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The Official Newsletter of the Friends of Jordan Association

Fall 2005

Reacting and Responding to the Attacks in Amman

In addition to those who were directly involved, the November 9th bombings at several prominent Jordanian hotels had a tremendous impact on people across the world. Most current and former Peace Corps Volunteers and Staff, as well as Friends of Jordan members, still maintain a connection to Jordan and we were relieved to learn that none of the 58 Peace Corps Volunteers was directly affected by the attacks. Yet many of the local Jordanian Peace Corps staff had friends and relatives among the victims and we offer our condolences to them. In Jordan, many people have responded to the attacks by gathering to demonstrate unity in the face of those who seek chaos and division. The government has also tightened security throughout the country and expressed its fervent condemnation of such terrorism. Jordan's leaders have done an exceptional job of providing order and focus and even counseling at this difficult time.

From far away, however, it is often difficult to know how to respond to something of this magnitude. Many people were able to sign a book of condolences at the Jordanian Embassy in Washington DC. Others follow the news and check-in with those who share their connection to Jordan. And, although things may seem different now, we will maintain our support for and connection to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan while its people will do their best to continue living their lives.

Allison Freedman, Newsletter Editor

Program Coordinator's Corner: Launch of the Small Grants Program

Exciting news to report: Friends of Jordan officially launched the Small Grants Program in early October! And we have already received our first two grant applications!

A big thanks to everyone who has helped so far to put the small grants program together, especially those who have already donated their time to review applications. And I would like to echo my request from the previous newsletter: If you want to become more involved, please consider reviewing grant applications. A review should take less than an hour and simply requires evaluating the proposal to see if it meets the standards that FOJ has established. I will contact you each time to confirm your availability so there is also opportunity to 'pass' if we call at an inconvenient time. And, we aim for 100% electronic operation to keep to a maximum 30-day-turnaround time from the *(continued on page four)*

Inside This Issue

Programming Update	p.1
Current PCV Profile	p.2
Financial Update	p.2
RPCV Profile	p.3
Hotlinks	p.4
Member Updates	p.5
Membership Form	p.6
Officer Elections	p. 5

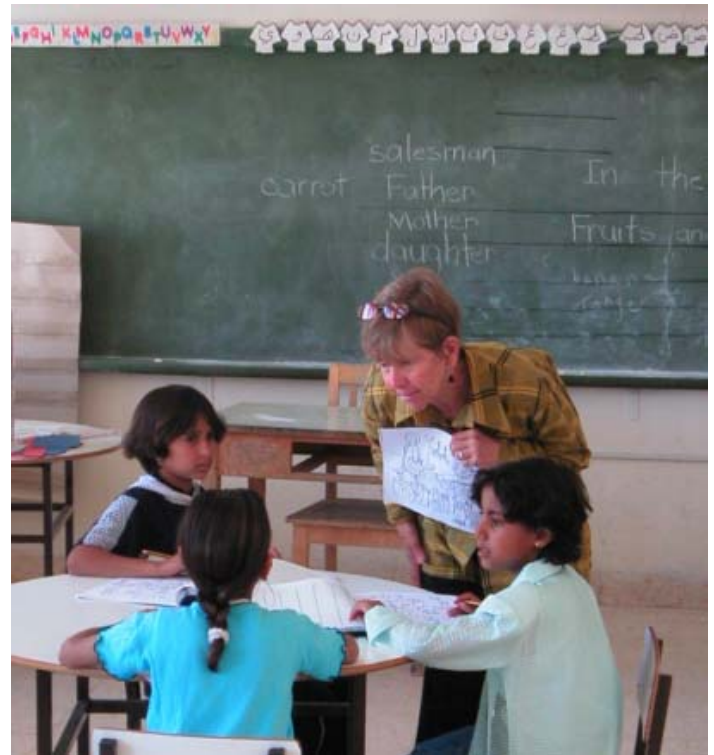
FOJ WEBSITE COMING SOON!

Lynn Coulthard: A Peace Corps Jordan 'Volunteer of the Month'

I am one of those older volunteers having spent close to thirty years in the classroom teaching first and sometimes second grade. Being retired has given me the opportunity to do some things I've always wanted to do such as live in another culture. I've always been a bit on the compassionate side, so I wanted to be doing something for somebody while I was enjoying the experience of living in a foreign country, hence Peace Corps. The invitation to serve in Jordan was a surprise, since I didn't think PC had any programs in the Middle East, but I accepted it quickly and haven't regretted it.

I am part of the TEFL program and teach English to young girls in the Girls' Basic School in Jeddeidah, Madaba. Last year, I taught the 2nd and 5th graders as well as the children at the pre-school. For two summers, I have supervised a Summer Camp for the girls at the school. This past summer, about thirty girls from the village attended, some graduates from last year's camp and some girls from the pre-school. I had several high-school girls helping me with the camp. The purpose of the camp was not just to teach English, but to give the girls a chance to experience some different kinds of activities. This summer, they did some sewing, some photography, some cooking, and lots of art. They also got the chance to work at the computers that arrived at the school last spring in addition to learning how to play football, basketball, and volleyball. It was a full month.

Presently, I am working on establishing a community club of sorts in a building designed for youth development, which means boys. The club has been open for about a month and has been well-attended by girls, boys, men, and women. Of course the girls have their days and the boys have theirs. Activities at the club include English, art, sports, and soon, for the women, sewing. Working and living in this culture can be very frustrating and exasperating, but when I'm enroute to school or the club and little people start emerging from the olive groves with greetings in English like "Hi, Ms. Lynn. How are you" and join me on the walk, it's very gratifying, and I am glad to be here



Teaching: J7 PCV Lynn Coulthard, Jeddeidah Primary School Summer Camp July 2004. Photo by Lisa Mirande-Lind

Treasurer's Update

I am delighted to announce that because of the generosity of several of our members and a non-member, we have \$1400 to start the small grants program! We would like to thank Kathleen Sheridan, Aysha Ghadiali, Bernadette Michel and two anonymous donors for their contributions. We have also just received our first grant requests. **To learn more about the small grants program we are developing, see the article on page one or contact David Rosenberg, our program coordinator.**

Expenses so far this year have been minimal—mailing, financial matters, and reservation of a domain name. Other upcoming expenses the Board foresees include web server space for our soon-to-be-launched web site and federal filing fees. Your dues are important to the work of Friends of Jordan—please renew or join today.

Camellia El-Antably, Secretary/Treasurer

Q&A with J-2 Karey Sabol

By Paul Sippola

In October of 1998 Karey Sabol settled down in Bedoul, a small village so close to Petra that folks were often obliged to pay the exorbitant Petra entrance fee just to pay Karey a friendly visit! She spent two years in Bedoul teaching English at the local Girls School and she also helped to start up an economic development project helping young women market handicrafts. A short Q&A session with Karey revealed her present day whereabouts and revisited some fond memories of days not long past.

Q. What are you doing to keep busy these days?

K. I'm a full-time academic advisor at Southern Oregon University in Ashland, Oregon, where I live with my husband, Thomas (fellow J2 RPCV). We live in this great, internationally-aware and culturally-happening small community in a beautiful area—but unfortunately, it's far too expensive!

Q. How has your PC experience influenced the direction your life has taken?

K. Most directly, PC confirmed what I had expected all along: that I should not be a teacher! However, it also confirmed that I liked building mentoring relationships with students- teaching in a less direct way- and I came home knowing I wanted to work with college students. And of course, PC gave me my life's companion, Thomas.

Q. What do you miss about Jordan the most?

K. I miss the language, in particular all the entertainment that my language mishaps brought. One time, on a very early trip home from Amman, I got to the Jenob bus station, just in time to get the last spot in a service to Wadi Mousa—a miracle because usually I waited about an hour. As I was loading my stuff into the trunk, the driver started mumbling something I couldn't hear clearly, peppered with the word "dinar". Had he forgotten who I was and mistaken me for a tourist who would have to pay the tourist price? I would only pay the local price. "No," I said, firmly but politely, "just two and a half." Everyone in the car started laughing. I finally coaxed one woman in the car into explaining to me what happened. Apparently, the whole group had been waiting in the car for over an hour for one last person. When I finally arrived, the driver was so excited he said, "You're beautiful, you're wonderful. Your face is worth a million dinar." And I of course replied, "No, just two and a half." Mostly, though, I really miss my neighbors. And the food.

Q. Do you still puff on your argilleh or have you hung up the barbeesh for good?

K. I love my arguilah. It's one of my favorite treasures from Jordan. We smoke it about once a month, usually when we have guests over. I brought back a ton of individually-sealed packages of Ma'asl from Amman, in a variety of fruit flavors, that we're still using. That stuff doesn't go bad, does it???

Q. Mansaf - chicken or goat?

K. Mansaf: Bedouia style: Goat meat, not a lot of jemeed, and shrak bread instead of rice. I actually really miss it. I don't think I've ever tried it with chicken.

Q. Pine nuts or peanuts?

K. Pine nuts, all the way.

This Issue's HOTLINKS! Check out these links for more information about Peace Corps, Jordan, and more!

Legislation has been introduced to remove Peace Corps service as an option under the National Call to Service military recruitment program. Find out more here

<http://www.rpcv.org/pages/sitepage.cfm?id=1234>

The Peace Corps community and Crisis Corps responds to Hurricane Katrina

<http://www.rpcv.org/pages/sitepage.cfm?id=1242>

A Jordanian takes advantage of the opportunities and experiences as a college student in the US

<http://www.sesp.northwestern.edu/newsCenter/inquiry/?issueSelect=4&category=9>

You can find out more about the recent attacks in Jordan at

<http://www.jordantimes.com/tue/homenews/homenews5.htm>

<http://www.cnn.com/2005/WORLD/meast/11/18/zarqawi.jordan/index.html>

<http://www.cnn.com/2005/WORLD/meast/11/24/jordan.government.ap/index.html>

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/4424062.stm

(continued from page one)

time we receive a grant application until we deposit the grant money, if awarded, into the Volunteer's account at the Housing Bank. And, as part of that electric operation, you can look forward to seeing pictures that volunteers submit upon completion of their projects.

Now that the small grants program is up-and-running, I am turning my attention to other programming responsibilities. Next up is starting the member discussion forum. What topics would you like to discuss? What interests you? What would you like to hear your fellow members discuss? I envision the discussions working as an online forum (through the FOJ website) and remaining "live" for several days or a week. While only FOJ members would be able to post comments, the discussion text would be available to anyone who visits the FOJ website. But we need subject matter to get started. So please send me your ideas and interests!

In addition, I think there is opportunity for FOJ to start a project to help facilitate worthwhile exchanges of resources between FOJ members and Peace Corps - Jordan. For example, an FOJ member contacted us to because she had a stack of last year's magazines that might be of use to a volunteer in Jordan teaching English. We forwarded this notice on to current PCVs through the Peace Corps - Jordan office. We're waiting to see if there is a volunteer or community interested and willing to coordinate receipt of reading materials. Do you have similar materials that you think would find good use in a school or NGO in Jordan? Please let us know. Also, would you be willing to help coordinate this program?

Finally, I look forward to hearing from you so we can continue to develop FOJ's activities that respond to you—our members'—needs and interests. What activities or programs do you want to see developed? What can you do to help make them happen? This issue's column is full of questions—and I look forward to your responses.

David Rosenberg, Program Coordinator

Become an FOJ Officer!

Want to be more involved in Friends of Jordan? To reconnect to your Peace Corps service? To continue to give back to the country of Jordan and to Peace Corps? To get to know other RPCVs from other J-groups? To help build a new non-profit organization? Consider running for a Friends of Jordan Officer position. In February we will elect new individuals to serve in the following positions:

President
Vice President
Secretary*
Treasurer
Program Coordinator
Fundraising Coordinator*
Membership Coordinator
Webmaster
Newsletter Editor

*new position for 2006

If you have any questions about the above positions, please contact any of the current officers (see page six) or fojordan@yahoo.com. We look forward to hearing from you.



"Arabic Coffee" J8 PCT Wesley Moe and host brother, Madaba Tourist Center (Art Exhibition of children's art - PST practicum project). September 2004. Photo taken by Lisa Mirande-Lind.

FOJ Member News

J1

Larry Bartlett is a former Peace Corps Country Director (96-99) and is currently working in the Asia and Near East Refugee Office at the U.S. Department of State. This past year, he challenged himself to complete two triathlons and finished in the top three of his age group (noting that it helps to be beyond the more competitive 25-35 age group)! Let him know if you're interested in competing in the DC area.

Allison Freedman taught high school world history for the past three years in Brooklyn, New York through the Peace Corps Fellows Program. She has recently relocated to the Bronx where she hopes to incorporate a greater focus on the Middle East in her work.

J2

Rose Heil recently became engaged and will be married in May to a wonderful Greek man from Cyprus. They will be having a reception in Cyprus in early July and invite anyone who will be in the region to let her know and join them for the celebration!

J3

Ann Furr is living in Baku Azerbaijan for a year as an American Bar Association Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative (ABA-CEELI) liaison.

J4

Nancy Glass is currently a disgruntled first-year law student in Stanford, California. She explains, "I have no news! I am buried under an avalanche of casebooks with exciting names like *Torts* and *Civil Procedure*."

Let everyone know what you are up to! Share your news and catch up with other members! Send the following information to fojordan@yahoo.com with the subject line "FOJ News."

- First Name
- Last Name (and surname before marriage, if different)
- Mailing Address, City, State, Zip
- Email Address
- Employer
- Title
- Your News

Meet the Officers...

Rose Heil, *President:* roseheil@gmail.com
 Kathleen Sheridan, *Vice President* kathleensheridan@yahoo.com
 Camellia El-Antably, *Secretary/Treasurer* leiljames@gmail.com
 Gina Cabrera-Farraj, *Membership Coordinator* cabrera_farraj@yahoo.com
 David Rosenberg, *Program Coordinator* derosenberg@ucdavis.edu
 Allison Freedman, *Newsletter Editor* ajfreedman13@yahoo.com
 Kae Gerhard, *Website Coordinator* kathryn_gerhard@yahoo.com

Or, you can reach all of us at fojordan@yahoo.com

Know a current or returned PCV to spotlight?

Contact the Newsletter Editor

Want to sponsor a project in Jordan for just \$20?

Contact the Program Coordinator

Ready to join FOJ?

Complete the application below or contact the Membership Coordinator

FRIENDS OF JORDAN ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM

Contact Information	Peace Corps service Information
Name: _____	Years Served in Peace Corps: _____
Address: _____	Site in Jordan: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	Training Group Number (J1, J2, J3, etc.): _____
Phone:* _____	_____
Email: _____	Type of Volunteer: _____
Current Employer or Profession:* _____	

*optional information

Please check all items that apply:

- I agree to allow Friends of Jordan Association to share the information I have provided with other Association members for networking purposes only. I understand that Friends of Jordan will not transfer, sell, or make this information available to any outside party except when required by law.
- I would also like to affiliate with the National Peace Corps Association and am enclosing an additional \$35 for a total amount of \$50 (\$65 total for a family membership for one year membership or \$100 (\$130 for a family) for a two year membership.
- I would only like to affiliate with the Friends of Jordan and am enclosing a check for \$15 (for a one year membership) or \$30 (for a two year membership.)
- I am already a member of the National Peace Corps Association and offer use of my name to help Friends of Jordan affiliate with the NPCA.
- I am interested to further help with the Association's activities and participate by: _____

Please make checks payable to the "Friends of Jordan." Checks and the membership form should be mailed to:

Friends of Jordan Association, c/o Camellia El-Antably, 314 E 1st Ave, Cheyenne, WY 82001