Ramadan
Another Holiday on the Horizon

Ramadan, celebrated by the world’s 1.2 billion Moslems, will begin around 21 January, this year, with the exact time and date depending on local time zones and lunar conditions.

The traditional month of fast in Islamic beliefs, it is celebrated in by the faithful in nearly every country on the globe.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations says that some people may loose weight during Ramadan, but most will not. The Council said in an interview with Scripps Howard News Services that "it is recommended that meals eaten during Ramadan be light, but most people can't resist sampling special sweets and food associated with Ramadan."

35th Anniversary Celebration in Washington

NPCA, Peace Corps, RPCV/W, FOM Plan Activities 29 February-3 March 1996

The 29th of February through 3 March 1996, are dates to mark on your calendar as soon as possible.

1 March 1996 will be the 35th anniversary of the signing of the act that authorized the Peace Corps.

Friends of Morocco will be there, and we hope that you'll be able to join us there, too. We are planning a Saturday 2, March 1996, assembly between 1h00 and 8h00, for films, music, presentations, and a Moroccan meal. The theme is Moroccan education and culture in the United States.

Presentations will include the participation of Peace Corps, the Embassy of Morocco, the U. S. State Department, USAID, the Tangier-American Legation Museum Society, W. Ressell Pickering of Moroccan Rug and Textile Institute, the new English language Al Akhawayn University at Ifrane, the VOA and Arab Network of America, as well as many others.

A 1 March dinner honoring Sargent
Threads of Two Cultures

Cross-cultural Study: Morocco & Southwest U.S.

Talis Productions has announced a multimedia event that is being developed for public television entitled Threads of Two Cultures.

It is a cross-cultural study of rural Moroccans through their weaving traditions; the culture and family life of American Indians in the Southwest U.S. through their weaving traditions; and a comparative study of those cultures.

The project includes a two-hour film documentary hosed and narrated by Morgan Freeman, with the heart of the film being expeditions to Morocco and the American Southwest. Three integrated museum exhibitions will also be created, one of those being an exhibition on the Internet.

Also included will be a companion art book, an interactive CD, a music CD from the soundtrack, and an electronic field trip broadcast to U.S. schools.

Also covered in the program, will be the history and present-day culture of Morocco; the Moroccan tradition of racial tolerance; the histories, customs, and music traditions of the specific tribespeople visited; the religious traditions of Morocco and Southwestern American Indians; the historical connections between the U.S. and Morocco; the Spanish link between Morocco and the Southwest U.S.; the similarities between Moroccan and Southwestern Native American beliefs; possible pre-Columbian contact between Moroccans and Southwestern Native Americans; African, Jewish, and Middle Eastern influence on Moroccan weaving; and Moorish influence on Navajo weaving.

The project is currently in the fund-raising phase, developing major corporate production support, a process that should be completed by April.

For more information (or if you would like to underwrite the program, contact Jefferson Hyde, Talis Productions, 308 Alta Street, Santa Fe NM 87505, 505.984.5052.

It is said that there is a flaw in every Moroccan carpet, and other weavings, no matter how well it is loomed, or how beautiful the design, because only God can make anything that is perfect.
Holbrooke
Making Peace and Enemies

Richard Holbrooke (Rabat 69-71, PC Country Director) has continued his not-so-low profile over the past year, as head of the negotiations team for the Bosnian/Serb peace.

Making front page and lead story appearances in The New York Times Magazine, Newsweek, and about every other current events publication, as well as on all of the wire services, television, and radio, Dick has come a long way since her wrote, as called by the Washington Post, an "admiring magazine profile of Henry Kissinger" twenty years ago. Describing Kissinger as "an extremely difficult man, difficult to trust, difficult to work for..." Holbrooke has been described by similar phrases by both admirers and detractors within and without the Clinton Administration.

His success in arriving at a Bosnian peace (however unstable the area may continue to seem) is a testimony to his "frenetic as usual" negotiations where he "...shouted, whispered, and threatened, even to excess." (says the NY Times). An example, when the Serbs seized UN hostages in May, "Holbrooke exploded: ‘Give the Serbs 48 hours, and if they don’t release the hostages, bomb them to hell.’"

A Washington Post editorial, responding to the constant "digs" at Dick, said that, "it’s not as though Dick Holbrooke had offended the sensibilities of a modest, restrained, self-effacing community here. This is Newt Grigich’s town and yours, too. Yes, Mr. Holbrooke is a tough customer. Evidently that’s what the diplomacy called fro. Always including the Balkan caveat—things could go from bad to terrible at a moment’s notice—we think he has done one heck of a job and should be commended for it—period.”

Since the negotiations, it has been rumored that Dick will leave the State Department, going back to Wall Street. The rumors answered with denials or "cannot confirm.”

A Washington Post year-end article seems to have confirmed the relocation, saying that "... (Holbrooke) told President Clinton that he will leave his post of assistant secretary of state for European affairs ‘early next year’ to spend more time with his wife and family in New York. In a telephone interview, he confided that his return to New York is behind his original schedule.

Dick will continue to play an advisory role on Bosnia, possibly undertaking diplomatic missions to the region after his resignation.

Holbrookes:
—Married Kati Marton, in Budapest, Kati’s birthplace, in May. Kati had been married to ABC anchor Peter Jennings, Dick used to date ABC’s Diane Sawyer. Wire Reports.

—In June, a Virginia car salesman said that the Holbrooke official car hit a new Nissan at National Airport—and didn’t stop. Because they were late for a flight, an aid told the driver to drop Dick off prior to checking on the accident. The damage to the new Nissan was $700.00. Washington Post.

—"Holbrooke is an assiduous and, actually, rather incompetent self-promoter, ‘incompetent’ in the sense that everyone knows he’s doing it.” Newsweek.

—"It’s really a desire to do things rather than worry about a politically correct line.” Washington Post.
Chicago/Casablanca Sister Cities Program
"A Constantly Developing Relationship"

Since 1892, Chicago has shared a sister city relationship with Casablanca. Since that time, the Chicago-Casablanca Sister Cities Committee, has sponsored exchanges involving youth, culture, and business.

In the summer of 1994, the Committee organized a community youth service project, that involved inviting seven Chicago teenagers and seven Casablanca teenagers to volunteer for three weeks at Casa's Lalla Hasna orphanage. An exhibit touring Chicago public high schools was created with the students’ souvenir photos and journals.

Other activities have included business-to-business trade missions, a sister-cities poetry competition, local lectures/slide shows, and a visit to Chicago by six Moroccan governors.

The Committee’s current project is a partnership with the Department of Pediatrics of the University of Illinois Hospital and Medical School, and the Pediatric Department of the Ibn Rochd Hospital in Casablanca.

The long-term goal of the project is to provide the Casablanca hospital with the technology and expertise of the U of I, in terms of neonatal and pediatric care.

The Chicago Sister Cities International Program, Inc., has as its mission, "to engage the people of Chicago and its sister cities abroad in partnerships that promote trade, economic development, cultural awareness, and educational opportunities."

For more information, contact the Chicago Sister Cities International Program, Inc., Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, 78 E. Washington Street, Chicago IL 60602, 312.744.8074.

A Tale of Paris Asparagus

Though it may be nothing more than the stuff urban legends are made of, the following was excerpted from a 7 January 1996, Dear Abby column, though it's almost too delightful not to have been embellished over the years. It was a response to an article on the etiquette of eating asparagus.

"Dear Abby:... While growing up in Paris, my mother, who was a debutante, attended a dinner given by French President Raymond Poincare at the Elysee Palace for the King of Morocco. Asparagus vinaigrette was served. Everybody waited for the King to try it. He did, but found the tough end too tough. He looked around to see what other people did with it, but of course, everyone was waiting for him. So when he thought no one was watching, he tossed the tough end over his shoulder. The other guests, thinking that was a Moroccan custom, did the same.

Soon the floor around the table became so slippery, none of the servers could get near the table. The rest of the dinner was a disaster—and to this day, the dinner for the King of Morocco at the Elysee Palace has taken its place in history."
TALM Library Development Program

In an effort to develop the Tangier American Legation Museum (TALM) into a research center and specialized library on North Africa, director Thor H. Kuniholm is seeking funding for a full-time librarian to assume responsibility for the libraries and the facility, and to assist with the planning and implementation of cultural and educational activities.

The TALM has begun transforming from a simple tourist attraction into a dynamic cultural, educational, and research center serving both local and international researchers and scholars.

PCV-Michael Toiler has established a resource center which now houses more than 2,000 donated books and periodicals. Hundreds of local students and teachers now rely on the center for materials and courses in areas as diverse as literature, translation, writing, and American culture.

Similar advances have been made in the North Africa research library. Space was recently cleared to house two important collections of books from Ambassador Joseph Verner Reed and anthropologist David Hart. Both have amassed unique libraries on Morocco and North Africa.

To date, all has been achieved exclusively through the efforts of the director, his family, and volunteers from the Tangier Moroccan, Peace Corps, and expatriate communities.

The next five years will see the cataloging of the Hart and Reed Collections, proper cataloging of the resource center, integration of all collections into an automated catalog, establishment of a new book fund, expansion of cultural programs at the museum, publication of materials relating to the museum and its collections, and increased outreach to local and international academic communities.

The current fund drive requires an income of $9,000.00 annually, to fund a full-time librarian, with salary and benefits competitive in the local market.

For more information, contact the TALM at 8 Zankat America, Tangier 90000 Morocco.

USAID In Morocco

"Today, the former shanty dwellers live in neat homes in mixed income neighborhoods with shops and schools."

David Hales writes in the Ann Arbor News that only a decade ago, Taza was a "dense concentration of corrugated tin slum dwellings blighted by 25 different shanty settlements that housed over 1/4 of its 100,000 residents."

Today, with no slums, the Taza improvement project has received the prestigious World Habitat Award for Best Human Settlements Project. In the 1980s, Taza residents asked for help from the new Moroccan National Shelter Agency—which turned to the USAID. The result was a remarkable partnership between government, the community, the private sector, and USAID.

The Moroccan government contributed public land and private contractors and laborers prepared the sites, employing the shanty dwellers. The residents then built their own homes, with technical help from the Moroccan government.

Financial assistance came in the form of a USAID-backed U.S. commercial loan to Morocco.
TAZA......

Every dollar invested by USAID generated over six dollars of investment from the residents of Taza.

The transformation has allowed people who built the houses to now turn their attention to other economic opportunities: opening shops or starting up family businesses. A sense of optimism now pervades in Taza.

As a result of the Taza experience, the percentage of Morocco's bidonville residents has been cut in half. What is remarkable is that this change is coming at a time when migration from the countryside has created huge growth in Moroccan cities.

U. S. aid was not in the form of money, it was in the form of loan guarantees to the Moroccan government, providing working capital for the project. Morocco paid back the loans, with interest and a modest management fee.

Thirty percent of costs were covered by the Morocco Shelter Agency, and USAID monitored the project to assure that the aid reached directly to those for whom it was intended.

The lessons learned at Taza are now being applied to other parts of Morocco, and to other countries receiving U. S. aid.

Abdelwahab Doukkali:
Birth and Radiance of a Star

Abdelwahab Doukkali is one of the great stars of the Arab world and a true renaissance man. Born in 1941, to one of the most traditional families of Fez, he showed great interest in the arts at a very young age. In 1957 he revealed his musical talent by winning first prize on a radio show, singing a song made famous by Mohammed Abdelwahab, Annahr Al Khalid.

By age 17, he had organized a theatrical group called La Maamoura. In the 1960s, he performed in The Barber of Seville and La Maison Nett. He toured the Middle East, living in Egypt for a while, and returning to Morocco in 1965, when he starred in the full-length Moroccan movie Al Hayatou Kifah (The State of Life). He followed that with a film produced jointly by Morocco, Spain, and Egypt. He also acted in a Libyan movie Feu Vert.

Soon after, he composed, and played, his First Concerto for Lute and Modern Orchestra. He also wrote musical scores for Hamlet and Idriss Premier.

In 1985 and 1993, Doukkali participated in the first Moroccan Music Festival, receiving first prize. He received high praise in 1986, for his performances at the International Artistic Gala in Sweden.

He has also exhibited his pottery and ceramics in Casablanca galleries.

In recognition of his many achievements, in 1991, he was elected one of the Arab World's Personalities of the Year, along with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and James Baker.

He is now writing five motion picture scripts, and has recently completed (after three years of work) his record album Trou dans l'Espace (Black Hole), which expresses universal values of brotherhood.
Dateline Morocco

News reports from Morocco via the Moroccan and International Press

--Wire Reports from Rabat say that an Egyptian man seriously injured himself when he set off a bomb he had carried into the Russian consulate in March, 1995. A motive is not clear, though official sources said that the Egyptian set off the bomb when he failed to get a Russian visa. Other reports suggested that he wanted to protest Russia’s crackdown in Chechnya.

--Middle East Insight (February 1995) has an article called Under the Shadow of the Imam: Morocco’s Diverse Islamic Movements, by Emad Eldin Shahin. The article says that even with the many clandestine activities of some Islamic groups, that H.M. King Hassan II’s strong religious legitimacy keeps local Islamic movements weak. It further states that Morocco’s history of pluralism prevents a radicalization of political discourse. Shahin says that Morocco need not fear that it will turn into another Algeria in the event of an Islamic movement gaining popularity, because Islamist movements face competition from numerous religious currents in society.

Dr. Shahin has taught North African Government and Politics at George Washington University, and is currently writing a book on Islam and society in the Maghreb.

--Utne Reader (October 1995) includes an article titled Looking South, North Africa may hold the key to Europe’s future. With post cold war changes in Europe, some of the EU’s member nations are orienting themselves to North Africa (others are looking to the former Warsaw Pact states), in an effort to improve economic conditions with the Maghreb. The motivation is for the orientation is called a combination of fear, greed, historical memory, farsightedness, and simple geography. Spain is only ten miles from Morocco and its former “protector”, France, has more than 4 million Moslems. All of southern Europe has large populations of unauthorized immigrants. The fundamentalist movements in North Africa is creating fears that the problems may cross the Mediterranean into southern Europe, creating a racist right backlash. As a result, it is believed that the gates to illegal immigration should be sealed now, and economic aid should be given to North Africa and the Middle East to create opportunity there, for those countries, and in turn create a European-Mediterranean free trade zone. The area is seen by some industry as an untapped market, while being a source of inexpensive labor. On the other hand, prop-up governments that are often unpopular with their own citizenry, could bring conditions between Europe and the Mediterranean similar to those between the U.S. and Iran after the fall of the Shah.

--Food & Wine (October 1995) includes an article titled A Moroccan in Paris. It is about Fatima Hal, who has established a very popular restaurant called Mansouria (named after her mother). She opened the restaurant in 1984, after being recently divorced, unemployed, and penniless in Paris, with a need to support herself and three young children. Hal had been given an education by her mother (a very traditional, veiled Moroccan woman) because her mother wanted to free her from the obligations of conventional roles. Because she was educated, her mother thought she shouldn’t cook, so she was not allowed in the kitchen. Originally, Hal sold $20.00 coupons to friends and acquaintances, good for a full course Moroccan dinner in what she hoped would become her restaurant. A Paris newscaster heard of her initiative and featured her
on one of his TV programs. The response was overwhelming, with contributions pouring in. She will be releasing her first book soon, *Les Gestes et Les Saveurs Cuisines et Traditions du Maroc* (Stock Editions). The book will contain traditional regional recipes that she has collected throughout Morocco. Her mother's name, by the way, means "the victorious one." Mansouria is located at 11 rue Faidherbe, Paris 75011, 43.71.00.16, on the edge of the Bastille district. The article is written by Stephanie Curtis and photographed by Bruno Barbey.

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*The Economist* (2 September 1995) includes a short article titled *Club Med*, discussing the European Union's Euro-Med strategy. The difficulties of creating such a strategy (that works) is demonstrated by the five months of negotiations for a new fishing agreement with Morocco, that failed to reach an agreement. The EU minister in charge of fisheries, Emma Bonino, responded with the call for a full examination of the EU's relations with Morocco, a country that receives aid and preferential access for its farm produce in the EU market. In Morocco, an unidentified newspaper wrote a story headlined: "Morocco, is not in the habit of accepting ultimatums, which hark back to the age of colonialism." In fact, 500,000 Moroccans are said to rely on fishing for their jobs, with Morocco demanding that the Spanish and Portuguese boats that fish off its coast make drastic cuts in their catch, and banning any fishing during negotiations. The feud is affecting 8,000 Spanish fishermen and 40,000 other Spanish jobs. EU optimists, however, say that if you dangle the carrot of assistance, who knows what can be achieved. Those optimists say that with such assistance agreements throughout the region, there may be by the year 2010, a European-Mediterranean free-trade area, "...with economic prosperity and political stability on both sides of the Mediterranean.

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*Golf Magazine* (August 1995) has an article titled *Morocco: Mint Tea and Golf Tees*. It explains how golf in Morocco has been recognized as one of the growth industries in the country. Several golf courses and golf clubs are considered among the world's best, including Palmeraie, El Jadida, Dar Es-Salam Royal Golf Club, Royal Golf Anfa-Mohammedia, and the Royal Marrakech Golf Club. Early Moroccan golf was influenced by the British, and most golf courses were designed and laid out by Englishmen. The article suggests visiting Marrakech for as a must, whether golfing or not. However, in Marrakech one can see both the oldest and newest in Moroccan golf. The Royal Marrakech Golf Club is in its eighth decade, with a small building with men's and women's changing rooms, no golf carts, and real caddies. The one-year old Palmeraie Golf Club, by contrast, is part of the Palmeraie Golf Palace Resort. Michael Cox was the article's author.

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*The Washington Post* article, *Taking to the Baths*
Dateline Morocco

News reports from Morocco via the Moroccan and International Press

In Morocco, Scrubbing Off the Years, by Lee Haas Norris, tells of Norris's trip to a Marrakech hammam, with her Peace Corps Volunteer daughter Kate. Norris describes the experience in detail, from the black hammam mitt with a texture not unlike steel wool, to the dim lighting, the damp air, and the wood and plastic "flip-flops." What had begun as a somewhat tentative OK to visit the hammam, ended with a very mellowed Norris was hooked, comparing the thirty-cent hammam visit to an expensive Madison Avenue salon. She lost eight years at the hammam. Though she has tried to replicate that morning in Marrakech at home, she admits that it just can't be done, especially when "all you have to work with is shiny American plumbing and privacy." Try to find a copy—it's insightful and fun.

--The Associated Press reported from Taba, Egypt, that H.M. Hassan II was among those invited to the White House to witness the September PLO/Israeli signing of the second phase of the 1993 Israel-PLO peace treaty. Citing a scheduling conflict, H. M. sent a representative. Other Arab heads of state in attendance were King Hussein of Jordan and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt.

--Chronicle Features writer Steve Newman reported on the the latest world report on natural disasters (1994) that included references to Morocco in the High Heat category. The report says that a July 1994 heat wave in southern Morocco damaged fruit and vegetable crops worth $12 million in the Souss Valley. Agriculture Minister Abdelaziz Meziane said that unusually high temperatures over 122 degrees (F), combined with strong desert winds, destroyed 8,000 acres of crops.

--Le Monde Diplomatique (July 1995) includes four articles on "Being a Citizen of the Arab World." Included is Using Islam for the Good, explaining how the values of justice and equality under Islamic law create a real sense of community and progress for the common good. In The Role of the Cellular Family, the family as the center of Arab social organization is so important to establishing a political atmosphere and character of a community. The family is, and has been for centuries, the predominant force in Arab politics, even to molding the functions and activities of non-family and nonreligious institutions and policies. Terrorist Experts discusses the almost immediate blaming of Arab terrorists for the Oklahoma City Federal Building in April 1995. It points out the not-so-subtle prejudices that the world, including Americans, have toward things and people that are still somewhat mysterious to the majorities. In Being a Citizen of the Arab World, the contrasts and conflicts between modern western laws, and the development of those laws, with the other influences that must be considered in newly independent countries. Specifically, the article revolves around family, tribal, ethnic, and religious concerns. The authors for the articles are Serge Halimi and Hicham Ben Abdallah El Alaoui, a civil engineer and son of the late Prince Moulay Abdallah. El Alaoui lives in Rabat.

--Aramco World (September/October 1995) includes an article titled On the Flat Bread Trail which includes a discussion and comparison of all those flat round loaves of bread that can be found from Canada to Morocco to Uzbekistan. A good section is included on Moroccan breads: how they are made, regional differences, histories, and more. One story about a Berber widow in the High Atlas, talks about cooking bread on flat hot stones. An unusual and interesting article.

--The New York Times (5 March 1995) discusses the current situation in Western Sahara, in an article called Morocco Is Accused of Interfering in Affairs of a Smaller Desert Neighbor. The author, Chris Hedges, writes about alleged interference by Morocco in the
establishment of a referendum to determine the future of the former Spanish Sahara. It says that Morocco has tapped UN phone lines, confiscated voter documents from residents in Laayoune, and denied other residents the right to enter registration centers. Morocco is also said to be sending thousands of people from Morocco to Sahara, saying that they have roots in the former colony and, as a result, should have a say in its future. The interference violates a Morocco/UN agreement to allow open registration. The UN does not recognize Sahara as a part of Morocco.

_The Washington Post_ (4 December 1995) says in Support Dries Up for Western Sahara’s Struggle, that no one seems to want to hear the side of the Polisario Front in Western Sahara. In a visit to Washington, Polisario leader Mohammed Abdulaziz ended up leaving a very frustrated person because it seemed that the State Department, the UN, and Arab diplomats all seem to ignore his rather alarmist message. If the Sahara referendum goes ahead, and if the Sahara becomes part of Morocco, Abdulaziz says that North Africa could become destabilized and that the Polisario would likely resort to urban terrorism and guerrilla warfare in the entire region, including the cities of Morocco. The UN seems to be tired of the situation and is pushing hard for a referendum, even if it does not totally agree with the methods of voter registration and identification. Abdulaziz said that "The United States and the United Nations can’t let themselves be dragged into the dirty affair by the king of a corrupt country."

_The New York Times_ (26 February 1995) writer Jane Garmey, tells how her penchant for remote country inns is "carried to extremes in a drive across the open desert," in It’s a Mirage. No! It’s an Auberge. Riding beyond the Atlas Mountains, in a rented car, listening to her guides instructions for polishing fossils, the car came to a sudden halt because the road disappeared. She and her husband were on their way to Erfoud, to a "wonderful little auberge run by a beguiling Frenchman who really understands good food."

This was to be the "real Morocco." The guide said to drive on—through the sand—for nearly 20 kilometers, and until the sun was setting. Nothing was in sight. Then, on the horizon, it appeared: the Auberge Kasbah Derkaoua, in traditional style, in the middle of a "luxuriant green oasis." Unfortunately, there were no vacancies, because "(t)his a favorite weekend getaway for every ambassador in Morocco." (Reservations are usually made two months in advance.) Mr. Michel took pity on them and set up a bed in his "boutique." At breakfast, while talking with the owner, they learned that he is a perfectionist...whether working on his elaborate garden sprinkler system or
choosing cheeses and other delicacies on his monthly 12-hour drive to and from Casablanca. Garvey says that the trip is worth it. The food is excellent. Accommodations are "simple but charming, and most of the rooms have bathrooms." Sounds good to me.

---The Washington Post (8 February 1995) has an article titled A Simple Lunch in Morocco: First, Roast 25 Sheep... by Phyllis C. Richman, is an interesting description of lunch as a guest of Moulay Messaoud Agoussal, the largest olive oil producer in Morocco. Among his other businesses are annual gross sales of $280 million in leather, chemicals, oranges, and real estate. The lunch was given for several hundred visiting food people (writers, chefs, etc...) at his house in Meknes (one of ten that he owns). After passing through the gardens, filled with dancers, singers, dancing fountains, and pomegranate trees, everyone entered the dining pavilion, where a setting of gold-rimmed crystal for 250 sat on tables covered with tablecloths matching the 250 chairs. Richman describes the many courses of a typical Moroccan meal: the 55 house staff, the 40 waiters, and the 15 cooks. Lunch was over at 5h30. For the host, it was no big deal. He entertains like that on a small scale (as was this lunch, according to his son) several times a week. Three-hundred to 1,000 for lunch is fairly common, though two months earlier he entertained 3,000 for dinner. A fun article that gives background for some Moroccan hospitality and cooking traditions.

---The New York Times (25 January 1995) Roger Cohen writes from Rabat about Maria-Inan Oufkir in King's Wrath: Morocco Family Tale of 2 Decades. Oufkir's family (she, her mother, and five siblings) was imprisoned for almost twenty years in a specially created prison in the Sahara, because her father, General Mohammed Oufkir ordered the strafing of H.M. Hassan II's unarmed Boeing 727 on 16 August 1972. General Oufkir had been defense minister and the King's closest associate. The treatment of the Oufkir family now poses a delicate problem for the U.S. and other Western countries—created by the diplomatic importance of Morocco in the Israeli/Palestinian Peace process, and in conflict with the West's call for a halt to human rights violations. In 1987, Canada agreed to accept the Oufkir family, had arranged a bank account, and had arranged a special flight. At the last minute, however, Morocco cancelled the agreement and placed the Oufkirs under house arrest in Marrakech until 1991. Their house arrest and their sudden release have never been explained. The family has been trying to get passports to leave, but have been refused, again without explanation. Bernard Dardevelle, a Paris lawyer who represents the family, believes that the King fears that the Oufkirs might know Moroccan Government secrets. Miss Oufkir said "The King is afraid we would not keep quiet. But our only desire is to lead normal lives..." The King told French television last March that the Oufkirs are free to go, but nothing has happened. One of his few comments, made in the 1970s was that "I know what would have happened to my own children if General Oufkir had succeeded in taking my place."

Overheard in a Marrakech souk, as the merchant unrolled his carpets with "a stripteasers come-hither, shimmy, "This Kilim is the Berber Picasso..."

Tad Friend, Vogue, 2/94

Friends of Morocco
Ash Khabarna?

The following information was submitted by our readers to help us keep track. If you have news about you, your PC friends, other Peace Corps volunteers, former Peace Corps-related persons, or any other Moroccophile, send it in for the Ash Khabarna column.

Richard Holbrooke (Rabat 69-71, Country Director) continues to be in the news since our last newsletter. The recently appointed assistant secretary of state for European Affairs, has been leading the peace team trying to establish a real and lasting peace to the Bosnian/Serbo/Croat civil war. Read more about Dick elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter.

Carolyn Provy (Tendrara 89-91, Veterinarian) has moved to western Washington state, where she practiced at the mixed-animal veterinary hospital until November 1994. Currently she is working as the U.S. National Grass Roots manager of Results, an international citizens' lobby that is working to generate the political will to end hunger and poverty. She can be reached, near Olympia, at 91 Lower Falls Creek Road, Elma WA 98541, 360.482.3305.

Hasan ElFarissi (Rabat, Biochemistry/Biology) received his Bachelor's Degree in Biochemistry, and is now working for the Los Angeles (CA) Community College District as a Life-Science Lab Technician. He is working on his Masters in Biology at California State University. Hassan can be reached at 4547 W. 166th Street, Lawndale CA 90260, 310.793.6580 (h) or 213.241.5217.

Ken Dethman (Taza 63-64, Forestry), has worked with the Maghreb Friendship Committee as would invite other FOM members to participate. He is also interested in investment opportunities in the Maghreb. Contact Ken at P. O. Box 1301, Portland OR 97207, 503.221.3970.

Peter Laugharn (Sefrou 82-84, TEFL) is going into his fifth year in Mali, currently working as Save the Children's area director for West Africa. He is also field director for Mali. Peter was married to Marie Kagaui in Kigali, Rwanda, on 22 June 1995, and will be in the U.S. throughout December 1995. Their U.S. telephone will be 206.866.3958. In Mali you can contact them at c/o Save the Children, 54 Willow Road, Westport CT 06880. In Mali, call Peter at 223.22.25.26 (h) or 223.22.61.34 (w) or 223.22.08.08 (f).

Marjorie L. Hopkins (Beni Mellal 92-94, UTEFL) has settled in New Jersey, after visiting her parents on the east coast and friends in the northwest. She is a substitute teacher in the local schools, as well as being a teacher of ESL evening classes at Mercer County Community College. She was able to attend the Rutgers reception for Carol Bellamy last February. Contact Marjorie at 1051 River Road, West Trenton NJ 08628, 609.882.1662.

Mark Dressman (Kasba Tadla 77-79, TEFL) is teaching and researching literacy as a socio-cultural practice. Contact Mark at P. O. Box 335, San Miguel NM 88058,
Bonnie Kirk (Meknes 66-68, TEFL) has been teaching French at the All Saints Episcopal Day School in Carmel CA, since 1980. She married Bill Clausen in 1972, and has a daughter Veronica. Bonnie would like to hear what is happening at the Lycée Moulay Ismail in Meknes, where she taught as a PCV. Contact Bonnie at 1141 Buena Vista Avenue, Pacific Grove CA 93950, 408.375.1170 (h) or 408.624.9171.

Jennifer Alfers (Taza 90-91, ESL) went to Thailand after the evacuation of Morocco PCVs (during the Gulf situation), where she was in the TEFL/Crossover program for two years. After returning to the U.S., she received her Masters in TESOL at the Monterey Institute of International Studies. Currently Jennifer teaches at a community college in Seattle WA. Contact her at 952 North 35th Street, Unit #301, Seattle WA 98103, 206.633.4351.

John F. Rapp (Imlil 88-90, Biologist/Park Planner) works with the Arizona Department of Water Resources, after having received his Masters in Watershed Hydrology. Prior to the Az DWR, he worked with the National Park Service and National Biological Survey at Sequoia National Park, conducting watershed/biology related research. Contact John at 3176 East Berridge Lane, Phoenix AZ 85016, 602.956.7042.

Anne H. Reese (Marrakech 83-86, Director of Foyer Koutoubia) has been working until recently, for Bedari, a Pakistani NGO in Islamabad. There she established a child sexual abuse program and trained Pakistanis to run the program. Contact Anne at 1547 44th Street NW, Washington DC 20004, 202.333.7237.

Mary Jane & Bill Parmentier (Ait Ouirir/Nador 86-88, TEFL/Water) have a new son, Robin, who was born on 26 May 1995. Mary Jane is working as a study abroad administrator and is completing her PhD in International Studies. Bill is working as a project engineer. Contact Bill & Mary Jane at 1046 W. Texas Avenue, Lakewood CO 80232, 303.489.3992 (h) or 303.831.3861 (w).

Ann Podolske (Mohammedia 88-88, University English Teacher) has been working at the Institute of Management and Administration, Inc., where she is newsletter editor. She writes that she has stopped drinking and has experienced a recent coming out. You can find Ann at 67-40 Booth Street, #2-N, Forest Hills NY 11375, 718.275.4002 (h) or 212.244.0360, ext. 224 (w).

Steven Stanley (Beni Mellal 71-75) is teaching English as a second language at California State University, Los Angeles. He has co-starred in L'il Abner and The Curious Savage at the Whittier (CA) Community Theater. He is also author of Morocco: A year in the life of four PCVs. Contact Steven at 330 N. Chapel Avenue, Alhambra CA 91801, 818.308.0266 (h) or 213.343.4840.

Brenda J. (Pacciorretti) Starr (Rabat 65-67, Lab. Tech.) is unit manager for surgery and urology at Kaiser Permanente Medical Group in Los Angeles.
in Hayward CA, and works in a speakers bureau for AIDS education. She is married to Jack (for 28 years) and has a 21 year old son, Marcus. You can find Brenda at 1162 Burkhard Avenue, San Leandro CA 94579, 510.483.9280 (h) or 510.784.4866. Brenda also says that Morocco VI will have a 30th anniversary reunion at Lake Tahoe CA, 10-13 August 1996. Bob Madson (Marrakech 65-67, Lab. Tech.) and his wife Barbara, along with Bob Beck (Azrou 65-67, Lab. Tech.) and Jim DeDeo (Casablanca 65-67, Lab. Tech.) are making the plans. Get in touch with Brenda for more information.

Cheryl (Corkum) Deane (Midelt 81-84) has been living and teaching English in Seoul, Korea, with her husband and two daughters, since 1985. She teaches ESL for second and third graders at the Seoul International School, P.O. Box 47, Songpa 138-800, Seoul, South Korea. Cheryl can be called at 02.409.1342 (h) or 02.233.4551.

Jeffrey S. Ankrom (Marrakech 84-86, TEFL) is Assistant Managing Editor for the Indiana University Press, at Bloomington IN. You can get in touch with Jeffrey at P.O. Box 672, Bloomington IN 47402-0672, 812.339.1109 (h) or 812.855.2561. His E-mail address is jankrom@indiana.edu.

Ron Messier (Rissani since 86, Archaeology) is a professor of medieval history at Middle Tennessee State University. He has spent two or three months each year since 1986, in Morocco with archeological studies at Sijilmasa. He also teaches at Vanderbilt University in Nashville TN. You will find Ron at 7313 Primrose Lane, Lascassas TN 37085, 615.273.2474 (h) or 615.848.5881. His E-mail address is rmessier@mtsu.edu.

Julie Moore (Douar Tabia/Azila 88-90, Health & Sanitation) has earned her PhD at the University of Connecticut Health Center, and is now working at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention at Atlanta. She will be studying malaria and HIV infections in Kenyan mothers and infants. Contact Julie at 1431 Knollwood Terrace, Decatur GA 30033, 404.634.4869 (h) or 404.488.4030. Her E-mail address is uzms@ciddpd2.em.cdc.gov.

James A. Miller (Marrakech, Ouarzazate, Rissani, Rabat 73-81, Cultural Geography) has been a member of the Joint American-Moroccan Research Team to unearth Sijilmasa since 1993. In 1995, he helped with an environmental quality project in Toubkal National Park, in cooperation with the Peace Corps. Contact James at 223 Lebanon Road, Pendleton SC 29670, 803.646.6041 (h) or 803.656.5368. He is a professor of geography at Clemson University, where his E-mail address is Miller3@clemson.edu. If you want to check out his Morocco project on the internet, call up http://geog-web.berkeley.edu/geosimages/Miller/millerone.html.

Baudouin de Marcken (Tunis, PC Director) has returned to North Africa as Tunisia PC Director, a move that brought him and his wife Gail back from Latvia. You can con-
Brika El-khirani
In Memoriam

Brika bint ben El-khirani was, for many Marrakech PCVs, a friend, housekeeper, storyteller, and Mom-away-from-Mom. Born "around 1930," Brika was a native of Sidi Rahal. She began working as a maid when her husband died in the late 1960s. Her son, Mahdi, a student in geology at the Faculty of Sciences in Marrakech, died in 1986. A young niece came to live with Brika, and to help her. In September 1995, Brika became very ill and was admitted to the hospital. She passed away on 7 October 1995.

Contact Baudouin at Peace Corps Director, Tunis-Department of State, Washington DC 20521-6360.

Dan Wagner (Beni Mellal, Marrakech 68-70) is the first Director for the International Literacy Institute, cosponsored by UNESCO and the University of Pennsylvania. He travels to Morocco, the Middle East, and other parts of Africa on international education projects. He lives with his wife and two kids at 7203 Greene Street, Philadelphia PA 19119, 215.242.1024 (h). Dan would like to hear from RPCVs interested in international R&D and consulting. His E-mail address is wagner@literacy.upenn.edu.

Rob Jensen (Ouauouzerht 88-90) will defend his thesis on the Moroccan Barbary Macaques at the University of Minnesota this summer. He began his doctoral program at the University of Idaho in January, after his second trip to Antarctica this past fall. You will find Rob at 2207 Doswell Avenue, Saint Paul MN 55108, 612.644.7608. His E-mail address is rej@fmsand- furl.fw.umn.edu.

Thomas Vahle (Casablanca 85-88, TEFL) is now teaching music at the International School in Dakar, Senegal. Tom can be contacted at The International School of Dakar, BP 5136, Dakar, Senegal, West Africa. Letters can also be forwarded through his family in the US at Kate Curry Vahle, 19842 Portal Plaza, Cupertino CA 95014.

Jack & Carol McCreary (Marrakech, Casablanca, Beni Mellal 68-72, TEFL) will be moving to Tunisia (c/o USIS) in the late summer of 1996. In the meantime, Jack has been promoted into the Senior Foreign Service and is serving in Pakistan as Press Officer. He suffered a bicycle accident in 1994 that has him on crutches. Carol works as a consultant in development, communications and training with groups ranging from Pakistani village organizations to UNDP Afghanistan. Currently, you can contact Jack & Carol at USIS (ISB), Unit 62205, APO AE 09812-2205. Telephone them at 9251.2228690 (h) or 9251.8154823.

Theresa Kruser (Larache 87-90) writes that, for years she has received the FOM Newsletter, and had not paid her membership. She finally joined, and the newsletter has gone somewhere else. (We are correcting that at FOM.) You can find Theresa at 4848 North Lydell Avenue, #122, Milwaukee WI 53217.

Peace Corps Times writes that Paula Jeane (PCV Morocco) and twelve Moroccan counterparts received an "uplifting" gift from KLM Royal Dutch Airways. KLM flew Paula and her fellow...
instructors and students, most of whom are blind, off to California for a visit to some of the world's most technologically advanced institutes, schools, and libraries for the blind. KLM picked up the tab for the one week visit to Los Angeles, San Francisco, and San Mateo, as part of the airline's "Bridging the World" contest. Paula works in a school for the blind in the Peace Corps Orientation and Mobility project with blind instructors, students, and their families to improve the living conditions and educational prospects for the visually impaired. The goal of the trip was to inform Paula's Moroccan counterparts of the operations of successful American institutes for the blind. It also introduced the Moroccan instructors to resource materials and technology used in the education of the blind in the United States. Three cheers for Paula & KLM.

Charles Benjamin (Casablanca, Zagora, El Kela'at Mgouna 86-88, UTEFL) is directing the Near East Foundation program in Morocco, which focuses on developing and disseminating appropriate technologies for rural women in the areas of household energy systems/natural resource management, water and health, agriculture and food processing, and income generating activities. Contact Charles at BP 43, Khemis Dades 45350, Ouarzazate, Morocco. Telephone Charles in Morocco at 212.483.04.77 (w).

Erin E. Branigan (Tinghir 86-88, TEFL) went to cooking school at New York State University (hated it), go a Masters of Public Health at the University of Alabama/Birmingham, married Roderick Major in 1994, and left immediately for Mali. There she is a University of Michigan Population Fellow (USAID-funded) assigned to the Groupe Pirot/Surrie de l'Enfant, a consortium of NGOs working in health fields. The work received an AID grant (and some funding from Save the Children/USA) and is intended to implement community-based distribution of contraceptives throughout Mali. Erin would like to receive letters and visitors c/o Groupe Pirot Surrie de l'Enfant, BP 3105, Bamako, Mali, West Africa. Her USA address is 155 Rue Charlemagne, Stidell LA 70461, 504.649.1647.

Mark Udulutch (Agadir 92-94, TE for Specific Purposes at the Institut de Peches Maritime) is now a part-time attorney in Wisconsin. He would like to find a source for henna in an unprocessed form. Contact Mark at 722 Wisconsin Avenue, Wisconsin Dells WI 53965, 608.254.6233 (h).

Robert Newhall (Marrakech 71-73, Architecture) is designing and making furniture and cabinets, and continuing his watercolor painting in California. For more news about Bob, contact him at 520 Pamona, Albany CA 94706, 510.528.5244 (h) or 510.436.0549.

Phyliss Dietrich (Tetouan 85-87, Teaching Hearing Impaired) has retired from her teaching in Pennsylvania. She currently works part time for the Humane Society of Lack County, and is on the local speakers bureau as a resource for talks about Morocco. Phyliss can be found at 115 Clark Street, Clarks Green PA 18411, 717.587.3307.

Shirley A Triano (Rabat 93-95, Health Technician) arrived back in the US in September 1995, and is working part-time in a friend's business. She is sending out resumes, trying to connect with international organizations for future employment. Contact Shirley at P. O. Box 560833, Orlando FL 32856, 407.894.7324 (h).

Carole Somsky (Larache 85-87, Special Education) is a special education teacher in Phoenix AZ, after having spent two years teaching on an Arizona Navajo Reservation. You can contact Carole at 8925 W. Fargo Drive, Peoria AZ 85382, 602.977.9951 (h).
Rich & Marie Jones (MRPCVs) are interested in finding MRPCVs who have used their PC experience to make significant social and political changes in the US, Morocco, or other places. Rich is a member of the Chicago/Casablanca Sister City Committee. The committee’s current project is to cosponsor an exchange of doctors and technicians between the University of Illinois/Chicago and the Pediatric Center at the Casablanca Municipal Hospital. Contact Rich & Marie at 1058 Linden, Wilmette IL 60091. Their E-mail address is mjones@NWU.edu.

More New & Renewed Members

Bob Lampara (Marrakech 69-71, Architecture) is living at 720 S. Wesley Avenue, Oak Park IL 60304; Betty Pope (Rabat 83-86, PC Nurse) is established at 53 Baldwin Street, Binghamton NY 13903, 607.722.9513; Jon Chrysler is at 250 152nd Place SE, Bellevue WA 98007, 206.746.9796; Gina Wallace (Rabat 93-95, Public Health) is at 3007 W. Government Way, Seattle WA 98199-1423, 206.286.0193; Valerie Staats (Casablanca 83-85, TEFL) now lives at 2214 Wightman Street, Pittsburgh PA 15217; Carl Henne (Marrakech 81-83, Rehab) can now be contacted c/o CRS-Burkina Desk, 209 W. Fayette, Baltimore MD 21209; Michael Moran (Boujad 81-83, TEFL) is at P.O. Box 12641, San Antonio TX 78212; L. William Zartman can be reached at 1740 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington DC 20036, 301.622.5151 (h) or 202.663.5676; Ronald Papandrea, Assistant City Attorney at Warren Michigan, can be contacted at 30315 Austin Drive, Warren MI 48092-1888, 810.524.9712 (h) or 810.574.4947; John Teeple (Rabat 89-91, Bee Keeping) is in marketing for the Centric Corporation and lives at 304 SW Hamilton, Portland OR 97201, 503.224.2209 (h) or 503.727.3419; and Huda Fadel (Midelt 79-81, TEFL), who is a research scientist for the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, is living at 3011 Poppy Court, Thousand Oaks CA 91360, 805.493.0991 (h); Jeanne Davis (Michalski) (Rabat 80-83, TEFL) living at 2809 Kilsnan Street, Bellingham WA 98225; P. John Taylor (Taza 63-70, Forestry) who has moved to 1945 Montgomery Avenue, Villanova PA 19085-1817; Deborah Beaton (Midelt 80-83, TEFL) living at 327 I Street NE, Washington DC 20002, 202.543.5780 (h) or 202.778.1078; Elizabeth Stephens (Tetouan/Rabat 88-90) who is a midwife living at 16 Church Street, Tarrytown NY.
Ash Khabarna?

10591, 914.631.4048 (h); Mary Taylor (Kenitra 87-90, Teacher/ENS) who lectures at Tokyo Kasei University, 0429.66.2550 (h); and Christy Schildwachter (Beni Mellal 88-91, TEFL) who works for Peace Corps and who can be reached at 1224 Independence Avenue SE, Washington DC 20003, 202.544.4086 (h) or 202.506.3167.

Thomas Birch (Ouezzane/Fez 69-71, Agriculture/TEFL) is a lawyer at 1240 29th Street NW, Washington DC 20007, 202.342.6353 (h) or 202.347.3666; Bruce Spicer (Sale/Beni Mellal 73-76, Agriculture) is living at 1349 W. 17th Street, Hastings MN 55033.3208, 612.437.4855; Rick Wriskey (Rabat 74-76, Forestry) is a forester for New Brighton MN, and can be contacted at 2234 Birch Street, White Bear Lake MN 55110, 612.426.5309; Dave McKenna (Marrakech 82-84, TEFL) is now at P. O. Box 760, Hillsboro OH 45133-0760; Karen Countryman (MRPCV 84-86) can be contacted at the Countryman Group, 220 Lafayette Street, Iowa City IA 52240, 319.358.5757; Brian Williams (Ouled Teima 82-85, TEFL) has moved to 18412 Spring Crest Drive, Minnetonka MN 55345; Driss & Paula Jainet are at 215 Arlington Street, Wollaston MA 02170; Lois Brubeck, who deals in Moroccan tribal rugs and weavings, can be contacted at 75 Tremont Street, Cambridge MA 02139, 617.497.5259; Kt Murray (MRPCV 91-93) lives at 367 Cedar Street, Harkness Hall #819, New Haven CT 06510; Jerome Sautler is at 8938 179th Place SW, Edmonds WA 98020; Sonya G. Malone can be contacted at 1040 Olive Road, #813, Pensacola FL 32514; and Andrea Stepnick, who is working on a Fulbright to do research in Morocco on professional women, can be reached at 925 E. Magnolia Drive, Apt 01, Tallahassee FL 32301, 904.671.3190 (h) or 904.644.2831.

Angier Biddle Duke

Angier Biddle Duke, 79, a former ambassador to Spain, Denmark, El Salvador, and Morocco who served as chief of protocol for the State Department and the White House during the Kennedy and Johnson administrations, died 29 April 1995, near his home in Southampton NY, after being struck by a car while skating on roller blades.

Mr. Duke was born in New York City. He attended Yale University but dropped out after his junior year. During World War II, he served in the Army in Europe and North Africa.

In 1981, when a black diplomat from Sierra Leone was refused service at a Howard Johnson Restaurant in Hagerstown MD, Mr. Duke called the Mayor of Hagerstown to discuss the adverse publicity the incident was causing for the United States in Africa. An arrangement was worked out in which the diplomat was invited back to Hagerstown as the city's guest and the restaurant was desegregated.

And 10 Years Later...

The following is from Noreen Polk (Errachidia 84-86, TEFL) after revisiting Morocco after a ten-year absence.

How many years had I daydreamed about returning to Morocco...dreams of eating shebekia and harira, struggling with Arabic once again, and watching the sunset on the Atlantic just one more time? It has been 10 years since returning to the U.S. and still the daydreams continued.

In a moment of madness, I abandoned all fear of overcharging my credit cards (Hey, they don’t have on-line connection to Visa in all the stores in Morocco!), and made plans to meet my site mate, Peggy Smeets, for a few weeks of travel. And they were three GLORIOUS weeks. Funny haw nice Morocco is when you have some money, a car, and good friends to visit.

First Stop: Rabat

We cruised the cafes, rented a taxi Coursi to Meknes, went to the beauty salon twice, and shopped, shopped, shopped. Also visited Marjane...the new mini-mall and hyper-marche in Rabat. There’s a Pizza Hut next door. Oh yeah, McDonalds is in Rabat now...just a few blocks from Peace Corps. The shakes are good and thy have iced tea, but no diet coke.

Next Stop: Errachidia

Remember Errachidia, the dusty 1km town on the way to Merzouga? The only way to get there was by overnight bus from Rabat or all day bus from Meknes. It’s still dusty, and I arrived the only way to arrive: by plane!

Errachidia has grown immensely...it boasts a technical high school (they say it’s the best in Africa!), a university; a municipal park with a zoo, amphitheater, soccer fields, and a stream; and city toe-booses (city buses). I stayed with my Moroccan friend, Houria, and of course, experienced the obligatory mint tea tours of friends and family.

Last Stop: Asilah

Just south of Tangier, Asilah is a small, pleasant beach town. May and early June is the off season, so it’s uncrowded. There are nice hotels and seafood restaurants. It was a great ending to a wonderful trip.

Noreen’s Observations of Today’s Morocco:

Things that are different:

McDonalds; Pizza Hut; more automobiles and more people; considerably less hassling (yes, really!); train service from Rabat to the Casablanca airport (though the trains were on strike when I was there); unleaded gasoline; Coca-Cola Light in cans (Diet Coke); ice cream everywhere (really good stuff); women in cafes...always hidden upstairs or in the back; no smoking in taxis; lost of satellite dishes bringing VH1, CNBC, and European TV stations; more women wearing jeans; and women wearing the hijab.

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Things that are the same:

No toilet seats (a sign of a truly patriarchal society); pink cardboard called pepper hygienic (posing as toilet paper); Sidi Ali water (still tastes great); Sidi Harazem water (still tastes awful); cafes filled with men; horrid smelling cigarettes; diesel exhaust spewing out of every other car; the smell of raw sewage in the main square in Rabat; women saying coolie, coolie, coolie, you haven’t eaten anything (after one hour stuffing of sweets and mint tea down your throat); endless questions about marriage (Are you married? Why not? I have a man for you!).
Friends of Morocco is trying to compile a source list for things Moroccan that can, we hope, lead to the creation of a source book for our members. We ask that our readers send us the names (and addresses) of restaurants, retailers of Moroccan goods, sources of Moroccan musical recordings, speakers from or about Morocco, exhibits of Moroccan art and artifacts, sources for cooking spices, books, tours, etc...

Though we offer this listing as a service to our members, FOM cannot vouch for service, prices, or availability of products.

The following is a sampling of the most recent arrivals:

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-The Republic of Tea, offers teas from around the world, including one called Moroccan Mint. Contact The Republic of Tea at 800.298.4832.

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-Rand McNally, is offering adventure and exotic destination videos about Morocco in its current catalogue. Titles include Morocco (#31119) and Lonely Planet's Morocco (#33330). The videos range in length from 47 to 60 minutes. The Lonely Planet issue is interesting in that it captures the attitudes of independent travellers. Contact Rand McNally at 800.234.0679.

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-The Daily Planet, from St. Paul MN, offers artwork, clothing, and jewelry from around the world, and features a section called come to the Casbah in its most recent issue. Included from Morocco are ceramic drums, silver & pewter tea services, perfume flacons, burnouses, mirrors, couscous platters, jewelry, kattans, and bedouin dolls. For more information contact The Daily Planet at 800.733.7747.

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-Maghreb Friendship Committee, is offering a long distance service to aid a group of MRPCVs with the planning of economic development projects for the benefit of people in the Maghreb. Four principles guide the projects: preservation of capital, reasonable return on equity, creation of employment and the Maghreb, and enjoying the process. For more information, call Kenneth V. Dethman (Morocco 1) at 503.221.3970.

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-The J. Peterman Company's latest catalogue, Booty, Spoils & Plunder is offering burlled wood lamps from Essaouira, antique and new Berber jewelry, wool braided vests, and Rehamna rugs from the plains north of Marrakech. The wool rugs vary in design and exact sizes. Contact The J. Peterman Company at 1318 Russell Cave Road, Lexington KY 40505, 800.231.7341.

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-Natasha's Cafe Catalogue, recently reviewed in Utne Reader is a catalogue for readers from a small store in Kentucky, where Natasha
More FOM Souk

still might answer the phone. Eclectic choices from places like Tanzania, Russia, Tibet, Turkey, Cuba, and Morocco abound. It is described as a store "too weird to franchise, (and) a catalogue that's like being there." The catalogue costs $1.00. Unfortunately, you'll have to contact the Utne Reader for more information, at P. O. Box 5064, Pittsfield MA 01203-5064.

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--Country Floors a major importer and marketer of ceramic tile, is offering a 30-piece collection of designs based on Moorish and Moroccan designs. The inspiration came from the tiles of the Santa Barbara CA courthouse, which were manufactured by a French-owned Tunisian tile factory in 1929. The tiles include short history lessons explaining that tiles were more than decoration in Islamic North African Architecture. They were "used in mosques and gardens to induce a meditative state of mind," according to Country Floors' Shannon Karlson. The tiles are all hand decorated and coated with non-lead glaze. The tiles are sold by the piece ($10.65-$18.65 each). Form more information, contact Country Floors at 8735 Melrose Avenue, Los Angeles CA 90069, 310.657.0510.

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--Overseas Adventure Travel is offering a Morocco Sahara Odyssey, a fifteen day tour of the country, including the mountains, the Sahara, Marrakech, Fez, and Rabat. Included are four days of camping in the Sahara, and visits with Berber and Bedouin tribes. A seven-day extension to Tunisia is also available. For more information, contact Overseas Adventure Travel at 625 Mount Auburn Street, Cambridge MA 02138-9461, 800.221.0814.

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--L'Olive, a Moroccan restaurant in Chicago was described by Mary Ann Williams in the New City as a place to go "when you think you've tasted everything. Moroccan and other North African musics play in the background. None of the chairs match, and cutlery and napkins are stored in two bureaus that have identifying tags taped to the drawers. A mural shows camels marching through the sunset. Though it has the normal couscous, tagine, and fish dishes, Williams says that L'Olive shines when it comes to appetizers and salads (except the house salad). Desserts are also a specialty. Menu items range from $1.50 to $12.50. For more information or reservations, contact L'Olive at 3915 Sheridan Road, Chicago IL 60613, 773.296.0707.

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--Grand Circle Travel is offering a fifteen-day tour of Morocco, visiting Rabat, Fez, Erfoud, Ourazazate, Marrakech, and Casablanca, travelling from New York to Casablanca via Royal Air Maroc. A highlight of the tour is "Daybreak in the Sahara," a tour into the desert to Merzouga and Rissani, and a program exploring the world of the "Blue Men." For more information, contact Grand Circle Travel at 347 Congress Street, Boston MA 800.221.2610.
What follows is a schedule of conferences, exhibits, new books, and other notes that concern the arts in or about Morocco. If you know of an upcoming event, exhibit, new books, recordings, etc..., please send the information to the FOM Newsletter to share with other Moroccophiles.

Transfigurations of the Maghreb: Feminism, Decolonization, and Literatures by Winifred Woodhull is offered by the University of Minnesota Press. In it, Woodhull challenges the separation between French and Francophone literatures, and explores the ways in which femininity has been represented in the texts of North Africa and French writers since 1950. The challenge is demonstrated by some of the best known Algerian texts written in French.

Love in Two Languages by Abdelkebir Khatibi and translated by Richard Howard, is another University of Minnesota Press offering. Told as a love story, this novel explores the complex issues surrounding the colonialisit relationship between cultures. The reader peers through a window seeing up close a heated, then failed, love affair between a Moroccan man and a French dancer.

Arabic Short Stories is an offering from the University of California Press, translated by Deny Johnon-Davies, and an introduction by Roger Allen. The twenty-four stories, all Arabic fiction, include themes such as an alleyway in Tangier as seen through the eyes of a prostitute. the price paid by a sophisticated Cairene philanderer for his infatuation with a young bedouin girl, and the callous treatment a young wife receives from the man to whom she has been married.

The Vision of Islam, published by Paragon House in New York, is a work by Sachiko Murata and William Chittick. It explores the four dimensions of Islam as outlined in the Hadith of Gabriel: practice, faith, spirituality, and the Islamic view of history. Interweaving teachings from the Koran, the sayings of the Prophet, and the great authorities of the tradition, the authors introduce the essentials of each dimension, then go on to illuminate how each has been embodied in Islamic institutions throughout history. Both Murata and Chittick are associate professors in the Department of Comparative Studies. SUNY Stony Brook.

Arabesques, edited by Suzan Schwartz is a book of More Tales of the Arabian Nights, including stories by Larry Niven, Tanith Lee, Gene Wolfe, Andre Norton, and Jane Yolen, as well as other fantasy writers--probably familiar names to fantasy and science fiction writers. A second volume, Arabesques 2, features #1's
authors, along with other new names. Only published in paperback by Avon Books, they were first printed in 1988 and 1989 respectively. Alan Bundy (MRPCV 68-69), who let us know about the books, says that even if they are not on the bookstore shelf, they are still in print and can be ordered. Whether we admit it or not, the original Arabian Nights stories might have been an influence on our willingness to volunteer to go to Morocco.

Arabian Sights, Contemporary Arab Cinema, is a program of the Washington DC, International Film Festival, through 15 February 1996. Major sponsors are the Center for the Study of the Global South, The American University Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, and Georgetown University. The series includes films from Algeria, Morocco, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, the Sudan, and Tunisia, followed by discussion and a guest speaker. Other series sponsors are The League of Arab States, Embassy of Algeria, National US-Arab Chamber of Commerce, Arab Film Distribution, Cineplex Odeon, and the Carey Winston Company.

Coming Up for Air, by George Orwell, was recently reviewed in Aramco World along with a story of Orwell’s sojourn in Marrakech in 1939. Though written in 1939 His Moroccan interval transformed his transformation from a conventional novelist “distinguished by empathy with the oppressed” to a “powerful and astute political” writer, says AW’s Daniel Pawley. In Morocco, Orwell also produced his significant essay Marrakech. Orwell wrote on his arrival in Morocco, “One thing I have always believed...is that one really learns nothing from a foreign country unless one works in it...” The article gives insight to Orwell’s other writings just before, and just after, Marrakech. It points out how there are glimpses in his Marrakech of a yet to be written Animal Farm, while Coming Up for Air strongly reflects his political reorientation that was later exposed in Nineteen Eighty-four. It has been asked if Coming Up for Air would have been written if Orwell had not wintered in Morocco. Pawley thinks so, as Orwell wrote, “I am spending the winter her for the sake of my lungs, which I think it is doing a little good to. Owing to this blasted health business I have had what is practically a wasted year, but the long rest has done me good and I am getting on with a new novel, whereas a year ago...I had seriously thought that I would never be able to write a novel again.” Most of Orwell’s writings are still in print, including those mentioned here, are still in print.

The Bjorklund Legacy: Philanth at 25 and its sequel Bjorklund’s Daughter, by Dr. Betty Halliwell, are available free to RPCVs, from the author. Philanth tackles the problem of holding onto self-transcendent values in a secular culture. It also shows the effects of using top management positions at Peace Corps as plums for a president’s supporters. Peace Corps Director Charles Bjorklund
makes a tour of PC countries with two young RPCVs, and his burnout becomes a metaphor for his country's fading altruism regarding its role in the world. The 849-page philosophical/political romance is offered as a gift from the author, a former sociology professor who worked at Peace Corps headquarters while completing research for this book. In the first published sequel, Bjorklund's Daughter is a rising politician struggling to further her famous adoptive parents' farsighted global agenda while keeping the unscrupulous vice president at arm's length.

This 529-page celebration of the space program is from the viewpoint of the NASA executive who looks to Congresswoman Bjorklund like he would make a satisfactory husband for a presidential aspirant. For more information, or a copy of either book, contact Dr. Betty Hallwell, c/o The Pribiloff Press, 2930 Colorado Ave., #D18, Santa Monica CA 90404-3647, or call at 310-453-8007. More than one book may be purchased at a Peace Corps discount. The book is not being sold through bookstores.

Women of Algiers in Their Apartment is offered by the University Press of Virginia, and is winner of the ALTA Outstanding Translation of the Year Award. By Assia Djebar, and translated by Marjolijn de Jager, it is a series of stories that are intended to be "the voice of all the women they've kept walled in" in Islamic societies. As much a critique as a picture of society, it introduces readers to a little-known world. The book retails for $19.95.

Nedjma by Kateb Yacine and translated by Richard Howard, is another University Press of Virginia offering. This novel, "by one of the most versatile and complex writers of North Africa, is a masterpiece of contemporary literature." From the personal story of an impossible love for a married cousin, Yacine has crafted a novel that is the saga of the founding ancestors of Algeria through French colonial conquest.

To Touch the World: the Peace Corps Experience is a collection of stories published by the Peace Corps, and representing experiences of real volunteers. Included is a story Three Lessons by Craig Storti (MRPCV 70-72, Safi). Developed by PC as a recruiting tool, more information can be had by calling 800.424.8580.

London's Islamic Art Market by Louis Werner, and published in Aramco World (May/June 1995), takes you on a nine-page tour of some of "the trading center for Islamic art," outperforming even Kabul or Cairo. It covers Thirteen galleries, complete with names, addresses, and "specialties" of the Hyde Park/St. James...
Park areas of Central London.

ICOC Regional Moroccan Rug Conference will be held in Philadelphia PA in October 1996. The University of Pennsylvania will stage an exhibition of Moroccan Carpets during the conference, which will include discussions and presentations. For more information, contact Brooke Pickering at 212.780.9125.

Arts and Crafts of Morocco by James F. Jereb was released in 1995 by Thames-Hudson Publishers in London. The book is intended to accompany a traveling exhibition of Moroccan art, opening this year in Los Angeles, at the Arts & Crafts Museum. We will keep you informed on future locations and dates.

From Sign to Image: the Moroccan Carpet, published by Zak International in Casablanca, by Abdel Kebir Khatibi and Ali Amahan, is available for $95.00. The 187-page, 100-plate (color), hardbound volume can be obtained through the American distributor, Myrna Bloom, at 215.657.6178.

Exploring Flamenco's Arab Roots, by Greg Noakes, and appearing in the December 1994 Aramco World, explores the origins of Flamenco music in the hills of Andalusia. Though some say Flamenco is a corruption of Flemish, most say it is a corruption of the colloquial Arabic felag mangu, which means fugitive peasant. Flamencos and Gitanos were words first applied to Andalusian Gypsies in the 14th century. In an effort to explore, and keep alive, the music of Angelus, the Valencian folk group Al Tall has teamed up with a Marrakech ensemble, Muluk El-Hwa. The two groups have set Arabic and Catalanian poetry from the 11th to 13th centuries to the rhythms, melodies, and instruments of the western Mediterranean. Other groups have been formed, including the Orquesta Andaluza de Tetouan and the Orquesta Andalusi de Tanger.

The World Made Image is an exhibit of religion, art, and architecture in Spain and Spanish America from 1500-1600. The exhibit is kicked off with a symposium of the creation of a national Catholic culture on 20 January 1996, at the Gardner Museum in Boston MA. It seems that many of the craftsmen used in the new world after 1492, were actually Muslims from Andalusia.

Thundering Hooves: Five Centuries of Horse Power in the American West is a 400-piece exhibition that examines the roles of horse and rider in a land that drew much from al-Andalus, Muslum Spain. It shows 3 February through 5 May 1996, at the Children's Museum, Indianapolis IN.

Teaching About the Arab World and Islam is a continuing series of teacher
More Arts....Film....Exhibits....Literature....

workshops cosponsored by the Middle East Policy Council in Washington DC, and AWAR, the Arab World And Islamic Resources and School Services in Berkeley CA. Upcoming workshops will be at Milwaukee WI (10-14 February), Louisville KY (19 February), and Denver CO (2 March). For more information, call 202.296.6767 or 510.704.0517.

Earth 2U, Exploring Geography fills a hall with things to touch, lift, and turn, as well as games, stories, "question stations," and environmental reconstructions. Though designed for children, the traveling exhibition is said to appeal to visitors of all ages. It shows that geography is not all capitals and continents. Children pick up a "passport" at the entrance, being stamped as they traverse the multi-sectioned exhibit. Among the "Explorations and Adventures" displays, they will find a life-sized, talking figure of Ibn Battuta, among other explorers. Sponsored by the National Geographic Society, the Smithsonian's SITES, and Nissan USA, the exhibition is booked for a five-year, 39-city tour. It opens at the National Geographic Society in Washington DC, where it will be open through 11 February 1996.

See Ourazazate and Die: Travels Through Morocco, by Sylvia Kennedy, is offered by Little Brown & Company. It is the account of three trips to Morocco, revealing the country in "all its glamour, squalor, and crazy contradictions." Kennedy visits Rabat, seeing infertile women courting conception by feeding hard-boiled eggs to eels; Fez, where she saw five-year-olds working in the taneries; Meknes, where the King "hasn't visited since being pelted with a tomato twenty years ago;" and Tangier, where her guide was arrested "for no reason at all." The craziest of all, she points out, is Ourazazate. The tourist destination in Morocco, according to the author, is "the dullest place on God's large earth...a pointless rival to the cultural and historical attractions (in the rest of Morocco)." Another view of Morocco.

Morocco: Crossroads of Time is a new CD/Book edited by Bill Lawrence (MRPCV), and released by Ellipsis Arts...A captivating CD of Moroccan music ranging from the street to formal performances to the bled, it includes an introductory geographic/history lesson about Morocco. Exemplary track notes, including librettos, and colorful photos and graphics fill the written portion of the release. Crossroads is now available at most music stores.

The Classic Mediterranean Cookbook by Sarah Woodward has been released by Dorling Kindersley via Food & Wine Books. Good clear recipes, including
many from Morocco and the rest of North Africa. It includes a photographic glossary of terms, foods, and spices, making it easy to identify what your dish should look like before, during, and after preparation. It also includes a menu planning section, by country and geographic areas.

_The Art & Architecture of Islam: 1250-1800_, published by Yale University Press, is written by Sheila S. Blair and Johnathan M. Bloom. A beautiful reference book or, if you prefer, something colorful for your coffee table. It is filled with background, facts, drawings, and photographs of Islamic art and architecture throughout the world. Several chapters and references relate to North Africa and Andalusian Spain.

_Morocco_ a traveler's guide published by Knopf Guides was released in 1995, being a translation of the original French guide published in 1993. One of the most comprehensive, informative, and colorful guides we've seen about Morocco, it is easy to read and follow, whether you are on site or just traveling from your arm chair. If you have questions about transportation, art, history, hotels, food, animals, flowers, clothing, tatoos, living in Morocco, or just about anything else, this guide is for you. It sells for $25.00 in the U.S.

_Morocco: Sahara to the Sea_ is a 1995 release of Abbeville Press, written and photographed by Mary Cross, and including preface and introductions by Paul Bowles and Tahar Ben Jelloun. The 240-page large-format book includes nearly as many photographs of the ordinary, the mysterious, and the usual (but as seen from a different perspective). The book covers the major cities, small towns, and the countryside. In the author's words, "For the most part, monuments do not excite me...What I cherish most...are the memories of the people and the extraordinary beauty of the land." Cost: $50.00.

_Culture Shock! Morocco: A guide to customs and etiquette_, is now on bookstore shelves. By Orin Hargraves (El Hajeb 80-82, TEFL) is published by Graphic Arts Center Publishing Company, in Portland OR. The newly released book tells you all you need to know about Moroccan customs and how a foreigner can function and be at home in the country. Hargraves uses his own, as well as others', experiences to guide you through such topics as language, food, customs, relationships, and doing business. Whether you plan a trip to Morocco, or just want to understand other cultures, this book will help. Orin now divides his time between a rural Maryland Buddhist retreat, where he caretakes and cooks, and London, where he works as a free-lance writer and lexicographer.
Paula Wolfert in her cookbook *Couscous and Other Good Food from Morocco* offers the story of 50 ways to serve chicken. The list came about due to a wager at a meeting of the Istiqlal during the struggle against the French in the early 1950s. The wager was made, and won, by Mehdia Bennoxia of Tetouan, later chief of the Agence Maghreb Arabe Press in Rabat. We offer for your consideration:

**50 (MORE OR LESS) WAYS TO SERVE FRIENDS OF MOROCCO**

- Recruit a new FOM member.
- Pay your dues and send a donation to FOM.
- Invite a Moroccan to visit your home.
- Befriend a Moroccan college student.
- Wear a crossed flag (U.S. and Morocco) or Moroccan flag lapel pin
- Host a Moroccan feast to be auctioned for charity.
- Write an article for the FOM Newsletter.
- Rejoin Peace Corps or recruit a new volunteer (1 800 424 8580).
- vacation in Morocco and tell others about your experiences.
- Invite friends over for a Moroccan meal.
- Wear a Peace Corps lapel pin or button.
- Design, commission, and distribute a FOM bumper sticker.
- Take friends to a Moroccan restaurant.
- Take a Moroccan dish to a community pot luck or private pot luck.
- Do a Moroccan slide show for a school, civic group, or church.
- Be on the FOM Board of Directors or serve as a FOM officer.
- Organize or attend a Morocco reunion.
- Call or write an old friend from Morocco.
- See and discuss the movie *Sheltering Sky or Ithtar*.
- Join and support the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA).
- Join or start your own local FOM chapter.
- Have Moroccan crafts on display in your house.
- Donate English language materials to a TEFL center.
- Teach kids some Arabic.
- Be informed and speak out on Arab/Islamic issues.
- Put a Peace Corps bumper sticker on your car.
- Hold a fund raiser for a project in Morocco.
- Write a song, poem, essay—or maybe do a video—about your experience in Morocco.
- Write your newspaper presenting an RPCV's viewpoint on international events.
- Write Congress presenting an RPCV's viewpoint on international events.
- Subscribe to the Moroccan Embassy News Service publication.
- Contribute slides to the FOM slide library
- Represent Morocco in local international fairs.
- Import and sell Moroccan crafts.
- Wear Moroccan clothes.
- Help edit, design, produce, or distribute the FOM 1995 Membership and Resource Directory.
- Sell advertising in the FOM 1995 Directory to restaurants and merchants.
- Get and use a NPCA Master Card/VISA.
- Take friends to the Moroccan Pavilion at Epcot Center in Orlando.
- Write an article on Morocco for your local newspaper.
- Write an article on Morocco for your professional journal.
- Recruit or brief a new Peace Corps volunteer
- Display photographs and crafts from Morocco in your office.
- Say *inshallah* when referring to the future.
- Say *bismallah* when starting anything new.
- Read and discuss a book about Morocco.
- Go to your local mosque.
- Introduce yourself to Moroccans on the street.
- Lead or organize a tour to Morocco.

Perhaps this list will not only help Friends of Morocco, but will also help bridge the understanding gap between American and Moroccan cultures. Contact Tim Reach, 703 660 9292 H, or treach@capaccess.org if you need any assistance.
Introducing a Journal of Sustainable Development and Education

This is a brief description of a proposal for an international sustainable development journal that will respond to an important need that is honored more in words than in deeds: empowering the community side of development partnerships. If you agree, please write us a brief letter. Describe, from your experience, why this journal would make a difference. Foundations, the source of start-up funding, want to see letters of support from people around the world. If you are in contact with friends and co-workers from your Peace Corps host country could you share this article, or a translation of it, with them? Their letters would be especially important to foundations.

The sustainable development approach acknowledges that the prosperity of any one of us is linked to, not at the expense of, the prosperity of all of us and our environment. We need to plan and implement development so that change is not self-destructive. Even if that destruction is hidden from view, shifted to others, the environment, or the next generation.

The Journal of Sustainable Development and Education will be a world-wide forum where community leaders and educators, whose informed participation is crucial to sustainable success of development policies, can share their experiences with each other. Their expertise will help inform and guide their peers and the political leaders and experts who share with them. Equal access to information and communication resources is essential to partnerships in which both partners are empowered. Empowerment of the recipients of development projects is an indispensable, but often missing, element of development initiatives.

Each case study will describe an activity that contributes to sustainable development. The studies will be written by community leaders and educators who want to share the why, how to, and results of their projects.

All reports will be followed by invited commentaries by peers and experts with experience in the topic area plus an author’s response. An appendix to each case study will provide information on how readers can contribute to the project in financial and non-financial ways. Books, periodicals, videos, agencies, foundations and other organizations relevant to each issue’s theme will be listed and briefly reviewed. Each issue will also have a section for brief reports and letters to the editor on case studies in previous issues.

Community leaders and educators are the Journal’s primary audience and authors, but the articles will be written and edited so as to also appeal to development and education experts. Most development and education literature is written by and for experts using complex, technical language that is very confusing to most people. The case studies will need to be good stories as well as informative reports.

The ideology of development emphasizes partnerships between communities and those who seek to serve them. Too long and too often the development partnership has been unequal, in part because usually only the expert side of the partnership has had easy access to the tools of information and communication.

The Journal will start as a 96 page English language bi-annual publication with a goal of becoming a multi-lingual quarterly. If possible, it will be distributed free to the 6,000 plus current U.S. Peace Corps Volunteers and by subscription to all others. The over 130,000 Returned PCVs will also be potential subscribers, sponsors, and contacts for potential subscribers around the world.

Subscription mailing lists will be sought from and advertising placed with local to international development, environmental, and educational publications, organizations, and associations. Colleges and universities with development and planning programs will also be targeted. All subscribers who can afford to, will be encouraged to make donations in addition to their subscriptions and to sponsor subscriptions for friends, and organizations who cannot afford subscriptions.

Throughout the world there are hundreds of thousands of development non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Regular and sponsored subscriptions will be sought from and for as many of these groups as possible. Businesses and non-profit subscribers, many of them with activities involving international development and education, will be encouraged to become Journal underwriters and to sponsor subscriptions for individuals and organizations they work with.

Foundations in international, sustainable, and community development, environmental, and educational sectors will be primary sources of start-up funding. Within five years all funding will come from subscriptions, individual and corporate donations, and theme specific grants.

A twelve page draft proposal is available on request with expanded sections on project and justification, implementation, funding, and an appendix with a sample table of contents, case study outline, budget, income table, time line, bibliography, and Board of Advisors.

Michael Arnott, 61 Slade Street, Belmont, MA 02178. Phone: 617/484-5068. (Philippines 1979-81)
Sacred Still

"Bearing poignant witness to centuries of Jewish life, the historic synagogues of Morocco offer preservationists a special challenge..."

Peter Slatin writes in the March/April 1995, issue of Historic Preservation Magazine, an article called Sacred Still, that discusses the remaining synagogues in Morocco, and an attempt by the World Monuments Fund to preserve that portion of the country's man-made history.

Though distant from Israel, H. M. Hassan II has made clear throughout his forty-year reign his positive feelings toward the Moroccan Jewish community. His father, Mohammed V, refused to sign orders to deport Morocco's Jews during the Vichy government's rule during World War II.

However, of the 300,000 Jews who resided in Morocco at the time of independence in 1956, only 6,000 remain, in a population of nearly 30,000,000. The others either left during difficult times, or emigrated to Israel, France, Canada, and the U.S. (The largest Moroccan Jewish community outside of Morocco is found in Montreal.) Many who remain in Morocco are elderly or poor, and seem resigned to the eventual end of Jewish life in Morocco, a life that began even before the expulsion of Jews from Spain in 1492, sent them across the Straits of Gibraltar to Tangier.

Of the hundreds of synagogues that Moroccan Jews built throughout the country, only 250 have been identified. Conditions range from total abandonment and deterioration to complete transformation into homes for Moslem families, speaking even more eloquently of the interdependent lives led by Jews and Moslems in Morocco. A few are still in use.

In 1986, Joel Zack, then an architecture student at Columbia University, received a Kinne Fellowship to research Jewish culture in North Africa. His intentions were to study the Jewish communities in Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia—but just after arrival. President Reagan ordered the bombing of Libya. Since Tunisia and Algeria were less tolerant with Americans, he stayed in Morocco.

With financing from the World Monuments Fund, he and photographer Isaiah Wyner developed archives and documentation better than that taken to Israel from Morocco as the Jews left. The WMF released a summary of the research in 1992, in a book called The Synagogues of Morocco: An Architectural and Preservation Survey.

Working with local residents, Zack, and the WIF, the Jewish Heritage Council has decided to concentrate on sixteen synagogues that were deemed particularly in need of preservation because of their location, style, or deteriorating condition. Even their most ardent admirers, however, admit that the artifacts are modest, and "...not of enormous artistic value..."

Why preserve the synagogues? WMF Chairman Marilyn Perry says, "First this is a heritage from a declining, if not slowly expiring tradition that has lasted two thou-
Sacred Still...

sand years." Thus the synagogues hold enormous significance within their communities in which they were built.

Jews lived in a designated quarter in Morocco, the mellah, on land that was often provided by the king, near the imperial palace, in a gesture both protective and embracing. Sometimes, of course, the mellah was located in an area confined under more oppressive conditions.

Most mellahs are inhabited by non-Jewish Moroccans today (Tangier never had a mellah), and the synagogues have been converted into houses. Transformation from temple to residence is a fairly simple and natural process: Most of the synagogues were constructed as a floor or room in a family home, usually the home of a rabbi or beloved scholar. The tradition was not the product of a false modesty. To build a conspicuous house of worship was to invite trouble, even in tolerant Morocco. Thus, notes Zack, the exteriors of many synagogues bear no religious markings. The survey found that "most Moslems who own and use the former synagogues as houses are a little proud" of their provenance.

Norman Stillman, who teaches Sephardic studies at the State University of New York at Binghamton notes that most of the problems the Jews encountered came from lower-level bureaucrats rather than the upper stratas of society. He says, "There is a recognition among the Moroccan elite that the Jews formed part of their own national heritage. There is even regret that they have lost a talented part of their population."

Stillman went on to say that officials of the Jewish Heritage Council, say that reversing the emigration trend is highly unlikely. But the Moroccan government is clearly anxious not only to tap into the wealth of sentiment among its Jewish emigres, but throughout the world. The synagogues are a key to that effort, and restoring, preserving, and fostering an awareness of the resource is essential.

The synagogues range from very elaborately decorated structures as found in Tangier and Tetouan, to mud rooms found in the south.

An example of the difficulties being encountered in the preservation program, is the Ibn Danan Synagogue in Fez. The synagogue was inherited by members of a family, now dispersed, and as with any estate anywhere, agreement on what to do with the property is not easy to reach.

That is "good and bad," says Sam Gruber of the Jewish Heritage Council, "It means that the building is being protected, but not necessarily maintained—but it is not being demolished either."

The synagogue at El Fessaine is somewhat different. It has been adopted to another use, a boxing hall, and is unlikely to be returned to the Jewish community. But, the owners have not destroyed the character of the room, and are willing to offer visitors access when asked.

The Sagga synagogue in Fez, however, is now a residence, and the family refuses access to visitors.

Growing interest in the synagogues, both from newcomers and expatriates, have stirred dormant passions in the homeland. "Five years ago no one professed interest in these structures," says Gruber. "Now in Morocco, what we are finding is that local groups have formed—particularly in Fez and Casablanca—and in Tangier individuals are taking some initiative... People are trying to establish museums and collect artifacts." Overall, there is a new recognition that these are historic monuments, and people are beginning to contemplate saving them.
Chlorinating Wells in Morocco
Rural Water PCV Randy Hammond Develops Chlorination Graph for Well Disinfection

Excerpted from the Peace Corps Times, the PCT editor notes that PCV Randy Hammond developed a chlorination graph as the result of his work in Morocco. With contaminated water a problem in so many countries, the PCT wanted it to be available to all volunteers, everywhere. Congratulations Randy.

Traditionally, Moroccans have been disinfecting the water in their wells by using liquid bleach, which is sold commercially under the name javel and contains 12% chlorine.

In order to disinfect water properly, under certain conditions a high dosage of the bleach is necessary. This “shock treatment” is recommended for (1) a well that has just been worked on for cleaning, deepening, or pump removal and replacement, or (2) a well that is being chlorinated for the first time.

Following shock treatment, water should not be removed from the well for 24 hours. After 24 hours, water should be drawn to test whether the smell of chlorine is still present before it can be used for drinking.

The well is then treated every fifteen days with a lower level of bleach.

The graph shows the proportions that are required for decontamination.
News Around the Maghreb
Morocco's Neighbors

Following is a compilation of news reports about the Maghreb and the Arab world giving an update on events on the periphery of Morocco.

Algeria

--The Associated Press reports from Paris that graffiti threatening the "next (terrorist) attack" caused the closing of three schools in the French Alps in October. France rebuffed Islamic extremists' pressure to break ties with Algeria, however. The Armed Islamic Group has been implicated in a series of bombings in France that has killed seven and injured over 130 since July 1995. The group said that it is punishing France for interfering in the domestic affairs of its former colony, and short-lived department, and because President Jacques Chirac had ignored its call to convert to Islam.

--La Monde Diplomatique in its July 1995 issue, reviews a new book by Ghazi Hidouci, called La Revolution inachevee. It researches what the author believes to be the essence of Algerian political problems, to be found in society since the beginning of independence. A good bit of the problem can be seen in the attempts at a socialist economic development that was trying to exist alongside a dream of democracy.

He concludes that democracy and economic justice can only be had when the youth reject all old "recipes" for stability and take a new look at power and responsibility for the country. The review is by Georges Corm.

--The Associated Press reported from Paris that France is falling victim to a new wave of terrorism and fears that the Algerian Civil War could spill over into France. The fear was echoed by the rector of the Paris Mosque after Islamic leader Abdelbaki Sahraoui was killed while praying in the Mosque. France later arrested more than 60 North Africans, many of them Algerians suspected of weapons trafficking for the Armed Islamic Group.

--The Associated Press reported that a bomb was found on a rail line between Paris and Lyon, but that it had not exploded due to a malfunctioning triggering device. Fifteen trains had passed over the bomb, on France's most travelled rail line for vacationers. The state of French security enhancements due to the many bombings in the country was emphasized on Paris Metro cars, where each car was assigned four gendarmes.

--United Features reports in a column by Jack Anderson in December 1995, that the greatest threat to American security in 1996 may not come from Iran, Iraq, or North Korea. Many U.S. policy makers are concerned that Algeria is a potential powder keg. It is reported that it is just a matter of time before the threats now seen in France spread to America. He says that President Clinton's advisors also fear that Algerian fighting could spill over into neighboring Tunisia and Morocco, two of America's strongest allies in North Africa. Such a problem would destabilize NATO's southern flank and damage U.S. military operations in the region.

--Amnesty Action strongly condemned a bombing in central Algiers in late January 1995, which killed 38 people and injured over 250 others. Amnesty International is asking that all armed political opposition groups in Algeria immediately cease their attacks on civilians. It also asked that the Algerian government respect human rights and to bring an end to torture and extrajudicial executions. Amnesty Action also reports that Algerian families are still waiting for a list of the dead to be made public months after at least 96 detainees were killed at the Serkadji Prison in February 1995. Many of the families were given notice of the
More News from Around the Maghreb........

Deaths only after the bodies were buried. The relatives were then given burial permits with "X Algerian" printed in place of a name.

--News Releases from Algiers report that bombings continue killing civilians and that political assassinations are becoming almost everyday happenings. Over 30,000 people have died in the Algerian civil war, including terrorists, government officials, and civilians. Five militants were killed by their own bomb when it exploded prematurely in an Algiers suburb. Fighting also continues in the mountains west of Algiers. France has renewed appeals to its citizens living in Algeria to leave after a French couple were killed by suspected Islamic extremists. They were killed as they were entering their import/export shop in Algiers' El Biar neighborhood.

Libya

--Wire Reports from Cairo state that Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi is "spoiling" the Israeli/Palestinian peace efforts by threatening to expel 25,000 Palestinians working in Libya. At least 10,000 have been reported to be expelled to isolated desert camps. In October, 480 Palestinians were stranded in a no-man's-land near the Mediterranean Sea. Most of the deportees do not have adequate papers to enter another country.

The Associated Press reported from Cairo that the Libyan government has arrested hundreds of opponents after clashes that left at least 30 people dead in Libya's largest cities. 3,500 suspected Islamic activists were reported as "...relatives were given burial permits with "X Algerian" printed in place of a name."

--Wire Reports from Tripoli say that Libya flew a plane load of pilgrims from Tripoli to Saudi Arabia in violation of U.N. sanctions against international air travel, in March 1995. Egypt had asked that a special waiver for the pilgrimage flights be established, as long as Egyptian airplanes were used for the Libyan transport. Instead, a Libyan 727 made the flight, landing in Jiddah, rather than making a stop in Egypt.

--Wire Reports from Cartagena, Columbia report that the October 1995 Non-Aligned Movement created a "fuming Libyan delegate," because the delegate from Burundi "butted in front of him when it was (his) turn to speak." After each of the ministers and heads of state of the 113 developing nations had a chance to speak, the delegates haggled over a final summit document urging disarmament, economic cooperation, and respect for human rights.

--Wire Reports from Tripoli reported in December that Moammar Gadhafi has threatened to attack Naples, and sink the United States Sixth Fleet.

Tunisia

--Wire Reports from Tunis say that Arab nations agreed on an antiterrorist code of conduct but remained divided over the definition of
terrorism and just what measures to take. "The Arabic countries commit themselves to avoid being the origin, or that their territory serve as a staging point for terrorist acts," said a statement from the ministers of 22 countries, after two days. Some countries expressed reservation as to whether Muslim militants should be classed as terrorists.

---Amnesty Action reports that Tourkia Hamadi, a 29-year-old mother of two was arrested and jailed in July after her six-month prison sentence was confirmed by the courts in Gabes, Tunisia. She was charged with belonging to the illegal Islamic party al-Nahda, and of helping her husband flee the country in 1991. Hamadi is one of scores of women who have been arrested in Tunisia for aiding relatives who are members of al-Nahda, or who have received aid from friends and family while their husbands are in exile.

---The Associated Press reported in the summer from Tunis, that Tunisia insists that a big carrot and a bigger stick can stop extreme movements seeking to impose strict Islamic law. Tourists spend over one billion dollars annually in this "well-fed, stable society," though there is tension just beneath the surface, the report says. Ali Chebbi, the religious affairs minister, says that "fundamentalist are terrorists, and we have crushed them to make way for a healthy, tolerant Islam." He says that neighboring Algeria's turmoil has little impact because Tunisians live well and hold tightly to their open-minded way of life. Extremist and Islamist opposition is outlawed in Tunisia, a country where state television relays French programs, bare breasts and all; where fashionably dressed women hold crucial jobs; where women's rights are protected; where health care is good; where Friday is a work day; and where liquor is easy to find. Human rights activist Marzouki says that "the irony in Tunisia is that we are protecting democracy by crushing it."

---Travel & Leisure, in its February 1995 issue, features Timbuktu in an article titled The Long, Long Road to Timbuktu, an Unforgettable Journey Across the Sands of Mali, to a Place that Looks Like Nowhere Else on Earth, by Ted Conover. It describes Mali as "several countries rolled into one...(with much being) a cross between Mesa Verde and the Land of the Hobbits." Timbuktu declined, and finally fell, in the 16th Century, when the Berber armies from Morocco invaded, and the circumvention of the Saharan trade routes by the European maritime nations.

---Wire Reports from Spain report that the summer saw demonstrations by Spanish fishermen, protesting the failure by Spain and Morocco to reach an agreement on a fishing treaty. Spanish fishermen have been banned from fishing in Moroccan waters.

---The Associated Press reports

Rush Limbaugh: a Moroccan at the Million Man March on Washington said that America was discovered by Moroccan explorers 10,000 years ago, and guided Columbus to the New World.
35 Years Waging Peace

Clear your calendar from 29 February to 3 March 1996, for a weekend of special events and programs in Washington DC, as Peace Corps celebrates its anniversary: thirty-five years of waging peace.

A special dinner on Friday, 1 March, at the Mayflower Hotel, will honor Sargent Shriver, Loret Miller Ruppe, and all other past Peace Corps Directors.

Friends of Morocco will be there, so come join in the celebration.

More information is elsewhere in the newsletter, or you can call Kirsten Peterson at Peace Corps Washington, 202.342.6081.

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Friends of Morocco Newsletter is published quarterly by the Friends of Morocco and 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 dues are $15.00 annually. FOM is governed by a nine-member national board. Mailing address: Friends of Morocco, P. O. Box 2579, Washington DC 20013-2579. For further information, contact president Tim Resch at 703.650.9292.

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FOM Newsletter
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