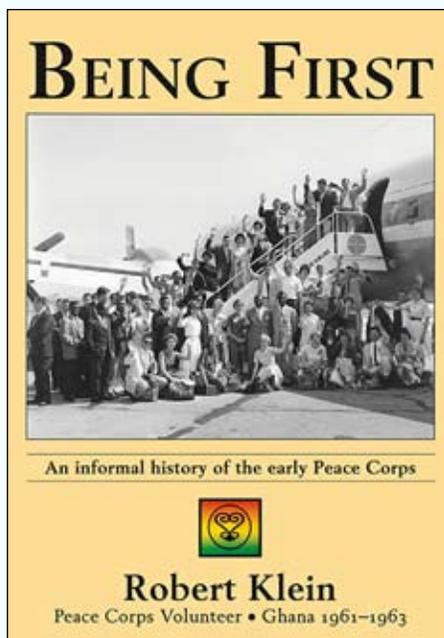




Newsletter of the Friends of Ghana

The Talking Drum

Volume 16, Number 1

Ken Autrey, Editor: autreyken@gmail.com**In This Issue...***(Click on the headline below to be taken to the article.)***Klein Publishes History of Ghana I****Message from FOG President Frank Yates****Friends of Ghana Privacy Policy****RPCV Initiates New Website for Peace Corps Stories****NPCA Honors Founding Director Sargent Shriver (1915-2011)****Announcements about Peace Corps 50th Anniversary****To the Super Bowl via Ghana: A Packer Family's Journey****Letter of Thanks to Friends of Ghana****Facebook Page Consists of PCV '77-'79 Photos****RPCV Tonya Kusitor Goes Public with Songs****Aba Guest House in Nungua Now Open****Send News and Notes for *The Talking Drum*****Ghana PCV Announces Gender and Youth Development Newsletter****Request for Ghanaian Language Interpreters****Klein Publishes History of Ghana I***Submitted by Ken Autrey****Being First: An Informal History of the Early Peace Corps.***
By Robert Klein. 161 pages. Wheatmark Press. Paper. \$19.95.

Robert "Bob" Klein's recently-published account of the first Peace Corps group is part memoir and part institutional history, a slim but vibrant volume that is likely to be of value to anyone interested in the origins of the Peace Corps and of particular value to volunteers who have served in Ghana. Klein explains that the book "interweaves three narratives": an account of the Peace Corps origins, the story of his own service, and a description of the service of others in Ghana I. In addition, the book's final pages provide a sort of "Where are they now?" report on this remarkable group of 50 original volunteers.

Aside from his own recollections and materials, Klein draws on data collected by psychologists M. Brewster

Smith and Rafe Ezekiel in extensive early interviews with the group, and oral history transcripts housed in the John F. Kennedy Library. Klein himself also conducted a number of interviews for the book. This was possible largely because of the amazing solidarity the group has sustained over the years. They have managed to hold well-attended reunions at least every five years for the past four decades. Klein describes himself as the primary "secretary-convener" of the group.

The book details how Sargent Shriver managed to organize the Peace Corps, recruit the first wave of volunteers, plan and conduct a training program, and have the first volunteers stepping off the plane in Accra August 30, 1961, a mere six months after President Kennedy initiated it. Klein praises David Apter and St. Clair Drake, among others, for their role in the astonishingly quick mobilization. And his account gives large credit to George Carter, who headed up Ghana I.

Some of the most engaging parts of the book are the accounts by individuals, including Klein himself, of how they first heard about the Peace Corps and decided to give it a try. None of them really knew what they were getting into, but they were up for the challenge. As the training progressed at Berkeley, the group came together. By the time they stopped in Washington to meet the President before the 23-hour flight to Ghana, they knew they were onto something special.

The members of Ghana I not only did themselves proud as volunteers, but several of them went on to hold Peace Corps leadership roles themselves. Klein served for several years as P.C. Ghana Director, and in 1973 took his family back, becoming a volunteer teacher once again. Klein was the senior member of Ghana I and continues to be the acknowledged leader of that group. He has traveled around the U.S. and returned to Ghana several times to maintain his Peace Corps ties. The Peace Corps Archival Project, devoted to gathering oral histories of former volunteers and housed at the John F. Kennedy Library, owes its success to Klein's promotional efforts. Now we're indebted to him for a fascinating and thorough volunteers'-eye view of the fledgling Peace Corps, illustrated with photos of Ghana I volunteers then and now. Order your copy of the book from Wheatmark Press at www.wheatmark.com. ★



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★ Message from FOG President Frank Yates

Greetings to fellow Friends of Ghana members.

Since our last issue of The Talking Drum, we held an election of officers for Friends of Ghana. Congratulations to those who were elected. Our officers and board members, and their contact links are on the web page (http://www.friendsofghana.org/Friends_of_Ghana/About_Us.html).

Craig Vickstrom, who is organizing the 50th Anniversary of Peace Corps activities in Accra, Ghana, around the August 30, 2011 date, will be sending a letter to the members of Friends of Ghana and to other Ghana RPCVs who are listed in the most recent NPCA Directory. The letter is your invitation to attend the festivities in Accra, and will have links for more information on anniversary plans on the Friends of Ghana website, our page on Facebook, and our page on Peace Corps Connect.

Mary Jayne Cassidy has been working on a redesign of the Friends of Ghana website. She has shown a new welcome page design to the Board, which has been enthusiastically received. When Mary Jayne completes the development of the remaining pages, we will roll out the new website. The website address will remain the same.

It is time for me to thank all of the officers and board members who served during 2010. Stephanie Arnold as Secretary, Debbie Prigal as Chief Financial Officer, Ken Autrey for Newsletter Editor, Roger Myers for Newsletter Design and Layout, Ron Yamamoto for Membership Database, and Susan Caster for printing and mailing the newsletter. Susan is the only one of us who has worked herself out of a job, since we have now gone entirely electronic in our newsletter delivery. We also welcome Craig Vickstrom who has come on board as our new Vice President.

We have also agreed to host a newsletter produced by current PCVs in Ghana, GYDlines, for the Gender & Youth Development project of Peace Corps Ghana. You can download their most recent issue here (http://www.friendsofghana.org/Friends_of_Ghana/GYD/GYD.html).

The Friends of Ghana group on the Connected Peace Corps site (<http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/>) now has 92 members, up from 85 last quarter. 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

Annually, 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, or write Ron at 742 Arce Street. Watsonville, CA 95076 to opt out. ★

RPCV Initiates New Website for Peace Corps Stories

Submitted by Ken Autrey

RPCV Andrew Meyerson has started a website called ThirdGoal.Org. The purpose of this website is to compile service stories from the 200,000+ RPCVs around the world, compile them, and make them available during this 50th anniversary year. The website contains stories listed by geographical region, era, service sector (teaching, public health, etc.) and topic. All RPCVs are encouraged to contribute by uploading their service stories. ★





NPCA Honors Founding PC Director Sargent Shriver (1915–2011)

Reprinted from NPCA e-News

On Monday, January 18, the Peace Corps community was deeply saddened to learn that Robert Sargent “Sarge” Shriver, Jr., beloved founder of the Peace Corps, had passed away. He was 95 years old.

“The Peace Corps has not only lost its founder, but our country has lost one of its most inspiring leaders of the twentieth century,” said Kevin Quigley, President of the National Peace Corps Association. “Long before the term was invented, Sargent Shriver was a social entrepreneur, creating innovative institutions and programs that made a real difference in the lives of tens of millions at home and abroad.”

A public wake was held in Washington this Friday, January 21st, from 4 - 8 PM at Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

Members of the Peace Corps community are encouraged to offer condolences to the Shriver family [here](#).

To honor Sarge’s endless commitment to service, the National Peace Corps Association is urging all members of the Peace Corps community and other supporters to “*Serve for Sarge!*” Between now and March 1st (Peace Corps Day), take action individually or collectively in remembrance of this beloved American hero. By posting a photo of your activity, we’ll create a visual record of volunteerism in action. ★

Announcements about Peace Corps 50th Anniversary

Submitted by Emily Bello, of Peace Corps Connect

Peace Corps Offers Regional Career Events for RPCVS

This year, Peace Corps’ Returned Volunteers Services began offering FREE one-day events in cities where Peace Corps has Regional Recruitment Offices, to further expand support of returned Volunteers throughout the United States. RPCVs learn how to tell their Peace Corps stories in a way that highlights their professional qualifications, participate in hands-on workshops, and interact with potential employers. Go [here](#) to learn more.

Save the Date: 50th Anniversary Regional Expos

The National Peace Corps Association, in conjunction with the Peace Corps Regional Recruitment Offices and select Member Groups, is coordinating a series of 50th Anniversary Regional Expos nationwide in 2011. Each Expo will feature exhibits from RPCVs showcasing their work around the world, remarks from both Peace Corps and NPCA, and discussion sessions for interested applicants and RPCVs. Expos are free and open to the public. Visit [this site](#) to find out specific details about that Expo and to register – hope to see you there!

50th Anniversary Calendar

Want to find an event near you for the 50th Anniversary of the Peace Corps? Need people to attend your event? Starting now, you can visit the NPCA / Peace Corps 50th Anniversary Calendar of Events at [NPCA/Peace Corps 50th Anniversary Calendar of Events](#). Keep track of all of the exciting, meaningful, fun celebrations happening around the world during the Peace Corps 50th Anniversary year. Don’t forget to add your own events on the calendar!

Speakers Match

With the Peace Corps’ Speakers Match program, elementary and secondary school teachers can enhance their students’ learning through classroom presentations by returned Peace Corps Volunteers. Interested classroom teachers and returned Peace Corps Volunteers can enroll in the Peace Corps’ Speakers Match program by clicking visiting the [Speakers Match site](#).

Recent Media Concerning Safety and Security in the Peace Corps

Last week the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) reached out to Aaron Williams, the Peace Corps Director, to ask for information on specific actions that are being taken by the agency to address questions raised by ABC’s 20/20 segment about Volunteer safety and security. The Director has provided an update, posted to [our website](#). Also in the page is some additional some safety and security resource information. We’ll continue to provide the Peace Corps community with information on this important issue.

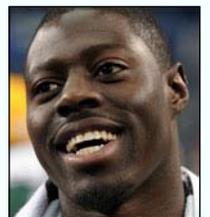
Registering for this September’s 50th Events in DC

NPCA is very excited about the upcoming event taking place in our Nation’s capital this September 21-25th to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Peace Corps. If you’re planning to attend, please let us know you’re coming by [registering online](#). ★

To the Super Bowl via Ghana: A Packer Family’s Journey

By Karen Crouse, reprinted from *The New York Times*

An [article from the New York Times](#) tells the story of Charlie Peprah, who played in the Super Bowl as a strong safety for the Green Bay Packers, who defeated the Pittsburgh Steelers, 31-25. Peprah is the grandson of General I.K. Acheampong, the Ghanaian head of state in the mid-seventies. ★



Charlie Peprah





Letter of Thanks to Friends of Ghana

Submitted by Andrew Garza

Dear Friends of Ghana,

Thank you very much for supporting Titagya Schools. 2010 was an exciting year for us, seeing our first class of 50 students complete its first year of pre-school. At the end of the year, our students' language and math skills were approximately three years ahead of those of their peers in the region. Parents often comment on how the students come home from school and teach some of their new vocabulary to their siblings and friends, creating positive secondary effects that ripple throughout the community.

I am deeply grateful for your donating \$619 to Titagya Schools in 2010. Your support helped us to build and furnish a computer lab for our students, which is acquainting them with the technology they'll need to utilize to thrive in the 21st Century. I'm also excited about our plan this year to open a new kindergarten in Dalun and identify the village that will host our second set of pre-schools and kindergartens. I look forward to working with you as we seek to fill the early education void for the roughly 600,000 families in northern Ghana whose children need access to the foundational skills on which future success is built.

Thank you again for your partnership in this endeavor. I wish you all the best for 2011 and greatly look forward to continuing to collaborate with you. Please don't hesitate to contact me at any time.

Warm Regards,
Andrew Garza
Co-Founder of Titagya Schools
agarza@titagyaschools.org ★



Facebook Page Consists of PCV '77-'79 Photos

A group of Ghana RPCVs has posted a number of [photos on a Facebook page](#) from their years of service ('77-'79). ★

RPCV Tonya Kusitor Goes Public with Songs

Submitted by Kate Schachter

Here is a [link to a YouTube selection of songs](#), by RPCV Tonya (Stephenson) Kusitor, PC/Ghana 2004-2006. She served near Bolgatanga, and did a lot of great SED work with her community in Tengzug. One of her side projects was the production of a CD, Zuer Zuk Kunkor (The Voice in the Hills) by the Tengzug Youth Choir. ★

Aba Guest House in Nungua Now Open

Submitted by Ellie Schimelman

The Cultural Collaborative is an educational NGO located in Nungua, Ghana (30 minutes from the airport) where we work with local children and artists. We have a guest house across the street from the ocean and have a wonderful cook who serves Ghanaian food. We have one RPCV signed up for August and would be happy to host a few more. We also offer workshops with indigenous artisans for those who are interested. If interested, please contact us at aba@culturalcollaborative.org. ★

Send News and Notes for The Talking Drum

Submitted by Ken Autrey

In future issues of The Talking Drum, we'll include a feature on news of former Ghana volunteers. Please send news and notes regarding travel, jobs, family, education, publications, or any other personal matter or milestone to be included in the newsletter. Send to Ken Autrey, the editor: autreyken@gmail.com. ★

Ghana PCV Announces Gender and Youth Development Newsletter

Submitted by Pego Jean-Paul, PCV in Salaga, Ghana (pegojeanpaul@gmail.com)

I am a current PCV serving as a teacher in Salaga, Northern Region and am the new Chair of the Gender and Youth Development (GYD) Committee.

The newsletter is a method for all PCVs to receive information on current issues and events facing volunteers and nationals. Each newsletter features a theme. The summer (rain season) edition focused on Ghana Education and included articles written by PCVs, Ghanaian teachers, and students.

The fall/winter (harmattan) edition features Girls Leading Our World camps. Many camps were organized in 2010 and reactions from PCVs, counterparts, and the girls were captured.

Our newsletter is a means of allowing Friends of Ghana members to stay connected to what is going on at the grass roots level here. Our newsletter is available [here](#). ★





Request for Ghanaian Language Interpreters

Submitted by *Kate Marden*

I am with Lionbridge Federal, a language services company, and I am looking for potential interpreters of various languages spoken in Ghana, including Dagbane and Dagaare. We work with the Federal Immigration Court system all over the country, and we currently have an increased need for interpreters of these languages. All of our interpreters work on a freelance basis, making this a great way to earn supplemental income while providing a much needed and valuable service to the community. I am thus writing to inquire whether you have any suggestions as to how to contact potential interpreters of these languages. Any opportunities to do so through your organization would be most appreciated, as would any individual referrals or suggestions for other organizations that might be helpful for me to contact. Please let me know if you have any questions about this, as I would be more than happy to provide further details.

Thank you in advance for any response.

Kate Marden, Recruiter

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