



# Mbegu Za Urafiki

Newsletter of the Friends of Tanzania / Marafiki wa Tanzania

FOUNDED 1991

## FALL NEWSLETTER

2009

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www.FOTanzania.org  
info@FOTanzania.org



## A Success Story: Mkombozi Vocational and Community Centre, Moshi



FOT is proud to have partnered with the Mkombozi Vocational & Community Centre in Moshi and its founder, Mama Asha Mshana. Mama Mshana started the Centre in a low-income area of Moshi in 1999 after her retirement as a home economics teacher. Its mission: "Working together to cultivate skills toward liberation from all kinds of oppression, social, economic or political, toward the creation of positive social change." Its program includes: vocational training, community health education, youth employment assistance, orphan support and a micro-lending program.

Over 700 youths, including school leavers and orphans, have been trained since its founding in sewing, handicrafts, hotel management, computer sciences and accounting. Her students can be met working in businesses and hotels throughout Moshi.

FOT made its first grant of \$1000 in 2005 to build a meeting room for educational and community purposes at the suggestions of Fran

Vavrus, an FOT member who had worked in Moshi. A second grant was made in 2007 for \$3000 to finish a roof and provide eight toilets; and a third and last grant was made this year for \$3000 to complete electrical hookups and finishing costs at the enlarged Centre. In addition to FOT contributions, the Centre has attracted aid from the Tanzanian government and other groups from around the world. It has also raised some funds locally.

FOT Board members have visited the Centre over several years: Craig Hafner and Pat Kelley in 2005 and 2007; Candy Warner in 2008; Malcolm Morris and Diane Russell in 2009. All have been impressed with the dedication, creativity, and energy of Mama Mshana and the efficient use of grants. FOT visitors have been warmly received by the staff and students.

FOT's aid to the Centre over the years has been a model of what we want for all projects. A wonderful institution has been built and is making a difference in the lives of many young people in Moshi.



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**T**hanks Portland and Seattle! I just finished a trip with my husband, Dennis, to the Pacific Northwest meeting many wonderful FOT friends at the T-V reunion of Peace Corps Volunteers (1964-66). Reunions are so much fun. Additionally, my thanks to new member Linda Hines, President of Mwangaza Foundation, for sponsoring FOT September 22<sup>nd</sup> during an evening for Seattle area members. In Seattle, I met some FOT members whom I had not previously met before but who remain active in their own way. Below are several of them. Nice to meet you.

One of the trends I see happening in FOT is that we can network with some of the many groups who have begun working in Tanzania. There is an explosion of effort and we can help bring groups together, facilitate volunteer efforts, occasionally assist financially in the projects, and generally let

the world know about the needs and current work being done in the land we all love – TANZANIA! As an indication of the growth of Tanzania in the world, our Board itself, after 18 years, now has more non-RPCVs than Returned Peace Corps Volunteers. Maybe FOT and the Peace Corps have helped in that growth. I like to think so.

The FOT Board thanks **Noreen Mucha, Paula Hillery** and **Bill Svoboda** who have contributed to our 2009 FOT Board with their knowledge of Tanzania, their financial acumen, their willingness to arrange an event or to find contacts for projects. All their services were helpful to FOT during their tenures and we say ASANTE SANA to each. We continue to look for more Board members. Please think about this opportunity.

We think we have found replacements for **Kyle Green**, our website guru, and **Rachel Saidi**, our Membership Coordinator, whose long tenures in their posts have been so very helpful to FOT. **John Ratigan** has agreed to be

our Assistant Treasurer replacing **Marolyn Hatch**, who moved away. Each deserves a hearty thanks as they move on to other endeavors.

Thanks to **Dan Ehrenberg** for the **Safari Club** event last May. It perked up the Washington DC scene for an evening. **Karen Schaefer** spread the word about FOT at the TEAA (Teachers for East Africa Alumni) Conference held in Atlanta in early October.

Our thanks to **Lynn Heichel Kneedler** and **Diane Busher Russell** for joining our efforts on Board last summer. My term as President is coming to an end in January 2010, though I will continue as an ex-official Board Member next year.

And to all of you who continue to contribute financially beyond your membership dues to our projects – again,

**WE CAN'T DO IT  
WITHOUT  
YOU!!!!**

**You make it all happen!  
Candy Warner, President**



**FALL**  
Friends of Tanzania /  
Marafiki wa Tanzania  
2009

*Mbegu Za Urafiki/Seeds of Friendship,*  
the newsletter of Friends of Tanzania,  
is published twice a year.

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**Board of Directors**  
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*Chair: Finance*  
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*Chair: Communications*  
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Paula Hillery, *Treasurer*  
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Patricia Kelley, *Chair: Outreach*  
Lynn Heichel Kneedler  
Sita Magua  
Malcolm Morris, *Chair: Membership*  
Diane Busher Russell  
Karen Schaefer, *Chair: Projects*  
Bill Svoboda, *Chair: Fundraising*

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Peter De Simone, *Newsletter Editor*  
Kyle Green, *Webmaster*  
John Ratigan, *Treasurer Assistant*

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*Some FOT members attending the Mwangaza Foundation / FOT evening, September 23, 2009 Sammamish, Washington. Left to Right: Donn Fry, Flora Komba, Candy Warner, Michelle Setsu Holmes and Pat Kaald. Flora is the founder of USA organization Mwangaza Foundation which supports SWACO (Songea Women and Children's Organization) as they care for 71 at risk children and the health and well being of people in the surrounding area. See: [www.Mwangazafoundation.org](http://www.Mwangazafoundation.org)*

Have you been to our website? [www.FOTanzania.org](http://www.FOTanzania.org)



## **Tanzania Peace Corps 64-66 Reunion**

*RPCV's at the Tanzania-V Reunion, Portland, Oregon, September 11-13, 2009* **First Row:** Sue Tonskemper Proctor, Alan Meyers, Cathy Lange Herlocker, Diane Schultz Hettinger, Barbara Bainbridge Clark, Tom Robinson, Kathy Clements Stanley, Bill Messner; **Second Row:** Nancy Niles Yie, Trisha Daniels, Candy Warner; **Third Row:** Tom Meier, Dennis Warner, Dennis Herlocker, Ed Setliff, Mike Colegrove, Andrew Clark, Buzz Hettinger, Dan Kaiser, Neil Christianson, Gil Crosby. **Top Row:** Kent Daniels, Ernie Farrow, Ed Connerley, Dave Stenberg, Eric Ries, George Cummins, Jeff Gabiou, Al Bertaina.

### *Welcome, New Board Members*

**Lynn Heichel Kneedler** was a founding member and the first elected President of FOT 20 years ago. From 1965-67 she served in Mbeya as a Peace Corps Volunteer teacher and has maintained ties there and in Dodoma, supporting students and serving on the Board of the ARK Foundation. After 8 years as the Manager of the Mid-Atlantic States Regional Peace Corps Office, Lynn is now a consultant at Peace Corps Headquarters. Lynn and her husband, Ed, last visited Tanzania in 2008 and are planning to visit again this coming summer. She and Ed live in Washington DC. Welcome back Lynn.

**Diane Busher-Russell** comes with a background in international education and community service. With the guidance of Mama Luci Renju of Second Chance Education Center, Moshi, Diane's students from the International School of Luxembourg helped construct six girls' dormitories at rural Tanzanian secondary schools. Though retired, Diane continues to focus on rural teacher education. In September, Diane and her husband visited and reported on 10 FOT projects. Welcome aboard, Diane.

*Welcome and thank you for saying "Yes!" We are all grateful for your contributions.*

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

*As of October 7, 2009*

As reported in our last newsletter, we began 2009 with \$26,403 surplus funds carried over from 2008. Since January 1, 2009 we have received \$20,490 in income from dues, all donations, NPCA dues and calendar sales. During 2009, we authorized new expenditures of \$28,212 including \$24,430 on 11 FOT projects approved to date. Other expenses amounted to \$3,782 including wire transfer fees, NPCA individual member dues, committee costs and the Spring newsletter. The balance remaining as of October 7, 2009 is \$18,681.

*Prepared by Paula Hillery, Treasurer*

# FOT Projects Committee Report

KAREN SCHAEFER, PROJECTS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

We are pleased that we have kept up with last year's contributions and funding level. But we are on overload with the number of good projects under discussion for funding. In addition to those we have funded this year, there are still others we would like to fund but can't. Take a look at one of them later in the newsletter. So far in 2009 we have approved funding for 11 projects for a total of \$ 24,430. Contributions for projects were received in memory of Mark Raymaker and Steve Beaver and in honor of the marriage of Brian and Natalie LoBue.

## *FOT Projects Funded from April 2009 – September 2009*

- **\$1,750** for building materials to construct an addition to the Mehayo Centre's poultry house. The Mehayo Centre, which is located in **Morogoro** town, provides basic education and job training to 62 mentally and physically handicapped children and young adults. With additional income generated by the expanded poultry business, the centre will be able to accept more clients as well as provide a work setting for the young people who have completed the education program. The centre learned of FOT through a Peace Corps volunteer who, along with other international volunteers, assists at the centre.
- **\$2,180** to construct a well in Jambiani town, **Zanzibar**. The project was initiated by the **TUISHI** organization. Because of the underlying coral in the region, the construction of the well requires professional well diggers and specialized machinery. In addition to covering the skilled labor charges, the funds will purchase cement, iron bars, sand, and a pump. The community will donate unskilled labor for the well construction. Once the project is complete, an estimated 500 people will benefit by having a nearby source of fresh water for personal use and crop irrigation.
- **\$2,320** for expanding an existing rabbit and goat project. The **Chipole Development Program** is run by the Sisters of St Agnes Convent and is located in the rural area of **Songea** district, Ruvuma region. Chipole will use the funds from the sale of the rabbits and goats to provide free health services to local villagers, to pay school fees for orphans, and to establish youth groups for young people. The Chipole Development Program expects more than 250 people to benefit from their project. The funds provided by FOT will purchase construction materials for enlarging the goat and rabbit sheds and for purchasing additional goats and rabbits.
- **\$3,000** towards the completion of a kindergarten in Mpuguso village, **Mbeya Region**. The Kisa Catholic Parish is spearheading the project, which was begun at the request of the Mpuguso villagers. The immediate beneficiaries of the project will be the 120 village children of all faiths who will attend the school each year. The total cost of the project is \$13, 362. The FOT portion of the funding will purchase ceiling boards, lumber, door and window frames, as well as other building materials and supplies. A tea company in the region and local villagers have contributed additional funds. Labor, both skilled and unskilled, will be supplied by community members.
- **\$3,000** for the installation of electricity at the **Mkombozi Vocational Training Centre in Moshi**, Kilimanjaro Region. The Mkombozi Organization provides health care, mentoring, and vocational training for women and young people in the Moshi and Arusha areas. Mkombozi expects to graduate 160 students each year in their newly renovated training centre.
- **\$2,020** to the **Tanzania Life Project** to renovate two rooms at Mtumba Primary School in **Dodoma**. The renovation project will provide two additional classrooms for the 865 students who currently attend the school. The project includes constructing a new roof and installing doors, windows, and blackboards. While the project requires a small amount of professional labor, most of the unskilled labor will be donated by the Mtumba villagers.
- **\$700** to **INCOMET** to construct three wells in **Idetelo village, Iringa region**. The villagers will contribute the unskilled labor, one pump (which they have already purchased), sand, stones, and bricks. FOT's funds will cover the cost of two additional pumps as well as materials to complete the lining of the wells. The project, labeled Maji Umoja, was initiated by a Peace Corps volunteer in the region. The wells will provide approximately 155 households with clean, safe water.

## Planning a Trip to Tanzania? FOT Needs You.

Word of the success of Friends of Tanzania has clearly spread throughout Tanzania. Rather than coming in at the rate of one or two a month, the FOT mailbox is receiving one or two applications per week. In an effort to weed out the viable and worthy projects from the impractical or fraudulent, the projects committee has made a concerted effort to vet each project we consider for funding. To do so, we rely on our Tanzanian friends as well as FOT members traveling to Tanzania who agree to spend a day visiting an organization which has applied to us for funding. If you are planning a trip to Tanzania, please consider visiting one of FOT's potential project sites. E-mail FOT at [info@fotanzania.org](mailto:info@fotanzania.org) to let us know, and we will provide you with a project description, questions to ask about the project, and the contact information for the applicant.

# A Worthy Project Needs Funding. *Can You Help?*

**FOT**'s Projects Committee's new policy of asking a local contact or visiting FOT member to check out "on the ground" each organization we are considering for funding has provided us reassurance that the projects we are funding are feasible and genuine. Yet, even with this careful scrutiny, the number of worthy project applications FOT has received this year has outstripped our ability to fund them all. Regrettably, we have had to reject the requests of some Tanzanian organizations, even though they have been favorably checked out by an FOT member or have established a proven track record with successful past projects.

The **Njombe West Environmental Conservation Association** is one such organization. This organization received funding from FOT for a reforestation project in Njombe region in 2008. They applied again this year for a continuation of their **tree-planting project** for \$3,000, but despite the success of the previous phase, the Projects Committee felt that there were too many other good projects needing funds over this one. *Can anyone help?*



*Before NJOWECA reforestation*

*Villagers planting trees during a previous phase of the NJOWECA Tree Farm*



*School children learning how to plant and care for seedlings*



**"Giving Back" Projects:** "I would love to support my old school." "Wish I could bring water to Tandala. It's so dry there where I worked." "I would love to help more girls go on to Secondary School." These are all wishes expressed by members of FOT after returning to Tanzania years after their volunteer experience. We can help make that possible. FOT can help you find a project or consult with you about designing your own project in Tanzania or making a special gift. These funds are not part of our budgeted funds from regular contributors, but the special projects still must meet our own requirements including acceptance by the Project Committee and by our Board. It is a way for you to *Give Back* to that group of people, school, or place you visited and meet the 501(c)(3) legal requirements for a charitable gift. Barbara Torrey and Sally Davenport make it possible for 28 girls to go on to Secondary School in the Geita area. Anita Johnson makes it possible for 10 girls to go on to Lutengano Secondary School, Tukuyu Region. Funds have been given by two former volunteers for water projects in Sumbawanga (Ernie Farrow) and Mwanza (Bob Taft). Charles Joyce gave funds for a micro-finance project and Patricia Kelley and Craig Hafner gave funds for a Palliative Care Scholarship. What would you like to do? Contact us at [info@FO Tanzania.org](mailto:info@FO Tanzania.org) to get started.

## PEACE CORPS News

### ANDREA WOJNAR-DIAGNE

is the new Peace Corps Country Director in Tanzania. She was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Benin. She worked for 16 years with the International Red Cross and as the Peace Corps sub-regional program and training coordinator for the Sahel prior to being selected for the Tanzania position.



### AARON S. WILLIAMS, the 18<sup>th</sup> Director of the Peace Corps

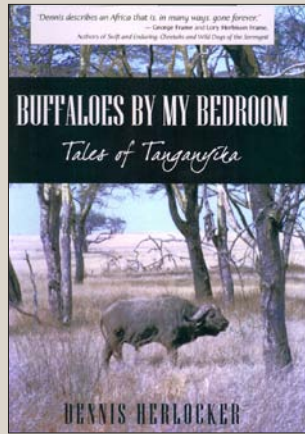
On August 24, 2009, Aaron S. Williams, RPCV

Dominican Republic, became the 18<sup>th</sup> Director of Peace Corps and the Agency's 4<sup>th</sup> RPCV Director. Director Williams has a long and distinguished career in international development. He was sworn-in on September 18, 2009 at the Peace Corps with Johnnie Carson (RPCV, Tanzania), as the keynote speaker who noted that both he and Williams attended the same boy's high school in South Chicago and have followed similar professional paths, beginning their careers in international work as Peace Corps Volunteers. The new Director intends to focus on targeted growth, broad innovation across all Peace Corps operations and a commitment to bringing the world back home.

## Attention Returned PCVs:

1. Save **September 22-25, 2011** for the celebration of the **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Peace Corps** with a three day festival on the Mall. Would your group like to plan a reunion then? T-V is already doing so. Contact us. We will have a Tanzanian event.
2. Join the RPCV website [www.peacecorpsconnect.org](http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org). It's free and has information about the 50<sup>th</sup> and also about Friends of Tanzania – one of the groups you can join on the site. Many thanks to Brian LoBue for helping us start this group site.

*Buffaloes by My Bedroom: Tales of Tanganyika*, has just been published



by **Dennis Herlocker** about his Peace Corps experiences (1964-66) as assistant conservator for forests in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. It's a very good read and draws you back reflecting on your own experiences as Dennis talks about work, colleagues, and living conditions. The book is colored with migrating herds and dramatic landscapes, and spiced with conversations with English colleagues, Maasai herdsman, Peace Corps Volunteers, and meeting his future wife. He is a good writer and I felt fully engaged throughout. You can buy it on Amazon.com and he is generously donating some profits to Friends of Tanzania. Thank you Dennis. – *Candy Warner*

## FRIENDS OF TANZANIA SEEKS NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Would you like to serve as a member of the FOT Board of Directors? Do you know someone who could help FOT in its work and might be interested in this rewarding and enjoyable opportunity? Board Members serve for two years. There are up to ten meetings a year, generally in the Washington D.C. area. Board members can join each meeting by telephone, and several meetings each year are held exclusively by teleconference for all members. Board Members are expected to serve on at least one committee and to attend most board meetings. (Occasional absences are understood.)

To nominate yourself or someone you know, please send your name, with a short paragraph (less than a page) describing your connection with Tanzania and the skills, experience and interests you would bring to the Board. Send this information, or any questions you might have, to Dick Geltman at [rgeltman@comcast.net](mailto:rgeltman@comcast.net). Nominations and expressions of interest should be received by November 15, 2009, if at all possible.

## Thinking about Volunteering in Tanzania?

The purpose of the "Volunteer Opportunities in Tanzania" section of our website is to facilitate connections between organizations in Tanzania that would welcome volunteers and FOT members who want to volunteer there. We now have a small but growing list of organizations requesting volunteers. Each listing includes the name of the organization, a brief description of their work, specific volunteer opportunities, and contact information in Tanzania. Several have websites and a few have a contact in the US also.

This section of the website also includes some general information about travel and volunteering. Reading through these materials may help you clarify why, if, when or where you want to volunteer and what you might want to do. Good planning is important to get the most out of such an adventure.

*Patricia Kelley, FOT Volunteer Opportunities, [volunteer@FOTanzania.org](mailto:volunteer@FOTanzania.org)*

## NEWSBRIEFS

- Tanzania earned \$3.037 billion from the export of goods in 2008 which is up from \$ 2.23 billion in 2007
- The Tanzanian government has reduced Value Added Tax (VAT) from 20% to 18%,
- Taxes abolished include those of customs duty on industrial parts and vehicles used by tourist agents and the 10% customs duty charged on human medicines and crude palm oil. However, the 2009/10 budget proposed to increase the tariff on soft drinks from TShs54 to TShs58 a litre, beer brewed using local barley from TShs194 to TShs200 a litre and all other beers from TShs329 to TShs354 a litre.

Have you bought products of Tanzania available in the USA.  
Check out our website:  
[www.FOTanzania.org](http://www.FOTanzania.org)

If you are going to Tanzania,  
let us know at:  
info@FOTanzania.org

## PASSAGES

PETER FRANKLIN passed away on August 16, 2009 in Bainbridge Township, Ohio at the age of 73. Peter was a surveyor in Tanga province from 1961 to 1963 as a member of Tanganyika I, which with Ghana I, were the first volunteers in Peace Corps service. After returning to the US, Peter went to medical school and practiced as a family doctor for many years. He also participated in endurance horse racing and was featured in the Cleveland Plain Dealer in 2005 when he rode in the Pan American Endurance Championship in Argentina.

## DIRECTORY

Until the Directory is available on the website, please contact [info@FOTanzania.org](mailto:info@FOTanzania.org) for any member information you would like about member addresses.



## 2010 International Calendar Available

The informative and visually stunning 2010 calendar produced by the RPCVs of Wisconsin is available. Price: \$15 including postage. All profits go to the support of FOT projects. The calendars make unique holiday gifts and would serve as a good "thank you" gift for someone. So order more than one and share the enjoyment! Use the Membership Form below to order them. **Asante Sana!**

## DUES REMINDER

FOT relies on your dues and donations to continue its development projects in Tanzania, including the most recent projects described on page 4. We are now seeking dues and donations for our 2010 membership year. Make sure you are up to date by checking your mailing label. If it has a 10, you are already paid through December 2010 and are all

set for next year. If it has a 9, we would welcome your renewal now or early next year. If it has a 8 or less, you are really late and need to renew right away. Please help us get off to a good start on our projects by making a donation in addition to your dues and by being as generous as you can. Our membership/renewal form is below. **Asante sana!**

## 2010 FOT Membership ~ New/Renewal Membership Form

Please print and return this with your check to:  
Friends of Tanzania, P.O. Box 9123, Arlington VA 22219-1123

CHECK ONE:  NEW MEMBER  RENEWAL

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in Tanzania (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Service/experience in Tanzania:

Peace Corps  Teachers for East Africa  Visitor, Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of work: \_\_\_\_\_ When: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete as appropriate:

FOT Dues (\$15 regular; \$5 student) \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution for development projects \_\_\_\_\_

Calendar # \_\_\_\_\_ at \$15 @ \_\_\_\_\_

National Peace Corps Assoc. Dues (optional \$35) \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

FOT Projects are funded with contributions from members. Please be as generous as possible. Every dollar of your contribution goes to projects in Tanzania. FOT's membership year runs from January to December. See our privacy policy at [www.FOTanzania.org](http://www.FOTanzania.org). FOT is a 501c3 charitable organization; your contributions including FOT dues are tax deductible.



*President Barack Obama meets with Tanzania President Jakaya Kikwete in the Oval Office May 21, 2009. This was the President's first meeting with any African Head of State. A bust of Martin Luther King is at far left.*

Official White House photo  
by Pete Souza



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