washed for the holidays, adding to the beauty of the town. My friends loved it and we wished we could have stayed longer.

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We reluctantly left Chaouen and drove out of the mountains down into the flat plain of the rharb. I wanted to find my house in Dar Gueddari, the second village of my three-year PCV tour, but it, like Khenichet, had grown, with more buildings along the road where few had been when I lived there. The brown buildings and rutted unpaved roads of the village were a sharp contrast to the comforting embrace of Chaouen. My friends expressed apprehension when I drove off the pavement, so we continued on without locating my house.



Henna tattoos in Essouira

Just outside Kenitra we entered the toll-road again. With a maximum speed limit of 120 km per hour, we exited off into Sale in no time. Once across the river, I got lost again. Although this had been a familiar route during my volunteer days, the huge trees along the road made everything seem unfamiliar. This time we saw street signs, but many of the street names weren't on our maps. Eventually, we found the Royal Hotel, where our rooms overlooked the park, in contrast to the fourth floor bathless rooms I'd slept in years before. Now the hotel has a restaurant for breakfast and dinner and a waiter who was very pleased to have guests with whom he could speak English. All over Morocco we met people, both men and women, who engaged us in English conversation. Some had been taught by Peace Corps Volunteers and others had attended U.S. universities.

Our first evening in Rabat we had

dessert first, ice cream at La Dolce Vita, which now serves only cones, no more Orange Givree or sundaes with chantilly that I had once enjoyed. We discovered that most of the floor space has been taken over by La Mamma, next door, where we dined on Italian food.

After visiting the Chellah the next morning, we found our way to the Archeology Museum, and were surprised to find it closed. The man at the door suggested we return at 1:00 to see the Salle des Bronzes and then helped us find a cyber café to pass the time. (Both cyber cafés we used, as well as others I

looked into, were managed by Moroccan women who spoke English.) When we returned to the museum after lunch, we had a private tour of the Roman artifacts that had been moved from Volubilis. We finished our tour of Rabat with tea and *kab el ghzal* in the Oudaia, where we watched youngsters surfing on the incoming waves in the late afternoon.

We drove on the toll road to Casablanca and got lost again trying to reach the corniche hotels in Ain Diab. We got there, however, and had a beautiful view of the Atlantic both from one of our rooms and the ground floor terrace. The only drawback of this hotel was bugs that left us covered with bites! Our sole tourist destination here was the nearby Hassan II mosque. We took an English language tour and admired the beautiful craftsmanship and materials, as well as the combination of high-tech mechanics to open the doors and roof and low-tech design, whereby the sea breeze moving over water channels in the floor cools the prayer hall.

As we tried to find our way to the airport the next morning, the traffic police stopped us for some infraction that was never explained. They provided directions when they discovered we were lost tourists, and eventually we arrived at the airport, only to find barricades across the road to "Departures". We parked the

car and I talked my way into a closed entrance of the terminal near the rental car office, while my friends with our luggage joined the pushing crowds at another entrance. I turned in the rental car, caught up my friends, and we spent our last few dirhams in the expensive tourist shops and snack bar.

The terrorist attack in Casablanca occurred the evening we arrived in Fes, but had we not heard about it from another tourist in Chaouen two days later, we might not have known about it until we saw newspaper headlines. None of the Moroccans we were with brought up the subject, and people on the streets and in public places didn't seem to be talking about it either. We might have thought the soldiers standing every few yards along the road near the Rabat airport and nearby military installations, as well as in the Casablanca airport were an everyday occurrence.

In the months leading up to our departure date, two women in the group had wavered about going. One asked if the Moroccans would turn on us if our country attacked Iraq. Another told me she was going to cancel. I assured them both that the Moroccans would welcome us, and they did.

We thoroughly enjoyed our travel in Morocco. Every trip has its favorite things. A few of ours were: pistachio yogurt, Guerrouane rouge wine, the Majorelle Gardens, Oulmes water, tajines, the hospitality of Khadija el Menaoui and her family, Chefchaouen, toll roads, the swimming pool at the Inclub Palmeraie resort, mint tea, the helpfulness of our guides, timeshare staff, and everyone else we met. The length and pace seemed right for first-time visitors. Each of my friends said they might visit Morocco again, and I hope to take another group in a year or two.



Morocco to Support Friendship Caravan Across the U.S.

The Kingdom of Morocco is to be in the forefront of a major international campaign aimed at beginning to heal the rift between America and the Islamic World, in the aftermath of September 11 attacks.

Michael Kirtley, a longtime friend of Morocco, is President of The Friendship Caravan, a US-based NGO committed to promoting media-friendly grass roots cross-cultural communication between Americans and the Arab World. Michael recently visited Morocco at the official invitation of the Ministry of Communication in order to follow up on the cordial relations he had already developed concerning the Caravan with Moroccan Ambassador H.E. Aziz Mekouar.

"In Rabat I met with several high officials from the Prime Minister's office, the Ministries of Culture and Tourism, and the Royal Palace, as well as with numerous journalists and business leaders," Michael reported. "The response was unanimously positive, and the commitment for Moroccan participation in the Caravan seems quite solid. I have been invited back in mid-August by the Royal Palace to hopefully announce the kingdom's official backing."

Morocco will join the Kingdom of Bahrain, which on July 20 became the first Arab country to officially announce its sponsorship of The Friendship Caravan. Michael had traveled to Bahrain accompanied by Advisory Board member Linda Smythe at the invitation of Crown Prince Shaikh Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa.

Beginning in California in late Spring 2004, The Friendship Caravan will travel from coast-to-coast across the USA in a high-profile convoy of people, animals, educational and cultural events and high-tech interactive exhibits. After traversing the American Far West, Texas, Deep South, Midwest and New England, the Caravan will end a full calendar year later in Washington, DC.

There is also a pilot project set for Gaithersburg and Montgomery County, Maryland in October 2003.

Bahrain is sending a delegation of around fifty musicians, artists, intellectuals, business leaders, women leaders, artists, and educators, to take part in the Pilot Caravan, which will include a special focus on outreach to schools and discussion about the role of Arab women.

The proposed Pilot Caravan program in Maryland includes:

- * A business roundtable between businesses in Maryland and Washington, DC, and those in Morocco.
- * An internationally-televised satellite teleconference between students in Montgomery County, Maryland and students in Morocco
- * A major music concert of American and Arab musicians.
- * Cultural festivities, town meetings and roundtables.

The City of Gaithersburg has already opened its doors by officially agreeing to host the pilot. Rotary clubs, both in America and abroad, are among the organizations that partner with the Caravan organization.

"The Friendship Caravan will provide an opportunity to showcase Arab culture and modern development to Americans, and American hospitality to Arabs" said Michael, "at a time when misconceptions are blurring understanding on both sides.

As one of the closest friends of America, Morocco will be able to participate in a variety of ways. Already under discussion are a series of five or six 'weeks of Morocco' in a variety of cities across America. This should help promote trust and bridge-building, quite useful in light of the negotiations for a free-trade agreement."

Moroccans are expected to be among the participants in the October event, which will also feature satellite teleconferences between schools in Maryland and those in selected Arab nations, notably in Morocco.

"The key word about the Caravan is 'positive'," explained Michael. "We will focus on those areas where our lives can be mutually enriched in a non-aggressive, non-political environment. Millions of people around the world will join in on the experience through the Internet and worldwide media exposure."

"Employing the time-honored communication icon of a slowly-advancing caravan, we will set out from west to east across the US, visiting at least 100 cities in one year."

Events will kick off with a "Friendship Festival" organized in Arab countries yet to be chosen, with the send-off of the Caravaneers as they begin their journey to the departure point in southern California.

"We hope that one of these nations will be Morocco, one of the best official friends of the US," said Michael, who lived in Casablanca and Meknes for several years before embarking on a successful career as an international photojournalist.

"In view of the Embassy 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" said FOM President Tim Resch. Contact FOM if you would like to work on this effort as it travels across the US. More details of the campaign are available on the website www.friendshipcaravan.org



Camels bring together HE Aziz Mekouar, Embassy of Morocco (center), Michael Kirtley of the Friendship Caravan and Southern Baptist leadership in Tennessee

It's a Boy: Crown Prince Moulay Al-Hassan

RABAT, May 8 - The Ministry of the Royal Household, Protocol and Chancellery announced in a release the birth on Thursday, 6th of Rabii I, corresponding to May 8th, 2003 at 6h40 A.M. of HRH Crown Prince Moulay Al-Hassan. H.M. King Mohammed VI decided to name the Crown Prince, Moulay Al-Hassan, after his august father the Late King Hassan II.

The Ministry said the newborn and his mother, HRH Princess Lalla Salma, are well and in perfect health.

The North African kingdom of Morocco burst into celebration Thursday after the royal palace announced that Her Royal Highness Lalla Salma, wife of Morocco's King Mohammed VI, had given birth to a son.

The announcement of the birth

early Thursday of the crown prince of Morocco, who was named Moulay Al Hassan "after his august grandfather, His Majesty Hassan II", was greeted by the palace guard with a 101-gun salute.

National television interrupted programming to announce the news to viewers, as traditional folk music played in the background.

The Moroccan capital has been decorated with lights, posters of a smiling Mohammed VI and flowers since the beginning of the week, ready to welcome the addition to the royal family.

The youthful monarch, then 38, married 24-year-old computer technician Salma Bennani in a private ceremony last year.

The Moroccan royal baby is the latest in a long line of Alaouite sovereigns. The Alaouite dynasty has ruled Morocco since the reign of Moulay

Rachid (1664-1672) and its monarchs are said to be direct descendants of the Prophet Mohammed.



His Majesty King Mohammed VI and Princess Lalla Salma with their new son, Crown Prince Moulay Al-Hassan, born May 8th, 2003

USA and Morocco Negotiate Free Trade Agreement

The United States and the Kingdom of Morocco Negotiate Free Trade Agreement as Old Friends with New Priorities. In an April 23, 2002, White House ceremony, President George W. Bush and His Majesty (HM) King Mohammed VI of the Kingdom of Morocco jointly announced the intention of the two historically close nations to secure a Free Trade Agreement. A U.S.-Morocco Free Trade Agreement will be the culmination of a long history of economic cooperation that includes the 1991 U.S.-Morocco Bilateral Investment Treaty and the 1995 Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA).

Round 1 of the negotiations took place in late January of this year in Washington, DC; Round 2 in late March in Geneva, Switzerland; and Round 3 in Morocco's capital city of Rabat in early June, only two weeks after the deadly Casablanca terrorist attacks. Round 4 of these negotiations began on July 21 in Washington, DC. Sources within the respective negotiating teams, as well as senior US and Moroccan officials, have indicated that the parties expect to reach agreement on remaining contentious

issues in the very near future, with a ratified Agreement in place before the end of the year likely.

U.S. products entering Morocco currently face an average tariff of over 20 percent, while Moroccan products are subject to an average tariff of 4 percent as they enter the United States. The elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade between the United States and Morocco will boost bilateral trade flows and stimulate economic growth. It will also lock in and advance important economic reforms in Morocco, and level the playing field for U.S. exporters, farmers, and workers.

A U.S.-Morocco FTA will increase access to the Moroccan services sector for American firms. There are likely to be opportunities for U.S. firms in the fields of telecommunications, tourism, energy, entertainment, transport, financial services and insurance.

Secretary of Commerce Donald Evans believes that a Free Trade Agreement with Morocco "will strengthen the economic ties between our two countries. It will open up economic opportunities here in Morocco. It will mean more jobs. It will mean better jobs. It will mean a growing economy."

The primary goals of the U.S. negotiators in the FTA talks include the elimination of tariffs and other duties on trade between Morocco and the United States on the broadest possible basis, the improvement of intellectual property rights protection, and the elimination of barriers in Morocco's services markets.

A Free Trade Agreement with the United States, with its emphasis on the rule of law, improved competition and trade liberalization, would enhance and solidify these reforms. The proposed FTA would support Morocco's commitment to transparency, openness, the rule of law, and environmental protection.

Lead American FTA negotiator, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Novelli, explained that the U. S. and Morocco "share common goals in moving forward with an agreement that supports the economic reforms that His Majesty and the government have begun; creates economic opportunities for Moroccans and for US citizens; and results in raising the standard of living for both of our countries."

Growing Poppies

By Scott Taylor (Beni Mellal 80-83)

I had prepared myself for anything, a Peace Corps (i.e. Norman-Oklahoma) fish culture volunteer trait that has always served me well. One thing I am not good at is maintaining contacts and because of that I had no idea if the fishponds I dug into a bare field outside Beni Mellal as a fish volunteer from 1980 to 1983 still existed or were growing poppies. My trip from March 30 to April 13, 2003 was about more than fishponds, however, and I expected to have a good time regardless. Morocco is beautiful in the spring, poppies were blooming, maybe in my fish ponds, too. (Coincidentally this was the time period during the Iraq war that the volunteers went to a level two emergency preparedness and then were subsequently evacuated.)

Information at Peace Corps Rabat was not encouraging and the status of the ponds was either unknown or they were thought to be defunct. Our trip involved a wide circle around Beni Mellal anyway and we set about seeing as much as possible, including Merzouga which was the only new destination for me. The small and mid size towns have all grown so much that most were hardly recognizable. In Azrou, I located the fish hatchery in town and was in for the first pleasant surprise. I was remembered! What a great feeling. After photos and catching up, I was shown where the facility has set up a series of aquariums and a poster board presentation that includes the history of carp culture in Morocco. They were talking about us! Us being the original

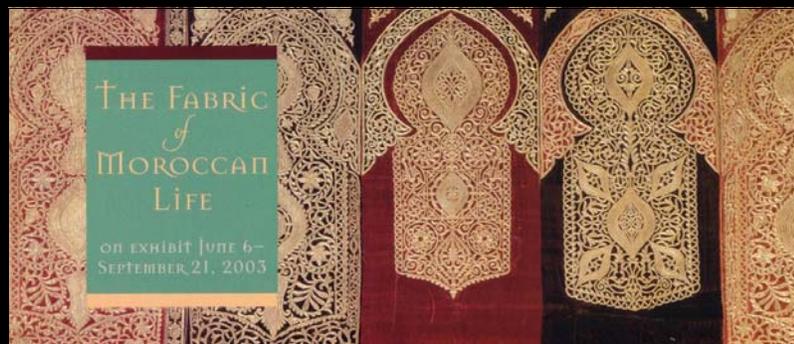
five guys who were scattered about the country in predetermined locations thought to have fish culture potential. Two of us were assigned to Beni. We volunteers, or even Peace Corps, were not named, but I knew that I was reading about a bit of my history in that dimly lit room. I was informed that my ponds in Beni were alive and well and encouraged to see for myself.

It took one week to get to the ponds. As anxious as I was, the week was made more enjoyable by the knowledge that I had left a mark on Morocco which gave me a sense of belonging, even in the dunes of Merzouga. As we descended towards Beni from Azilal, my plans for an announced visit to the ponds was quickly forgotten. The "only" road lead straight there. The area around the Deroua reserve that held the station was the same, no it was different, no the same. I had to stop twice to ask directions and became more pumped up when people responded with confident replies of "yes there is a place near here where they raise fish in ponds". The small village guarding the access road had not changed much and the road leading to the station had changed for the worse. The beautiful thick forests and citrus orchards that had once surrounded the open field where we placed the ponds were gone, victims of the long drought. A concrete sign announced "Fish Culture Station". I didn't recognize anything. They had small buildings and trees and so much thick green grass! And acres of water! The only poppies here were growing on the pond dykes. There was something

I could orient myself by, our original pile of excavated soil had grown enormously, but there it was.

Our timing was perfect. The boss was in. Mohammed Drousi has been running the station for much of the past ten years, wrapped around a stint at Auburn University for a Masters degree. When we arrived, they were preparing a shipment of fingerling silver carp for a trip to a university laboratory in Rabat. There was a stripping operation for silver carps taking place, too. All this was happening in a very well equipped, fully functional, really *zween* fish hatchery. After the rush of activity died down, Mohammed gave me the royal tour so to speak. He was reluctant to reveal the fate of our original 5 ponds because they had been redeveloped into one large one. To be honest I wish that I could have looked on the originals, but the original feeder canal was there, and there was our pile of dirt, right next to it. They now have 15 large ponds and 5 smaller ones. The station recently put in a 90 meter well. The station produces black bass, and three species of carps, which are supplied to Moroccan reservoirs, and two private fish stations. The fish assist in programs to remove plants and algae from lakes with eutrophication problems. The fish also supplement the local peoples diet and income. Cooperative extension of fish culture, the original plan, has not been implemented.

Morocco is the same and at the same time a much different place than I experienced as I flew in on my 22 birthday. I know that that describes me as well. 20 years is much too long to be away from Morocco.



(Continued from page 1)

crisis. The Moroccan public turned out in large numbers for anti-war protests against the Iraq war, including one in the capital, Rabat, in March that drew 200,000 people. King Mohammed VI had expressed concern the war could rouse the country's Islamic fundamentalist movement.

US Congress Voices Solidarity with Morocco following terrorist attacks

The US Congress voiced in early June solidarity with Morocco following the terrorist suicide bombing attacks that occurred on May 16, 2003, in Casablanca, and called on the United States government to continue to work with the Kingdom of Morocco as an ally in the fight against terrorism. In a resolution introduced in the House of Representatives the day after the terrorist attacks, the House expressed condolences to the families of the victims and expressed its hopes for a quick recovery to those individuals who were injured in the attacks. The House "supports the provision of appropriate United States assistance to the people of Morocco in this time of sorrow and grief" and "calls on the United States Government to continue to work with the Kingdom of Morocco as an ally in the fight against terrorism". The resolution which states that "Casablanca is a city well-known for its tolerance and its diverse range of religious and ethnic communities" adds that "the United States will continue to stand together with the Kingdom of Morocco against the threat of international terrorism to both our nations and all peace-loving people".

"The United States deeply appreciates the leadership shown by King Mohamed VI and the Kingdom of Morocco in the international campaign against terrorism" says the resolution recalling that "Morocco and the United States have engaged in friendly diplomatic relations since 1786 and Morocco has proved its commitment to the United States many times over the past two centuries". Noting that Morocco "has chosen the path of diversity and tolerance", the resolution says "the acts of murder committed on May 16, 2003, in Casablanca, Morocco, show once again that terrorism respects neither boundaries nor borders". The resolution was introduced by Republican Lincoln Diaz-Balart of Florida and other house members including Democrat John Tanner, and republican Phil English.

More than one million and half people march against terrorism in Casablanca

More than one million and half people marched in Casablanca on Sunday, May 25 in protest against the spate of terrorist attacks that hit the city on May 16th, according to organizers and police services. The march started at 9:10 am in front of the Farah Hotel, one of the five targets of the

terrorist attacks. Marchers, who chanted the national anthem, were brandishing Moroccan flags, pictures of terrorist attacks' victims, as well as streamers bearing slogans such as "No to Terrorism," "Do Not Touch My Country," "Terrorism Will Not Prevail," and "Death to the enemy: Our King has the people behind him." With the exception of the Islamists, all Moroccan parties took part to the march, along with NGOs and the civil society. The March was broadcast live on Morocco's two television stations: TVM and 2M.

The killers

Assirat Al Moustakim, or the Righteous Path, had embraced an austere form of Islam that took law and judgment into its own hands. The devout young men worked on the premise that anyone not following the tenets of Islam should be punished in public, even waiting up at night to catch drinkers and womanisers walking home. The *Assirat al Moustaquim* group hit local headlines in February 2002 when some of its members stoned to death a man in Sidi Moumen.

It wasn't until the Righteous Path's own *jihad*, or struggle, crossed paths with a larger international one commanded by Osama bin Laden that mass slaughter became possible, according to Moroccan officials, Western diplomats and locals.

Early results of the investigation show that the bombers were not highly trained - an indication of how easy it is for terror networks to turn disenchanted young men into time bombs. The 15 terrorists involved were all native sons--20 to 24-year-old residents of the desperately poor neighborhood of Sidi Moumen in eastern Casablanca, one of many shanty towns that ring Moroccan cities.

Sidi Moumen, a fast-growing district of some 200,000 people on the outskirts of Casablanca, includes areas of modest apartment blocks and sections of stone and corrugated iron shacks jumbled together as far as the eye can see. The cry of the *muezzin* calling Muslims to prayer at the nearby mosque rings out over the shanty town, where poverty and unemployment are rife. The shacks, separated by narrow winding paths packed with children and teenagers, have electricity but no running water.

To carry out the Casablanca attacks, Straight Path selected Sidi Moumen residents without police records or previous involvement with radical Islam, according to Moroccan authorities. The operatives were radicalized and trained for their suicide mission in a mere four months. Some had been sent abroad for instruction ahead of the strike--possibly to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates or the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. Moroccan officials also say there's evidence some bombers may have visited

(Continued on page 21)

Thank You!

Merci!

شكرًا

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

Ellen Brown

Gordon Gray

Nina Cusick

(Continued from page 20)

Afghanistan, to receive guidance from al-Qaeda officials.

Officials say most of the bombers were undereducated, unemployed and without hope of escaping Sidi Moumen's dilapidated, crowded, refuse-strewn streets—oases of despair where joblessness exceeds the estimated national rate of 20% and illiteracy runs over 50%. Such conditions are easily exploited by radical Islamist groups like the outlawed *Salafia Jihadia* and its offshoot *Assirat al Moustaqim*, which officials say recruited the bombers. "That's a major contrast with Islamist networks in the Gulf and Middle East, which rely mostly on the educated, cultivated upper-middle and affluent classes for members," notes a French terrorism official. "The Casablanca attackers were closer to [convicted shoe bomber] Richard Reid."

Prosecutions

Justice Minister Mohammed Bouzoubaa said that more than 700 suspected Islamic militants are involved in legal proceedings for activities linked to terrorism. He promised "fair and equitable" trials.

52 are to be tried under Morocco's brand new terrorism law that went into effect in June and includes the death penalty for anyone found guilty of murder. In early July, a Moroccan court sentenced 10 Islamic extremists to death for their roles in a series of murders, thefts and attacks over a four-year period.

Some of the defendants are suspected of a direct role in the Casablanca bombings, while others are suspected of preparing attacks in other Moroccan cities including the tourist haunts of Marrakech, Agadir and Essaouira. All are thought to belong to the clandestine *Salafia Jihadia* group that Moroccan authorities have linked to the al-Qaeda network of Osama bin Laden.

The defendants are all charged with "constituting a criminal association, attacking internal state security, sabotage, voluntary homicide and intentional damage causing injury and permanent invalidity." The first called was Mohammed el Osmani, 24, a night-watchman who allegedly was meant to be a 13th bomber but who lost his nerve shortly before his colleagues blew themselves up at hotels, clubs and restaurants. The defendants were mostly in their 20s or early 30s, bearded and wearing long, gray Afghan-style robes.

The alleged mastermind of the suicide bombings, Abdelhaq Bentassir, died in custody at the end of May of heart and liver failure on the third day of intense questioning.

A Paris-based human rights group said it was concerned about reports indicating police in Morocco were using torture and beatings in their investigations into terrorism. Delegates of the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues (FIDH), on a July 12-19 visit to Morocco, heard that of thousands of people questioned since deadly suicide bombings in May, some were kept in jail for weeks and mistreated by police. "It was brought to the knowledge of the FIDH delegation that harsh treatment and torture (beatings, electrocution, sexual abuse) have been practiced over the course of police investigations," the FIDH said in a statement. The rights group said two people died in suspicious

circumstances after interrogation, some trials were conducted without witness hearings and the death sentence was pronounced on the basis of insufficient investigations or charges. Detention conditions in some jails had also become harsher since the May 16 bombings, with cramped cells, no newspapers and restricted family visits, it said.

Human rights activists in Morocco and abroad have already voiced concerns about the implementation of new anti-terrorism legislation and a perceived regression in civil liberties. Morocco changed its penal code at the start of the year to extend the time police can hold suspects to beyond 48 hours when national security is involved, in a bid to combat terrorism.

External connections

The bombers responsible for the attacks in Casablanca in had direct ties to Al Qaeda and were part of a network of Islamic extremists planning other operations in the country, a Moroccan official said. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said an investigation has shown that the suicide bombers took orders from Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, a Jordanian fugitive believed to be a lieutenant of Al Qaeda chief Usama bin Laden. "This network was in direct operational relation with the leaders of Al Qaeda," said the official, who is close to the investigation. German officials say al-Zarqawi, who is also known as Ahmed al-Kalaylah, was an Al Qaeda commander appointed to orchestrate attacks on Europe.

The investigation also showed that some 300 Moroccans trained in Al Qaeda camps in Afghanistan and Pakistan before returning to the North African nation in late 2001 to plot terrorist attacks on Moroccan soil, the official said. Authorities had intelligence early this spring that attacks were being planned, and placed the country under maximum terrorist alert in March, the official said. "We had intelligence of an imminent terrorist action targeting notably Casablanca," the official said.

Pierre Robert, a Frenchman who converted to Islam and trained at Afghanistan-based Al Qaeda camps and an explosives expert, was taken into custody two weeks after the May 16 attacks. Prosecutors last week dropped their case against him in connection with the Casablanca attacks after the investigation showed he was not directly involved. However, Robert still faces a trial for suspected involvement in plotting attacks in Fez and Tangiers.

Literacy campaign dubbed "Massirat Ennour" (March for Light)

Illiteracy is a brake to Morocco's development and a national issue, Moroccan minister in charge of public sector modernization, Najib Zerouali, said. The official, who was speaking at the launch of a nationwide campaign to fight illiteracy, urged all citizens to get involved in the nationwide drive to fight this handicap to human resources development. Part of the campaign, "March towards Light", thousands of people, mostly adults, will follow courses in a bid to downsize illiteracy that hits 12 million

(Continued on page 22)

(Continued from page 21)

Moroccans. The minister underlined that the development of communities is not measured according to economic criteria but also based on social indicators such as the level of education among adults. According to Zerouali, 48 percent of Morocco's population are illiterate. The rate is higher among females (62%) and rural population (67%). Nearly two million children aged 9 to 12 years are out of school, he said. Morocco seeks to bring down the alarming rate of illiteracy to 20% in 2010 before eradicating it completely by 2015. The 2003 anti-illiteracy campaign, an endeavor associating all the Moroccan society components, consists of four programs: the general literacy campaign that will target 570,000 recipients, a program by public bodies for 146,000 persons, activities by associations for 269,000 persons and plan carried out by private enterprises for 15,000 recipients.

The prime minister had stressed that the campaign marks the start of a battle against illiteracy and school dropping, noting that after 47 years of independence, illiteracy has only slightly regressed. He cited "alarming and shocking figures" that 12 million Moroccans are illiterate, particularly women (3 out of 5) and in rural areas (2 out of 3).

Planned some time ago, the literacy campaign had been due to be launched in the first week of May until ministers' scheduling problems caused yet another postponement, said *L'Opinion* newspaper. Then came the Casablanca bombings, and the literacy campaign's launch by Prime Minister Driss Jettou took on extra urgency. Along with slum-housing and youth unemployment, illiteracy is the topic of the moment as Moroccans attempt to understand what drove young men to go so far as to kill.

The official ascribed the weak results of past years literacy campaigns to pedagogical reasons, lack of means, infrastructures and supervisors, in addition to programs' incompatibility with people's needs.

She also deplored the quasi-total absence of enterprises' support to literacy programs and the "weak contribution" of the civil society and governmental partners, underscoring that a national symposium on the issue is scheduled in October with the collaboration of the World Bank.

Political Implications

Western diplomats, while praising King Mohammed VI for moving toward a more inclusive political system - and working with Islamic parties - fear Morocco may stand at a crossroads between democracy and theocracy. The government now has the delicate task of fighting religious-inspired terror and moving ahead with plans to allow Islamists to run more candidates in local elections this September. Moroccans fear they may have the worst of both worlds: the strain of jihadist militancy rooted in the affluent nations of the Middle East, and the vast, economically stricken populations from which al-Qaeda networks have so effectively recruited in the West.

None of this reassures Moroccans about the future. The goals of greater democracy and tolerance of all religions are at the heart of King Mohammed VI's social program, but there is now ample reason for the government to crack down on Islamist groups, and a long-stalled antiterrorism law—decried as authoritarian and repressive—got new life in the wake of the attack. Even before the bombings, expected advances by Morocco's two Islamic parties led the government to postpone nationwide local elections slated for June.

Moroccan democracy might be further undermined if foreign tourists and investors steer clear of the country and deprive it of resources needed to battle poverty. That "would have dire consequences for everyone," warns Andre Azoulay, an adviser to Mohammed VI. "It would demonstrate that Western examples of democracy, plurality and economic modernity couldn't be applied to the world's most progressive Arab state—and indeed aren't compatible with Arab society. The only people who would benefit from that are the Islamist radicals."

Moroccans are desperate to prevent that: millions of employees respected a five-minute work stoppage Friday to pray for victims of the attacks, and hundreds of thousands marched denouncing religious extremism and terror. Now Morocco and the world must demonstrate to people like those in Sidi Moumen that they have more to live for than kill for—and then begin to make the same point in Arab and European ghettos where radical Islamists cultivate jihad.

The Moroccan government has vowed to push ahead with an ambitious plan to expand tourism, despite the suicide attacks in Casablanca. As the country counts the costs to its image from the worst bombings in a decade, senior officials said development of tourism would remain a pillar of economic strategy to lift rates of growth.

The difficult social conditions contribute to the disillusion and radicalization of youth, a problem given added urgency by the attacks, waged by young Moroccans.

The government has been promoting a US\$9 billion tourism development plan, aiming to mobilize public and private investment to lift the number of visitors to 10m by 2010 from 2.4m. It has issued tenders for five new coastal resorts, each expected to add 20,000 beds.

But local tourist operators shrugged off the threat to the industry. The Minister of Tourism, Adil Douiri, has initiated a campaign to reassure tourists that extra security measures have been taken to protect public places and tourist entry points.

He told *Agence France Presse* that the attacks had had no effect on the number of tourists, since Casablanca was very much a secondary destination compared to Agadir or Marrakech, which alone attract two thirds of the trade.

Royal Air Maroc backed the minister up, in a statement which said it had not registered a falling off in charter or schedule passengers and it had not had to cancel flights.

Compiled by Tim Resch from News Sources such as *Maghreb Arab Press*, *Reuters*, *Associated Press*, and the *London Financial Times*.

Time to Join Friends of Morocco

Been a while since you have seen the Friends of Morocco newsletter? Check the mailing label. You may not be a member of Friends of Morocco. This newsletter, at considerable expense, is mailed out to all known domestic addresses, member or not. We do this mailing periodically in order to give non-members a sample for their membership consideration. With postal returns, we also keep our mailing list current.

If you are interested in Moroccan-American friendship and staying abreast on Morocco, Moroccans and Americans with experience and interest in Morocco, then your paid membership will provide us the support necessary to accomplish our goals. You also have the option of supporting the National Peace Corps Association. A membership application is enclosed in this newsletter and is available for download from our web site at <www.friendsofmorocco.org>.

Friends of Morocco has a database with the names of almost 3200 persons, most of whom were Peace Corps volunteers in Morocco. Over 4000 people have served in Morocco over the last 40 years. We have valid addresses for about 2300. Below are the names for some 900 persons with whom we have lost contact. If you know the location of any of these people, please let us know (tresch@att.net) and we will put them on our mailing list so that old friends can locate them and we can let them know that Friends of Morocco exists.

Erin Bolton	00 02	Sonia M Peter	93 95	Amy Maher	88 91	Scott Neyhard	84 84
Edward Rapp	99 99	Steve Carlson	93 96	Vera E Fowinkle	88 90	Susan Hensel	84 85
Barbara A Byrnes	99 01	Julie K Zimmerman Berg	93 95	Carol Giblin Lanyi	88 88	Margaret Schneidman	84 85
Jill Pennington	99 01	Jill Johnson	93 93	Paul C DeLeo	88 89	David P King	84 85
Susan M Appe	99 01	Carolyn J Ioakimedes	93 96	Richard Ross	88 99	Eric Roy	84 85
Alana Evans	98 00	Angela M DiGeorge	93 95	Andrea L FirpoRddad	87 89	Larry Jonas	84 84
Don Youngblood	98 00	Wendy G Crook and Najib		James Wydick	87 89	Colleen Hyde	84 84
Tricia Hersey	98 98	Ramzi	93 96	Lynn Hadley	87 89	Mark Ketcham	84 85
Raquel E Samson	97 99	Pamela B Stephenson	92 94	Sven Morgan	87 89	Donna El	84 86
Sara Heath	97 97	Abdor-Razzaq Ahmed	92 92	Denise Payne	87 89	Cindy Martin	84 86
Michael Kusch	97 99	Lynn A Kalsched	92 95	Joseph Gagnon	87 89	LaVonna Wilson	84 86
Molly Procise	97 99	Steven E Velling	92 93	James Cook	87 89	Michael Wilson	84 87
Kathleen Stolle	97 98	Barbara Porter	92 94	Laura Mills	87 89	Kelly Owen	84 86
John Farino	97 99	James Eric Davey	92 93	Charlotte Glisson	87 89	Charles Kalishek	84 87
Jennifer Cole	96 98	Stephen Reed	92 94	Annette Daoud	87 89	Michael B Easley	84 87
Chevalier Dyson	96 96	Brian Buehler	92 94	Mary A Taylor	87 90	John E Jr McConnell	84 86
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Scott Williams	93 97	Patricia A Copeland	88 90	Loren J Williams	85 87	David W Hahn	83 85
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In Memoriam: John Petrarca (Ouarzazate 75-77)



John Petrarca, a Tribeca, NY resident and architect whose design work and public advocacy put a mark on his neighborhood, died Friday, May 9 at his

home on Reade St. at the age of 51. He died from lung cancer, which he had for two years, said his wife, Sarah C. Bartlett.

John Petrarca served in Ouarzazate. Nan Jackson RPCV Ouarzazate from 1975 to 1977 said, "I'm sure I speak for

all of those who served with John as Peace Corps volunteers that we will remember him with great fondness and admiration."

John was given considerable responsibility in his work as a Peace Corps volunteer, designing government buildings and seeing them built. Later, and for most of his professional life, he worked as an architect with his own firm in New York City, married to Sarah Bartlett. His work has been featured recently in *Natural Home* magazine (January/February 2003 issue *Eco-Building from Tribeca to Boulder*) and

Dwell magazine (June 2003 issue, with emphasis on the geothermal heating of his home, the first in Manhattan's history).

In addition to his wife, who is a business journalism professor at Baruch College, two children, a daughter, Emilia, 11 and a son, Ian, 8, also survive. His mother, of West Vandergrift, Pa.; two brothers, Daniel of Colorado, and Carl, of Vandergrift, and a sister, Mary Ann Greenlee of New Kensington, Pa. also survive.

Volunteers Needed for Friends of Morocco Projects

Bab Dar to the internet: Bab Dar is the Peace Corps Morocco-produced phrase book for Moroccan dialectical Arabic. FOM has permission to transcribe it to the web. The volunteer needs a scanner and skills with word processing or web software to copy the pages and to work the images/text into a downloadable document or a set of web pages.

Yellow Pages validation and rework: The first part of this task would be internet research to validate the listings in the FOM yellow pages at <http://home.att.net/~morocco/yello.html> and to add other appropriate listings. The second part of the task would be to rework the listings into a more intuitive and accessible publication/web site.

Lost volunteer search: This involves internet directory and search engine work to locate lost volunteers for whom once had valid addresses. Focus would be on those names uncommon in the US. Work could involve long distance telephoning to confirm contact so volunteer should have free national minutes. While we have points of contact for several year of service groups (See >links>Personal Home Pages- FOM members Groups), we could use additional volunteers to dig out your old stage directories and COS lists and track down your old

community.

Moroccan image collection: This task could take many forms 1) Start would be to improve on the FOM web page Images of Morocco at <http://home.att.net/~morocco/Souk/images.htm> identifying other collections. 2) Subject matter classification of quality images on Morocco already on the web via links; 3) Collection from members of quality slides and digital images that could be made available, with credit to the photographer, as thumbnails on the FOM web site and for purchase as full quality images with revenue to support FOM.

Web site improvement: Almost every part of the FOM web site could benefit from a focused review of content, especially development education, souk and links, removing out of date and dead pages, evaluating potential content, and organizing content logically.

Newsletter contributions: Write an article or do a series for the Newsletter. We have the Dan Cahill "Morocco at the Movies" series and it looks like we have a successor to Kimeo Carr's series "Our man in Morocco". M'hamid El Kadi continues to do a great job in finding content for the web site "Week in Review: News clips from Morocco" and the companion "Rolling monthly Newsletter". Noting the popularity of "Ash Khabarna", it would be nice to have

in each newsletter issue a more in-depth member profile.

Organize local chapter or year of service gatherings: The FOM database can provide names of Americans with a Morocco-connection and Moroccans in America in your geographical area. Maybe it is time to reconvene the circle. Decide to do it and you will find volunteers to help. The 1980 TEFL Stage reunion (see page 3) is a great example.

E-Bay coordinator: Friends of Morocco, as a 501c3 nonprofit, could accept donations of Moroccan arts and crafts (you know, the priceless stuff from Morocco in your attics and basements). We could sell it on E-bay or at national NPCA gatherings such as the next NPCA conference in Chicago in 2004 and use the proceeds for charities in Morocco (or as FOM core support/ unrestricted funds). For E-bay, we would just need a general coordinator familiar with effective use of E-bay. All we would need are digital photos made and descriptions sent to a coordinator who would manage the auction and then the donor could simply ship to the buyer.

If you would like to volunteer to assist in any of these tasks, contact Tim Resch at tresch@att.net or 703 660 9292.

Our Man in Morocco: Uncertainty

By Kimeo Carr

Editor's note: Kimeo Carr, "Our Man in Morocco" wrote this last installment of his "Our Man In Morocco" series before being evacuated from Morocco in April 2003

The other week, I heard a Robin Williams CD and on one of the tracks he began with, "We are living in troubled times." Well that is certainly an understatement for the volunteers here in Morocco. My stage endured September 11 (at least the people who are left), we witnessed the invasion of Afghanistan, albeit from a distance, and

now we are faced with the possibility of war with Iraq. Of all the times I decided to join the Peace Corps, never did I expect the above upheavals to occur, but then again that is life, full of surprises.

As a volunteer, you are expected to be flexible and accept the unknown throughout your service. If you are unable to manage the unknown and uncertainty of your service then you simply go home. Unfortunately, the equation of uncertainty has just anted up; the possibility of war has been on the minds of many volunteers. I cannot imagine what the newbies are thinking

about, scheduled to arrive here on February 5, 2003. Trying to manage being a volunteer and faced with the possibility of not finishing your service is really a scary prospect. Many people outside of Peace Corps will not be able to understand the attachment you develop once you reach that second year status. The many days of being lonely, but knowing that you will make it to the next day. Learning a new language and sounding much of the time like a child in a room full of adults. Finally, reaching a comfort zone that allows you to be, just you.

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Ijtimaa 2003 RPCV Morocco Reunion in Kansas City, MO June 13-15

Over 100 returned Peace Corps volunteers, family and friends journeyed to Kansas City, MO for reunion and sharing on June 13-15, 2003. The event was organized by Dan Dillon (Safi 93-95) and Ed Hermann (Safi 93-95).

An opening reception on Friday night allowed attendees to meet each other and plan their weekend. Ample time was made available for personal conversations and exploring the city. The High Atlas Foundation (HAF) Board of Directors used the time to have their first Board Meeting.

On Saturday afternoon, the Nelson-Atkins Art Museum hosted a screening of *Bab Al-Sama Maftuh* (A Door the Sky)," a critically acclaimed film about a Moroccan woman's quest to preserve her cultural and religious identity directed by Farida Ben Lyziad. Ann Brubaker (Casablanca/Marrakech

64-66) is the Museum Administrator. Mr. Hassan Hami, Minister Counselor and Deputy Charge of Mission of the Embassy of Morocco to the US discussed the film, the Moroccan film industry and Morocco today in his remarks after the film. The film was followed by a reception in the museum's charming Rozelle Court sponsored by the High Atlas Foundation.

That evening, an excellent Moroccan feast was presented. Jason Ben-Meir, President of the High Atlas Foundation, spoke during dinner on behalf of the HAF. The foundation was created by Peace Corps Volunteers and staff who served in Morocco. Its founders utilize their professional relationships, friendships and knowledge gained during their years of Peace Corps service for the continued benefit of the Moroccan people. Additionally, Tim Resch, President of Friends of Morocco provided

reunion attendees with an update on recent FOM activity and opportunities.

Ijtimaa 2004 will be in conjunction with the biennial meeting of the National Peace Corps Association, which will be held in Chicago, IL, August 5-8, 2004. Our own Trina Janes (Sidi Addi/Azrou 91-93), 2004 NPCA Conference Organizer for Chicago Area Peace Corps Association (CAPCA). Special times are being set aside for country of service activities, especially Friday evening, 8/6, for country of service events at local ethnic restaurants and Saturday afternoon, 8/7, for country of service updates. Thom Anderson (Rich 91-95) is the Friends of Morocco Coordinator. Contact him at tk-anderson@mailcity.com or 309 833 3639 if you would like to volunteer to help out or have ideas to make it a better event.

(Continued from page 27)

Yes, I volunteered for this service, and accepted responsibility for any outcomes that may occur; I just have to trust that those outcomes will be the best decision for me at this time in my life. I have come this far in my service, unscathed and will hopefully continue after the Corps unscathed. God, has brought me this far, and will continue to bless me further as I move onto the next adventure. I am not making light of the situation, and know that people have different belief systems, but one thing that remains constant is that throughout the upheavals that have impact my service, a higher power has saw fit to keep me and my fellow volunteers safe.

It is very hard to convey how we feel here in Morocco. Many people at home, in America, fear for our lives, rightfully so, but from our point of view, we are safe in our Moroccan communities. Many of us have forged relationships that will last a lifetime. After all, if none of us felt safe in this country, even after September 11, we would have returned to America in a New York minute! Many volunteers left after September 11, but a small group remained to forge a support system

and camaraderie amongst each other that will last forever.

As of April 3, 2003, all of the volunteers were evacuated to Washington, DC. Once the war began, the Country Director felt it necessary to consolidate all of the volunteers in safe hotels throughout Morocco. This ordeal lasted approximately 16 days. At the onset of those days, Interruption of Service (IOS) was being offered on a case-by-case basis to all volunteers. On March 20, I officially requested (IOS) from the Country Director. Thus began a very difficult process to separate from my Peace Corps service, friends, and return to civilian life.

Those first few days of consolidation were not the easiest. Frustration, fear, and anger were constantly my companions. I tried to keep my emotions under control, but dealing with the current state of affairs made it very hard to face the reality that I would not be returning to my site. Unofficially, I believe I was one of the first volunteers who opted for (IOS). My feelings for requesting this were mixed, I felt a slight chance that perhaps we might be able to return to our sites, but then again mounting pressure from both the volunteer community and people at

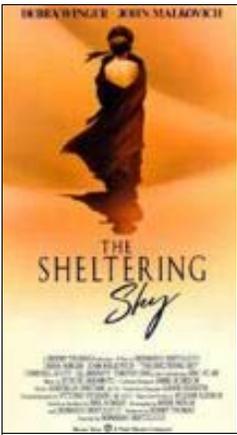
home began to say otherwise. Honestly, as difficult as it was to accept (IOS) it was an act of taking control of my life and cease living in a state of uncertainty.

Trying to readjust has been somewhat of a difficult process. Renegotiating relationships and perhaps forging new ones. Trying to find work that gives you a sense of accomplishment to help make sense of your Peace Corps service, and dealing with the bureaucracy of Peace Corps ...do not get me started.

Someone told me, upon seeing that I had returned from Morocco, that he hoped that I found what I was looking for in the Peace Corps. Well, I did not go to look for anything; I would like to think that perhaps something, greater than I has found me. My reply to that statement was that I now have a greater understanding and appreciation of an Islamic culture, which like ours has just as many fanatics, (my personal feelings on fanatics are people who were deprived a mother's love early in life), and I can at least speak two languages French and Arabic. Not bad, for a citizen from a country where less than one percent has a passport.

Morocco at the Movies #4 - "The Sheltering Sky"

By Dan Cahill (Kenitra 68-70)



Discussing *The Sheltering Sky*, Bernardo Bertolucci's 1990 adaptation of Paul Bowles's novel, is challenging. I have mixed feelings about this movie. I'm not alone: critical reception was not especially kind,

and the box office receipts were disappointing. It's a film with subtle and artful technique that adds up to very little. It contains wonderful moments, highly representative of real things that I remember happening in Morocco, but that ultimately don't represent the Morocco I know.

But after all, it's not a documentary. This is a story from the pen of American expatriate and legendary Tangier resident, the late Paul Bowles. Much as I respect his writing style and intelligence, I've rarely been captivated by the content of his work. He sees the world as a dark, violent place, death constantly awaiting the hapless innocent. I got very little out of my reading of the novel: I found it rather empty and chilling, distasteful and uninviting. Bowles himself, I think, was much more interesting than his work. I have seen/read engaging interviews with him and read a marvelous book, *The Dream at the End of the World: Paul Bowles and the Literary Renegades in Tangier* by Michelle Green [HarperCollins, 1991]. I respect his immersion into what he saw as Moroccan life, but I see Moroccan life differently. It's worth noting that Bowles himself appears in the film in the early and late scenes in Tangier, as an observer/voice-over narrator. His wizened face and milky blue eyes bring great dignity to the proceedings. He was reportedly quite

entranced by the resemblance between Debra Winger and his late wife Jane, on whom her character was based.

This is the story of Port Moresby (John Malkovich) and his wife Kit (Winger) who arrive in Tangier (filmed there, but never explicitly defined as such) in 1947, fancying themselves travelers, but not tourists. Their upper-class hauteur does not engage one's emotions, and there is little further reason to sympathize with them. Malkovich saunters about, seeking some kind of spiritual truth in the local low-life, but never rises above the level of condescending sneerer. Winger whines a lot, flirts with traveling companion Tunner (Campbell Scott, who scatters small change for the street kids to dive for), and eventually seeks her own sexual truth with a new kind of desert sheik. They are joined on their journey by an English travel writer (Jill Bennett) who loathes Arabs and her sniveling son (Timothy Spall – a fine and familiar character actor), two of the most repellent characters in modern cinema. Everyone suffers a lot, and seems to wind up pretty much back where he/she began, except for the one who winds up dead. But, don't give up yet... there are reasons to watch this film, and watch it closely.

One must put in a word for Bertolucci as one of the cinema's greatest artists, especially when he combines his talents with those of the world-class cinematographer Vittorio Storaro. Their prior collaborations (*The Conformist*, *Last Tango in Paris*, *1900*, *The Last Emperor*) set the highest possible standard for expressive visual beauty. One thinks back on these works as collections of striking images, always evocative in their use of color, light, and camera movement. These pictures would be worthless without emotional underpinnings, and *The Sheltering Sky* does manage to engage our emotions about Morocco and its natural and cultural beauty. Turning these two geniuses loose to shoot in Tangier, Erfoud, Zagora, and Ouarzazate could only result in stupefying shots that bring us back there and remind us of our own rapture in that setting.

This film exploits the unique aspects of North African light to plant us firmly in time and place. When Malkovich saunters out of the Tangier hotel and down the teeming street at twilight, we're there with him. The red-orange horizontal light of pre-sunset strikes us as deeply as the story we're watching. Even the meticulously designed hotel interiors (including colored glass transoms) put us in a place that we know existed, having seen its remnants in later years [one location I can vouch for... the grand and funky Hotel Continental in Tangier was used for one brief connecting scene when Malkovich descends the stairs before hitting that aforementioned street]. "Day for night" is a film term denoting shooting that occurs in the daytime but is meant to be seen as night. Traditionally it involves putting a filter over the lens and hoping the audience will suspend disbelief. Storaro, through masterful knowledge of when to put his camera in place and how to anticipate the course that natural light will follow, achieves brilliance in the art of day for night illusions. Watch for scenes that depict rich detail, but are so dark as to suggest that it must be evening.

There are moments in this film that all of us who know Morocco will not just recognize but connect to with great feeling: being sick, really sick, with something unknown and scary, in a place far from Western medical science; buzzing flies clustered on raw meat displayed in the souk; interminable, uncomfortable souk-bus trips; watching people dancing themselves into trances, possessed by something beyond our immediate comprehension; the seduction of wandering into a strange and beautiful place where people just let you be.

But, alas, there are moments that are not true to Morocco (to be fair, it was not all filmed there-- some locations were in Algeria and Niger). Most notable is a sequence where Winger runs through a village seeking help and is completely ignored. Anyone who has spent five minutes in Morocco knows that the people pay great attention to human need, and the idea

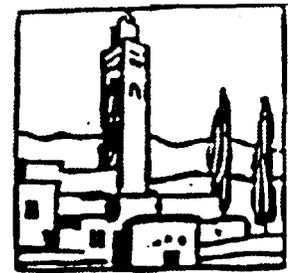
of someone asking for aid and not getting a modicum of attention is outrageous. One can say that this is merely Bowles's vision of hell on earth, but why place it here? Why denigrate a culture that has suffered so much already at the hands of an unsympathetic movie business?

[This is a perfect segue into recommending a book that I have found exceptionally insightful and resourceful: *Reel Bad Arabs* by Jack G. Shaheen (Olive Branch Press, 2001). It is a most articulate indictment of how Arabs have been stereotypically portrayed in films as villainous and violent (or "greedy, barbarous, and cruel" to quote *Lawrence of Arabia*). It consists of a 37-page introduction followed by a 500-page index to every film that ever depicted Arabs, and how they were shown to dramatic disadvantage. It's an impressive, useful, and overwhelming book, which

will only fuel one's ire at Hollywood's exploitation of this too-often unspoken-for minority. Needless to say, *The Sheltering Sky* has earned its own page and a half of insults to our North African friends. This is an intense and useful work that should be on the shelf of anyone who cares about images and the impressions derived from them.]

One more reason to see this film: the music. The original soundtrack by Ryuichi Sakamoto is beautifully synched to the emotions that are genuinely invoked. There are numerous period source tracks used, which also convey a sense of time and place. In fact, one of the best ways to watch this film is to start up the DVD, turn the sound off on your TV, and then play the soundtrack CD on another player. That way you'll get the best that Bertolucci and company have to offer, without suffering through Paul Bowles's tragic and depressing view of the human condition.

Contact Dan at <daniel.cahill@nyu.edu>



Friends of Morocco Board of Directors Nominees

Three candidates have offered to fill the three At-Large positions on the FOM Board of Directors. They are Ruth Ann Skaff, Thom Anderson and Hassan Samrhouni. Nominations were solicited in the last FOM Newsletter and on our web site. FOM bylaws provide for election by ballot mailed to members. Please send the ballot below to Ellen Hunt 3107 Babashaw Ct Fairfax, VA 22201 or email her at Ellendhunt@cs.com by October 1, 2003 if you concur with the nominations. Write in nominations are also welcome. Quorum is 5% of the members.

The nominees are:

Ruth Ann Skaff: Before returning to the mischief of Washington, DC three years ago, Ruth Ann spent 10 years at ALSAC/St. Jude, the fundraising arm of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. First as Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations, then as Director of Special Projects as the hospital's International Outreach Program expanded, she managed national solicitation and

cultivation of targeted donor populations for Americas' largest childhood cancer research center, and also worked with international donors, notably in Lebanon. Her current project is fundraising for the first ever Arab American National Museum which depicts this ethnic community's American immigrant history and cultural heritage. Located in metro Detroit, the Museum is scheduled to open in fall 2004.

Ruth Ann's career path is primarily in the nonprofit sector. She began as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Marrakech, Morocco upon graduation from the University of Texas at Austin with a BA in Sociology and concentration in Middle Eastern Studies. She taught English as a Foreign Language in a Moroccan *lycée*, and later directed Dar Cheshire, a center for physically handicapped Moroccan youth. After Peace Corps and a stint in her hometown of Houston, Texas, Ruth Ann returned to Marrakech as Director of the American Language Center. She cherishes her 10 years in Morocco, and returns to visit periodically.

Ruth Ann has served numerous national membership, political and charitable organizations from the grassroots level, to national board member and/or as staff. Memberships and service include National Peace Corps Association - Friends of Morocco, American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, National Association of Arab Americans, American Arab University Graduates, American Arab Educational Foundation (Houston), Sturge Weber Syndrome Foundation, Texas State Society, Association of Fundraising Professionals, University of Texas Ex-Students Association, and former at-large member of the Democratic National Committee.

Thom Anderson: Thom served with Peace Corps Morocco from 1991-1995. During his service, he performed grassroots community development work in the Eastern High Atlas National Park. From 1997-1999, Thom was the Center Director for the United Seamen's Service in Casablanca, a not-for-profit

organization concerned with the health, welfare and recreation of seafarers. Currently, Thom is a board member of the High Atlas Foundation (www.hihatlasfoundation.org) and works for the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs (www.iira.org) as the Program Manager for both the Peace Corps Fellows Program and the Volunteer Training and Support Program.

As a member of the FOM Board, Thom would serve as the liaison to the NPCA 2004 Conference Organizing Committee and assist with the planning of an outstanding Ijtimaa 2004 and other associated FOM events. In addition, Thom would actively promote and enhance a close collaboration between FOM and the High Atlas Foundation.

Hassan Samrhouni is the owner of Casablanca Travel and Tours, Inc, (www.moroccotravelandtours.com), an agency that specializes in theme tours to Morocco, which he started in 1993. Three years prior, he created and manages the Washington Athletic Club, a soccer team that competes in the Washington International Soccer

League and has a 10-year roster of more than 150 licensed players.

Additionally, in 1991, Mr. Samrhouni founded and serves as the president of the Washington Moroccan Club, (www.washingtonmoroccanclub.org), an organization that sponsors intercultural, social and sporting events to promote Moroccan-American relations. Currently, he is working to create the "Morocco on the Road Caravan," a nine-week journey across the United States to promote Morocco in the U.S. Born in Fes and raised in Casablanca, Hassan earned his degree in planning from Northern Virginia Community College. He is a naturalized American.

He began his career playing soccer for the Wydad Athletic Club (WAC) in Casablanca from 1966 to 1979, a team which won First Division championships in 1976, 1977, and 1978, the "Coupe du Trone" in 1978 and 1979, the Coupe Mohammed V in 1979 and shared the fair play trophy and the International soccer tournament championship with the national Moroccan team in Le Havre, France, in 1972.

Later, he worked at the Office de

Commercialisation et d' Exportation (OCE) in Casablanca from 1972 to 1982. After that, he moved to the USA and taught Arabic at a diplomatic language academy in Washington, DC

Mr. Samrhouni was awarded the Wissam of National Merit in 1995 for his promotion of culture, society and sport by King Hassan II and was named Moroccan of the Month in February 2003 by Wafin. He is married to Aicha Bensaid and has a two-year old daughter, Abla and a new born daughter, Kanza



FOM Board of Directors Ballot

Vote for three (3)

Ruth Ann Skaff Yes ____ No ____

Thom Anderson Yes ____ No ____

Hassan Samrhouni Yes ____ No ____

Write in _____

Return ballot to by October 1, 2003: Ellen Hunt
3107 Babashaw Ct
Fairfax, VA 22201

Or by email to: ellenhunt@cs.com



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 <trayte@drexel.edu> or <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.

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Washington, DC 20013-2579

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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 nine-member national advisory board. Mailing address: Friends of Morocco, P.O. Box 2579, Washington, DC 20013-2579. For further information, contact president Tim Resch at 703-660-9292 or by email <tresch@worldnet.att.net>.

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