



Peace Corps Volunteer Milli Channel ,
Wailevu East District School Library



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of Fiji,

I hope you are well and that your new year is off to a great start as we enter spring.

I would like to thank all of you who were able to attend the 2013 Friends of Fiji (FoF) Annual General Meeting (AGM) hosted in the home of David and Willa Downes.

A special appreciation to Ambassador Winston Thompson for sharing the recent developments in Fiji Democracy. He informed us that a Constitutional Commission has drafted a new constitution with a Constitutional Assembly to review and revise the draft to then pass to the President. Elections will be held in September 2014 with more than 500, 000 registered voters out of 600, 000 eligible. The references to race are omitted; one person will equate to one vote. He also expressed his appreciation for FoF keeping the Fiji Embassy involved as an integral partner in our efforts. The Ambassador stated that our continued interest gives credence to the objectives President Kennedy espoused and concluded by reflecting upon the comments of Pope John Paul the second in 1986, "Fiji is the way the world should be."

FoF, in alignment with its mission to assist in community development projects in Fiji, contributed funds for a project submitted by Peace Corps Volunteer Milli Channel. The funds will assist in the renovation of a hall in the Wailevu East District School building to build a new library. Library Services of Fiji

has donated new library furniture and books and has agreed to lead a literacy workshop for mothers at the school.

In partnership with Habitat for Humanity, FoF is sponsoring a return trip to Fiji for Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCV) in early August 2012 led by Dan Dworkin. The site of the build will be close to Nadi. The RPCVs that participated in the return trip in June 2011 found it to be a memorable experience participating in the building projects and being able to revisit Fiji. The Habitat for Humanity partnership build article in this newsletter will be able to provide you with more details.

We are currently underway in developments of our new website for FoF and we are always looking for contributors and volunteers to assist with this project. One of our recent endeavors is to post all of the RPCV mug books online. I would like to thank all of you who have already sent us mug books from your time in Fiji. Our efforts are to scan all the pictures and have them up online on the FoF website for your viewing and reminiscing. If you have mug books and are able to scan them prior to sending, this would be great support with the development of the project.

In closing, I welcome your contribution and comments. We value your membership and work to giving back to Fiji. Please check our website for updates or announcements of the dates mentioned.

**vinaka vakalevu,
bahut daanyvaad,
LALESH**



FIJI

there & back again

Theodore S Pierce

In January 2013 – 40 years to the month after he departed Fiji following his Peace Corps Service – the Friends of Fiji Board welcomed Ted Pierce back as a Board member. For the past four decades this Rochester, NY native – who never travelled more than 600 miles from home until he was 22 – has been roaming the world as an international development specialist and diplomat. Through it all, he somehow seems to be drawn back to Fiji again and again.

After reentering the States from five months of post-Peace Corps travel in Australia and Southeast Asia, Ted did the only sensible thing he could think of. He reconnected with friends from Fiji 6 and ski-bummed at Killington, Vermont for three winters – taking some of his retirement in his youth as he likes to say. Reality finally tripped him up and he enrolled in graduate school, earning a Master of Arts degree in international administration from the School for International Training in Brattleboro, Vermont. One thing cascaded to another and he ended up living in the Solomon Islands for six and a half years, first as an intern with an NGO through his graduate program, then as a Peace Corps Volunteer (again!), followed by a stint as a USAID contractor, and finally as Peace Corps Training Coordinator. Working mostly as a planner for Guadalcanal Province, he oversaw many rural development initiatives.

But, Fiji lured him back. He happily took up the position of APCD for Rural Development in Suva in 1985. Unexpected, incredible consequences ensued and he met his wife Salote, a banking executive with BNZ, then ANZ, Bank. (Salote's niece was a Peace Corps language instructor; the die was cast!) Having helped Peace Corps/Fiji survive the 1987 coup, Ted moved on to Peace Corps/Kiribati as Country Director, revitalizing the program there. But, Salote was still in Fiji! So, Ted returned to Suva and established himself as a freelance consultant, working mainly for UNDP, but also for Peace Corps, USAID, and the ILO.

Just about the time that Fiji Immigration started seriously examining Ted's multi-year string of visas, he was offered an opportunity he couldn't refuse – a

diplomatic position as a Foreign Service Officer with the Department of State. Twenty-one years later, an eclectic career as a political officer had taken him around the world. He served in Lagos, Nigeria as a consular officer and Colombo, Sri Lanka as a political officer during the civil war. Hey, let's not forget Fiji! Ted's third assignment was to our embassy in Suva as commercial and consular officer.

After a tour in Washington as desk officer for the nations of the Western Pacific (during which he served his first spell on the Friends of Fiji Board), Ted was sent to Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea as Deputy Chief of Mission, to Gaborone, Botswana as the Coordinator of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), and to Dublin, Ireland as the political/economic section chief. He finished his diplomatic career as a Career Counselor for mid-level political officers in the Bureau of Human Resources at the Department of State in Washington. He retired in October 2012, but was called back to the Department of State to work in the Office of Presidential Appointments. He advises folks appointed by President Obama as Ambassadors and senior officials in the Department of State as they transition into their new assignments.

Twenty-seven years after they met, Salote and Ted are happily married with two children. Brendan, who was born in Fiji, is a senior at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. Alicia, who was born in Rochester, is a sophomore at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York.

... and the siren call of Fiji? Ted and Salote plan to travel out to Suva later this year to explore an eventual move back to Fiji. This story is not yet finished!

Ted and Salote would love to hear from old Peace Corps friends – piercetsp@hotmail.com.

IN THE NEWS



Carol Phillips Shares Her Unforgettable Experiences in Fiji and Invites Readers on an Odyssey of the Heart and Spirit

<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2013/1/prweb10305824.htm>

US ambassador stocks up Savusavu library

<http://www.fijitimes.com/story.aspx?id=224555>

PEACE CORPS to benefit from USAID

<http://www.fbc.com.fj/fiji/8585/peace-corps-to-benefit-from-usaid>

YEAR IN REVIEW: Getting to know you...

<http://pressnews.com/2013/01/03/year-in-review-getting-to-know-you-ten-fascinating-folks-of-champlin-in-2012/>

Three Washington colleges lead nation in Peace Corps volunteers

http://seattletimes.com/html/localnews/2020288767__peacecorpsxml.html?syndication=rss

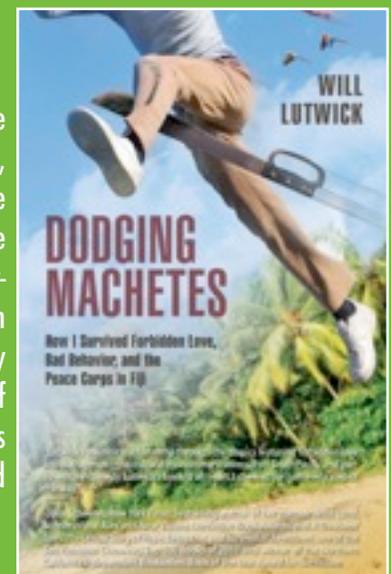
Guatemala's Gonzalez, Netherlands' Kramer win ING Miami Marathon

http://articles.sun-sentinel.com/2013-01-27/sports/fl-miami-marathon-coverage-0128-20130127_1_ing-miami-marathon-elite-runners-time-in-race-history



BOOK REVIEW by MICHAEL HAYNES

Fiji, can there be a better setting for a love story? Will Lutwick had just such an experience and he portrays it quite vividly in his memoir *Dodging Machetes*. His account of that affair is romantic, funny, and daunting – possessing all the attributes required to hold the reader's attention. The book includes insight into Fiji's complex history and society; and the story line is enhanced by the accurate description of the attitudes and concerns of the 1960's, especially the taboo of intercultural dating and marriage. Although a love story, the text is also a history. Often the happenings of history for those who were not there at the particular time and place are mostly a series of events, devoid of a deeper understanding. Mr Lutwick's chronicle places the events of the late 60's within the personal perspective of the individual who experienced them and provides the reader with a deeper understanding of that time and place. Students of history, sociology and anthropology would be well served by reading Mr. Lutwick's narrative.





2013 HABITAT FOR HUMANITY TRIP

In June 2011 FOF sponsored a trip to Fiji in conjunction with a Habitat Global Village building project. About thirty RPCVs, some with family members, and a few friends traveled to Fiji to participate in two building projects and to revisit their villages and friends from their Peace Corps days.

Both the building sites were near Suva, one in Qauia and one on the Rewa River. The first was a 20' x 14' addition and the second involved retrofitting a house. About fifteen people worked on each project.

The building sites this time will be on the western side of Viti Levu near Nadi. I believe that the houses to be constructed are part of a large construction project involving many houses being built in the same area, what we would call a subdivision.

We arrived in Fiji on a Saturday, spent the night near Nadi, traveled to Suva on Sunday, and got set up in our hotel. On Monday we started work. We worked Monday through Friday.

The costs of the 2011 trip were approximtely:

- *\$500 for Habitat donation which went to HFHI, building materials for the builds and medical insurance. (FOF helped with this cost)
- *\$180 for food and transportation both before, during and after the build.

*\$50/person/night (double occupancy) for the hotel before and during the build (roughly \$300, participant's responsibility).

*\$1200 round trip fare from LA to Nadi on Air Pacific (soon to become Fiji Airlines). The transportation to and from Nadi is each persons individual responsibility although I'll try to negotiate an economical, group rate with Fiji Airlines.

*Transportation to and from Los Angeles

*Vaccinations necessary for traveling overseas (CDC)

*Passport (no visa necessary)

A few days into the 2011 building project, we started talking about coming back to Fiji and doing another one. This 2013 trip arose from that intention.

I had not been back to Fiji in 42 years. It was an unforgettable experience, not just the building and working alongside the family but using my Fijian again, traveling back to my village where my students were grandmothers/fathers, being immersed again in that wonderful culture centered more on we, us, ours than I, me, mine.

The projected date for the trip is August 1, 2013. I'm soon to hear from HFHI about the specific costs. Please email didworkin@yahoo.com for more info.

**Lolomi yani,
Dan Dworkin**

2012 Friends of Fiji GALA Raffle Update



We wanted to send you an update on our wonderful trip to Matamanoa Island Resort and The Toka Toka Resort Hotel in Nadi. We travelled 1 1/2 hours by catamaran from Denaru in Nadi and the first 2 nights we spent at the most beautiful Island of Matamanoa. The weather was absolutely glorious and I would recommend it highly. Lots of activities or if you want you can just sip on a coconut and lay on your hammock, watching the waves roll in.

Next, we stayed at the Toka Toka Resort. Very handy if you want a great place right next to the airport. The manager, Mr. Jack Stark could not have been more excited at our being there. While at TokaToka we took a jet boat and went up the Sigatoka River to a small village called Vunarewa. As Bruce was the eldest in our tour group he was appointed as our "Chief" and asked to carry the Kava to the village. The scenic ride up the

river is spectacular with so many friendly people waving as we 'wizzed' by, goats clinging to the rock ledges and small children riding bareback.

After our sevusevu (offering) ceremony was completed we sat down to a sumptuous feast but as Fijians are, it was not long before we had music, singing and LOTS of dancing. The pics here are of us having our feast and of Bruce talking business with the Chief of the village! The villages made us feel like family and it was very sad when they began to sing "Isa Lei" and we knew it was time to go.

It was a memorable trip in many ways and we are both so lucky to have been the winners of the raffle.

**Thank you FOF !!! Warmest Regards,
Bruce Norton and Helen Jackman**

AUCTION ITEMS SOUGHT

One of the highlights of the Friends of Fiji fundraising galas is the silent auction. The auction frequently features handicrafts from Fiji, but we welcome donations of many kinds. Do you have a vacation home you'd be willing to offer for a few days? Or maybe a service of some kind? Of course, if you have some of those treasured souvenirs from Fiji (in mint condition) that you no longer have the space for, why not let another lucky person enjoy them while raising money for a good cause?

If you have anything to donate for the auction, please send an email to Anne Baker at aebaker@cox.net with a description of the item and the approximate value (if known). If it's something we could use, she'll give you a shipping address and will send a letter of acknowledgement upon receipt. Vinaka vakalevu!

GLOBAL LEADERS inspired by PEACE COPRS

The Board of the Friends of Fiji encourages nominations of individuals in Fiji for the Harris Wofford Global Citizen Award. The Wofford Award, presented annually by the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA), is named for the former U.S. Senator and special assistant to U.S. President John F. Kennedy who was instrumental in the formation of the Peace Corps. The award recognizes an outstanding global leader who grew up in a country where Peace Corps Volunteers served and whose life was influenced by the Peace Corps.

Perhaps one of your students back then is a high level official now. Or your counterpart went on to start his/her own organization tackling problems in the community. Or your neighbor is an amazing entrepreneur whose work is making a real difference in the community. Share their story and honor them as a global leader.

The NPCA just announced this year's winner: Dr. Mohamud Sheikh Nurein Said of Kenya. (Read about him here.) Nominations for 2014 will open again later this year. We all know how Fiji time works, so the FoF Board encourages you to think about candidates now. Start writing up his/her story and finding those PCVs who influenced him/her. And let us know by contacting Lalesh Nagy at lalesh@verizon.net.

Additional info available at
<http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/>



EATING WITH YOUR HANDS

recipes by Sara Szunyogh

When I was in country I brought vakasoso to work one time and almost left with a Fijian husband. They thought I "cooked just like one Fijian woman." Why thank you very much, but really, it's 2 ingredients, 3 if you include the water!

I tried this traditional Fijian dessert at a cultural event when first arriving to the islands. It is warm and rich, so call your spot on the couch in advance because this dessert will directly be followed by a nap. Vudi, pronounced voon-dee, is in the banana family. It's not a banana, it's not a plantain, but more like a combination of the two. It has the fragrant aroma and flavor of a banana but has a higher starch content similar to a plantain. If it just so happens that you are not living in the South Pacific then you could substitute bananas for this recipe. However, if the bananas are too ripe they will just turn to mush, so make sure they are ripe but still a bit firm.

The ripe vudi may be a bit high in sugar, but its natural sugar. Never the less, skip the extra sugar if you are conscious of your intake. And DON'T worry for one second about your waistline....coconut milk is GOOD for you. The naturally occurring fats in coconut oil PREVENT heart disease and the multi-chain triglycerides (MCT's) are a long chain fatty acid that are one of the healthiest fats in existence. So don't waste one drop of that glorious milky sauce! Lick the bowl.....I did ;)

VakaSoso -Serves 2

2 large ripe vundi, sliced into 1/4-1/2 inch thick rounds

1 cup coconut milk

3 tbsp shredded coconut

1 tbsp sugar (optional & most likely unnecessary)

Simmer covered over medium-low heat for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Serve warm or at room temperature.

for more recipes visit eatingwithyourhands.wordpress.com



Peace Corps Connect Boston (June 28-29, 2013)

Reconnect with the Peace Corps community and with your Fiji friends in Boston on June 28-29, 2013. The National Peace Corps Association's second annual gathering will feature presentations, social events, updates and fun! FoF would like to have an event with and for the Fiji community then, but we need someone in the Boston area to organize and/or host. If you can help out, please contact Anne Baker at aebaker@cox.net.

Learn more and register online at
<http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/annual-gathering/>.

check the FOF and NPCA websites for info on any FoF events!!

FoF PROJECTS UPDATE

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS >> Habitat for Humanity project.

Friends of Fiji is preparing to sponsor a Habitat for Humanity project in 2013. The trip dates have not been confirmed, but we are looking at a July-August timeframe. Dan Dworkin, Fiji II RPCV will be the trip leader. If anyone is interested in participating please let us know by emailing info@fofiji.org. Volunteers pay their own travel expenses and make a financial contribution to the project. Friends of Fiji will be donating money for materials. We are hoping for a total of 15 volunteers. The total cost per volunteer will be determined when the number of team members. If you are interested please email us at info@fofiji.org.

FRIENDS OF FIJI >> Projects Update.

Friends of Fiji started 2013 with \$21,804 in the projects fund. In January we contributed \$1,000 to a Primary School Library & Literacy project led by FRE-9 volunteer Milli Chennell on Vanua Levu. This project will renovate an existing unused hall into a library & meeting room. The local community will provide labor, some materials, and furnishings.

To learn more about Peace Corps Partnership projects or to contribute individually visit www.peacecorps.gov/donate.

Project Funding Guidelines:

For projects submitted via the Peace Corps Partnership Program (PCPP), the guidelines are:

- Project meets a pressing community need;
- Project is community initiated and directed;

- A well-developed plan for project implementation and sustainability exists for the project;
- The community contributes at least 25% of the total project cost;
- Indicators of success have been outlined in the proposal;
- A well-developed budget in local currency and U. S. dollars detailing both the community contribution and requested funds; and
- The proposal contains a statement to the effect that the community has been informed and understands that there will be no additional funding beyond the authorized amount on the proposal as submitted.

Friends of Fiji will consider requests outside of PCPP. For such requests, FoF is particularly interested in projects that follow the PCPP guidelines and that also meet one or more of the following criteria:

- The project supports rural communities.
- If the project serves a diverse community, it is, to the extent possible, intentionally multicultural in its reach and benefit.
- The project and its outcomes do not in any way discriminate in who may benefit.

FoF requires a final report on use of funds and how the indicators of success have been met within two months of completion of project. This report is to include a financial report, narrative and photos (if applicable), as well as direct input from project beneficiaries.

Note: FoF considers proposals at their regular board meetings only. Any given project may receive a maximum of \$1,000 in support. FoF encourages multiple sources of support and does not intend to be the sole funder for any given project.

KEEP US IN
THE LOOP



need to update your info?

renew your membership?

<http://fofiji.org>

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/13309240876/>

<http://community.peacecorpsconnect.org/group/friendsoffiji>

on twitter? follow us @friendsoffiji

FRIENDS OF FIJI ANNOUNCEMENTS



Baby Silas was born February 19th at 4.33pm to Nan Curry (FRE7) & Chris Clendenin (FRE7).



Joan Follin Hughes Koven November 9, 1937 - October 20, 2012

Joan F. Koven, 74 of Silver Spring, MD, died Saturday, October 20, 2012 at Holy Cross Hospital. Joan was born November 9, 1937, the daughter of John and Viola Hughes. She was a consultant at MARPAT Foundation and the President and Founder of Astrolabe, Inc. Joan was a world traveler, an adventurer SCUBA diver and pilot. She was the beloved mother of daughters, Martine Kuhlman (James) and Michele Koven (Brian Fields); beloved grandmother of Maxfield Kuhlman and Ella Kuhlman; beloved sister of Jacqueline Van Essendelft. She was predeceased by a sister, Carol Conrad.

Memorial Donation's may be made in Joan's name to:

Marine Environmental Research Institute
Society for Women Geographers
American Cancer Society
The Humane Society of the United States

FRIENDS OF FIJI MEMBER UPDATE

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to our new members and those returning after some time away.

New and Returning Members

Anish Chandra
Kim Christensen
Nancy Cicirello
Lynne Dearborn
Jennifer Diffley
John Egan
Alan Hodgkinson
Justin Hunter
James Wright

Deceased

Joan Koven

DONATIONS

We would like to thank the following for making donations to Friends of Fiji. Donations are received for three funds: Friends of Fiji general funds (pays for newsletters, fundraiser invitations, and minor administrative costs), Dan Cantor Memorial Fund (supports social events for staff and volunteers in Fiji), DC Area Entertainment Fund (supports occasional social events in the DC metro area).

Richard Hardegger
Donald & Sara Miller
Steve Lucas
Frazine Taylor
Claudine Fujii

Rotary Peace Fellowship Program

Over the past ten years, Rotary Peace Centers has provided over 700 future peace leaders with peace and conflict resolution education and field experience. Our alumni work all over the world with organizations ranging from grassroots peace initiatives in Africa to the United Nations.

In an effort to reach out to more qualified candidates all over the world, Rotary is reaching out peace-related organizations and asking them to post our fellowship opportunity to their websites, social media, listservs or newsletters.

To learn more about the program, applicants are encouraged to visit the Rotary Peace Centers website at www.rotary.org/rotarycenters. If you have any questions about the fellowship, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you in advance for helping Rotary promote a more peaceful world.

Kat O'Brien

RPCV from Peru 2004-2006
Rotary Peace Centers Program Assistant
The Rotary Foundation
www.rotary.org/rotarycenters

Tel: +1 (847) 424-5219
Kathleen.OBrien@rotary.org



A limited number of T-shirts from the 2012 Gala are still available.

Men's standard crew neck: Large, XL, & XXL
Women's V-neck: Small (1 only)
Women's scoop neck: Large (1 only)

Email info@fofiji.org with your desired size & style. Shirts are \$20 each plus \$3 shipping.

FRIENDS OF FIJI

4327 43RD ST NW
WASHINGTON DC
20016

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Join Friends of Fiji

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/ST/Zip _____

Email _____

Peace Corps Info _____

mail to: Friends of Fiji 4327 43rd St NW, Washington DC 20016

Membership Category

_____ Individual FoF only \$15.00

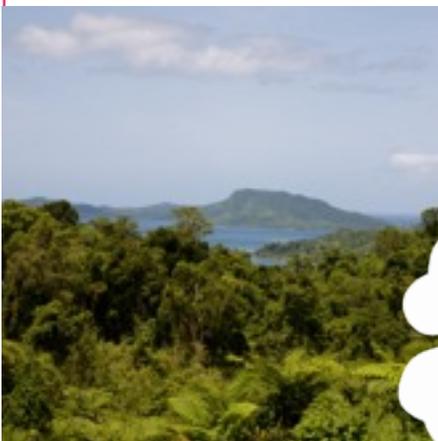
_____ Couple FoF only \$22.50

_____ Individual NPCA & FoF \$50.00

_____ Couple NPCA & FoF \$92.50

if couple, name of second person _____

Optional Donation _____



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