

Khotsong bo-ntate le bo-'me~

March 8, 2011

My name is Sherry Hellenkamp and I'm working on the Planning Committee for the 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration and All Lesotho Reunion in September.

This is a shout out to all the returned Peace Corps Volunteers who were lucky enough to have served in Lesotho between 1967 and 2011. We each had unique experiences, but I'm sure that we all feel that our time in Lesotho was very formative. Every day we learned and grew from our interactions with the wonderful people of Lesotho. Hopefully you've been able to hold onto that love and connection with Lesotho and have maintained friendships with some of the volunteers that you served with.

Friends of Lesotho and a small committee of volunteers are organizing an opportunity for you to reconnect with other returned Peace Corps Volunteers, especially those from Lesotho. As you've probably heard, this year is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Peace Corps, and there are many events all year to celebrate.

The big event is in Washington D.C., September 23-26, and we thought it would be fun to promote mini-reunions that could happen in conjunction with the national celebration. If we could identify one super-organizer from each Lesotho training group, they could rally their own people to come join the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary festivities. There are national events that are being planned and they can be found listed on this link. <http://peacecorpsconnect.org/50/>

We are also planning RPCV-Lesotho activities that will be a great way to reconnect, reminisce, and see how others are staying involved and connected to Lesotho. Our events will be a welcome reception and no-host bar on Friday evening, a Friends of Lesotho program/event on Saturday, and great Lesotho participation for the closing parade on Sunday. Our goal is to get at least 200 volunteers to represent Lesotho.

So far, we've identified a few organizers, but we still need many more. Is volunteerism still in your blood? If so, we will try to make it easy. We have accumulated a master list of last known names and addresses for many of the volunteers, which we will share with you. We will offer accommodation options with blocks of hotel rooms being held for our group. And we will provide links to information that will keep you informed of all the plans and activities.

Below are the groups and organizers that we have identified. If your group is not represented and you are willing to help, please contact me right away. If you can't be the organizer but would like to attend and you have not already contacted us, let me know. We'll add your name to the distribution list for updates.

1967 – 1969	Bill Reed
1979 – 1981	Dana Kenney
1980 – 1982	Linda Henry
1981 – 1983	Lorrie Beck
1984 – 1986	Kevin Koester
1987-1988	Julie Galbraith
1995 – 1997	Tracy Lane
1999 – 2001	Martha Munson
2003 – 2005	Dyann Van Dusen
2005 – 2007	Allison Pranger (needs help)

We hope to see many of you there! Thank you ~ Kea leboha!

Sherry Hellenkamp  
Matsieng, Lesotho (1980-1982)  
Sherry.hellenkamp@gmail.com