



# Newsletter of the Friends of Ghana

# The Talking Drum

Volume 15, Number 2

310 Bloomfield Ct. • Roswell, GA 30075 • (770) 649-0061

## Friends of Ghana Supports Early Learning at Titagya Schools in Northern Ghana

Submitted by Andrew Garza, Co-Founder of Titagya Schools

Editor's Note: Friends of Ghana recently donated \$619 to Titagya Schools in Ghana.

**T**itagya Schools, a non-profit organization I co-founded, is trying to give children in northern Ghana strong language, social, and other skills at a young age in order to help propel them to a lifetime of success. To do this, we are focusing on 1) increasing the number of high-quality pre-schools and kindergartens in northern Ghana, 2) giving smart but poor children scholarships, and 3) increasing the effectiveness of the primary schools that already exist.

I started Titagya with two partners from Dalun, Ghana. My background is working for private sector development and educational non-profits in Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa. We are supported by a small but passionate and growing group of advisors, volunteers, and donors from around the world.



*Titagya School Building*

We are currently operating a pre-school for 50 children in Dalun, about 30 km outside of Tamale. Our school practices interactive educational methods based on recent neurological findings about how children learn most effectively, an approach that is unique in northern Ghana. Northern Ghana, the area in which we are concentrating our efforts, has a population of more than 3 million people and a rural literacy rate of 22%.

We opened our school in November 2009, and since then we have seen our students' English language abilities improve

markedly. Our children spoke an average of five phrases in English when they started the school, and they can now carry on a basic conversation.



*Titagya School Teachers and Students*

Most people in Dalun who have not completed formal education speak little English (the local language is Dagbani), and as a result their job opportunities in the formal sector are very limited. Studies demonstrate that when children start learning a language from a young age, they have a significant advantage in learning it well.

**Titagya:** Continued on Page 3, Column 1

## Talking Drum Soon to Go Exclusively Online

Submitted by Ken Autrey

**W**e are on the verge of phasing out the print version of our newsletter in favor of an exclusively online newsletter. Current and previous newsletters will be posted on our website: <http://www.friendsofghana.org>.

A web-based publication saves money that could better be spent supporting projects in Ghana, provides more possibilities for photos and other graphics, has the advantage of immediacy, and is less cumbersome to produce and distribute. If you haven't already done so, please make sure that Ron Yamamoto ([rk Yamamoto@aol.com](mailto:rk Yamamoto@aol.com)) has your e-mail address. ★



## Officers of Friends of Ghana

Frank Yates  
**President**  
152 Sac Road, Unit 1B  
Sunrise Beach, MO 65079  
(573) 374-1070  
[fm Yates@mac.com](mailto:fm Yates@mac.com)

(Vacant)  
**Vice President**

Stephanie Arnold  
**Secretary**  
American Embassy  
2120 Cotonou Place  
Dulles, VA 20189-2120  
(703) 533-6771  
[msarnold@chicagogs.edu](mailto:msarnold@chicagogs.edu)

Debby Prigal  
**Treasurer**  
1625 Q St. NW, #207  
Washington, DC 20009  
(202) 265-3145  
[dprigal@aol.com](mailto:dprigal@aol.com)

## Other Leaders

Ken Autrey  
**Newsletter Editor**  
1649 Omarest Dr.  
Columbia, SC 29210  
(803) 731-9745  
[autreyken@gmail.com](mailto:autreyken@gmail.com)

Roger Myers  
**Newsletter Layout Editor**  
8365 Zephyr Street  
Arvada, CO 80005  
(303) 421-1853  
[rw.myers@q.com](mailto:rw.myers@q.com)

Ron Yamamoto  
**Database Guru**  
742 Arce Street.  
Watsonville, CA 95076  
(831) 724-6177  
[rkyamamoto@aol.com](mailto:rkyamamoto@aol.com)

## Message from FOG President Frank Yates

**G**reetings to fellow Friends of Ghana members.

Since the last issue, Friends of Ghana has been supporting two candidates for NPCA Board positions. Marcia White, one of our members, ran against five other people for the Board position representing West, Central, and Southern Africa. The voting closed on May 16, and the results should be announced soon. Kate Schacter, also a Ghana RPCV, ran unopposed for the Group Leaders Forum Coordinator. The voting closed on May 21.

Kelly McCormack, in the Peace Corps Public Affairs Office in Washington, is working with Ryan Derni, the Ghana Country Desk Officer, to gather information on the Ghana I Program in support of the 50th Anniversary. Bob Klein provided the following information:

- April 24, 1961 — Shriver met with Kwame Nkrumah to discuss Peace Corps.
- May 1, 1961 — Government of Ghana requested formal discussions re: PC.
- May 2, 1961 — Ghana Ministry of Education requested data for review of potential teachers.
- May 27, 1961 — First PC Qualification Exam.
- June 24 - 26, 1961 — Telegrams of invitation sent for Ghana training program at Berkeley.
- July 2, 1961 — Training at Berkeley started with 58 trainees.
- August 21, 1961 — Training ended (shortened by one week); 50 selected to become PCVs.
- August 28, 1961 — Ghana I to White House with Tanganyika I.
- August 29, 1961 — Ghana I Pan Am charter flight to Accra.
- August 30, 1961 — Ghana I arrived in Accra. There were 50 PCVs on the flight; we did not sing the Ghana National anthem in Twi.
- Ghana I was initially assigned to 33 schools throughout Ghana.
- July, 1963 — 45 Ghana I PCVs completed their tours of duty."

The Friends of Ghana group on the Connected Peace Corps site (<http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/>) now has 81 members, up from 72 last quarter. Ghana has been included in the upcoming 2011 International Calendar produced by the RPCVs of Wisconsin-Madison. The group has released images of the front and back covers of the calendar, which features the first 12 Peace Corps countries and honors the 50th Anniversary of Peace Corps.

To join the Friends of Ghana group on the Connected Peace Corps site, click on the blue link "Join Friends of Ghana" on the right side above the array of Members photos. If you haven't yet joined, you can show brief information about yourself in your profile, post text messages, photos, videos, blogs, and comments to other members. As more of our members join this site, we can provide lists by year of service to facilitate the organization of reunions.

*Frank M. Yates*

## Friends of Ghana Privacy Policy

Submitted by President Frank Yates

**A**nually, the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) provides Friends of Ghana (FoGh) access to the NPCA Database for the purpose of sharing the names and contact information of FoGh members. This exchange of data is essential for maintaining a complete, up-to-date database. The information shared include, but is not limited to: full name; country of service; dates of service; home mailing address; email address; phone number; and spouse/partner name. This information is not sold or transferred to any third party by FoGh and has been and will be used strictly for communication purposes with our members.

FoGh will use the shared information received from NPCA and our members for 1) Recruitment and retention of members to FoGh and NPCA; 2) Helping Ghana Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) to organize reunions of their Peace Corps groups; and 3) Assisting requestors to find Ghana RPCVs by sharing the requestor contact information with the Ghana RPCV (allowing the Ghana

RPCV to decide whether to make contact with the requestor).

FoGh may be asked to provide the information in our database to NPCA. The use, by NPCA, of the information contained in our database will be governed by the same policy as FoGh. Members of FoGh have the opportunity to decline to have their data shared with NPCA. If you do not wish to have your data shared with NPCA, please email Ron Yamamoto at [rkyamamoto@aol.com](mailto:rkyamamoto@aol.com), or write Ron at 742 Arce Street, Watsonville, CA 95076 to opt out. ★

## Friends of Ghana Elections Planned

Submitted by Ken Autrey

**E**lected leadership positions in Friends of Ghana include a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. In addition, there are three elected at-large board members. Names, addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of current officers and board members are provided in each newsletter.

Any Friends of Ghana member in good standing may submit his or her name for any elected position. The election will be conducted via the next newsletter (fall 2010). In order

2





