

Anticipating Asilomar!

By Jim Clark (12) 66-67

“The waves come in slowly, vast and green, curve their translucent necks, and burst with a surprising uproar, that runs, waxing and waning, up and down the long keyboard of the beach ...”

— Robert Louis Stevenson

The idyllic setting of Asilomar, a rustic seaside retreat located on California's



Monterey Bay, will host FON's upcoming biennial meeting scheduled Oct. 17-20, 2013 for those FON members who have made or get their reservations in immediately. (Use the registration coupon on page eight of the newsletter!) Offering stunning views of the ocean and rocky coastline, Asilomar, a California State Park, should provide just the right environment for relaxation, reacquainting with old friends and doing the hard work of planning an exciting future for FON.

Greg Jones, FON president, has put together an agenda (see page nine) that is designed to challenge and inspire the many members coming from across the country. Among the meeting highlights is the keynote address by David Koren (09) 63-66. David has been featured prominently in the FON newsletter and has written a highly-acclaimed book, *Far Away in the Sky: A memoir of the Biafran*

Airlift, which recounts his experiences as a volunteer on those lifesaving missions.

Mike Goodkind (16) 65-67, immediate past president and biennial meeting coordinator, has put together an array of events designed to capture the essence and beauty of this most beautiful part of America so that everyone can relax and reflect on their past and future plans. For starters, he has secured the services of Norm Gary (01) 61-63, FON's in-house

wine expert extraordinaire, who will take up to 20 of our Asilomar guests on a daylong trip into the heart of Steinbeck country for an inside look at three remarkable wineries. According to Mike, "This is not your drive-by wine tasting touted from a sign near the freeway." Norm and you will discuss

with the vintners the fine points of growing grapes, making wine and selling the results. Samples of some of their best wines, snacks and a full California picnic lunch will be offered on the deck of one of the wineries overlooking the Salinas

Valley. Transportation is by comfortable small bus with your FON friends. The all-inclusive cost is \$120 per person and you are encouraged to register using the registration form on page eight and return before Oct. 9th. "There's good news even for those who can't join us on the tour," related Mike,

"we'll be featuring Monterey County wines as part of our scheduled events throughout the gathering."

Mike encourages us to start the first morning with the full breakfast and then coming out to the main deck outside the lodge/reception building and join California State Parks Interpreter Lisa Bradshaw for an "Asilomar Ramble." Lisa is planning a walk just for our group that will incorporate the rich natural and human history of Asilomar and the dunes and beach surrounding our stay. She will share with our group opportunities for self-guided walks throughout the area, including several that offer interpretation through a smartphone or a handheld device, such as you see in museums. Lisa's tour will complement additional walks planned by FON's own Bud Abbott (19) 65-67.

Additional information about all aspects of the meeting can be found on the "tentative agenda" located on page nine of the newsletter and on the FON website. There is still time to register and join us for what should be a fun-filled few days. For further information, contact fonasilomar@gmail.com. See you in Asilomar!



President's Column

By Greg Jones (22) 66-68

We are not getting any younger, are we?

A fellow volunteer recently shared a few photos with a number of us who served in the same town. What first hit me was what a great time we were having in those pictures. The second thing to hit me was how YOUNG we were. Most of us were just out of college, on our own for the first time. Well, we are no longer so young, and Friends of Nigeria needs to come to grips with that fact. Most of us have reached the age where we get to reinvent ourselves (i.e., retire), and some of us have had experiences that remind us how mortal we are. As the age of our members inevitably increases, we have to figure out how we want Friends of Nigeria to adjust to that fact. Do we want to expand our membership to include a younger demographic? Do we want to merge with other West African Friends-of groups and serve as elder statesmen in the combined organization? What other alternatives are there? That is an issue the FON Board of Directors has started to engage on.

I attended the Annual National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) meeting in Boston called Peace Corps Connect at the end of June. (See *FON Members Gather in Boston for Peace Corps Connect Meeting*, on page seven for some of the details). What impressed me was the energy the meeting generated, and the variety of sources for that energy. One volunteer videotaped brief vignettes of other volunteers recollecting their service. Others talked about being peace advocates. Relatively famous RPCVs described the transitions from their volunteer experiences to their real-life careers and how what they learned in the Peace Corps affected their choices. Leaders of friends-of organizations explained what worked for them. Other groups shared their needs and their issues. Two host country nationals who benefited from Peace Corps volunteers described how the volunteers helped them.

I invite you to join us at the biennial FON meeting in Asilomar for a meet-

ing with a similar level of energy. The meeting attendees will generate energy discussing key issues for the future of FON. The substantive part of the meeting will be organized around three themes. The first theme will be generating a strategic plan for FON. At Boston Glenn Blumhorst, the new president of NPCA said that the NPCA would soon go through a planning process using a generally accepted planning model.

I thought such a model might work for FON, just with a different set of opportunities and challenges. Wrestling proactively with such issues can energize a group. Strategic planning is often a process that companies bring in professional facilitators to accomplish. We will try to do it simply by working together. I think we can pull it off. Ultimately, we hope to create a plan much like the Friends of Liberia strategic plan.

A second theme will be to reflect on our Peace Corps experiences and their role in our lives. The presentation by our keynote speaker David Koren will certainly highlight this theme. But we invite all participants to share highlights of their service with others who are participating in the sharing process. The idea is that expressing our experiences so that others can understand them enables us to sort out the meaning of those experiences for ourselves.

A third theme of the Asilomar meeting will be group communication. We have a great newsletter, an aging website, a wiki that could be used much more, and a non-existent social media presence. Wouldn't it be a good idea to perform a survey of our members to see what roles they would like FON to play? Would it be beneficial to have a blog reflecting the issues your board has wrestled with? We will be looking for volunteers as well as ideas to communicate. Would a particular form of communication be one that you would like to make happen?

So how will all this work at Asilomar? We will hold the biennial business meeting Friday morning. We will review FON's finances, its accomplishments over the last two years, and hold

(Continued on next page)

FRIENDS OF NIGERIA NEWSLETTER

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Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor,

I just finished our summer 2013 newsletter edition, and would like to remind you that there were PCVs in Nigeria beyond 1972 (President's Column - "... there has been no new volunteers in Nigeria since 1972 ...").

Yes, there was a hiatus of nearly 20 years, but in 1991, PCVs returned to serve. I was amongst that first group returning to serve as health education workers in the Guinea Worm Disease Eradication Program. Two more groups followed us, with Peace Corps once again losing its presence in Nigeria in 1995.

Perhaps those of us RPCVs from the early '90's will be able to continue the FON newsletter and grants program with the same passion as our earlier cohorts. I would like to see such a passing of the torch happen.

Perhaps one of the upcoming FON Biennial Meetings could hold as its focus the goal to see this happen.

Thanks,
Jeannine Fosca, Nigeria (09) 91-93

Dear Editor:

In Hugh Rogers review of Julian Martin's book (summer, 2013), he relates the story of Mr. Martin's interactions with a Headmaster/White Father. The review

reminded me of a very different experience I had.

I was part of the second Ag/RD group sent to Nigeria, and was stationed in the Ogoni District southwest of Port Harcourt. The largest school in the town was a teacher training college and the headmaster was Fr. Gallagher ("Fr. Gal" to everyone.) As an Irish Catholic kid from the Bronx, how could I refuse Fr. Gal's invitation to occasionally join him on Sunday rounds? Fr. Gal would drive out to one of the villages in the district to say mass. On one of those first Sundays we headed down a rutted, dirt road and as we drew near the town, the children waved and ran alongside the car shouting "Fadda Gal, Fadda Gal." As we headed to the building that served as a chapel, an old man in a singlet and wrapper came out of this hut shouting, laughing and waving to us. Fr. Gal told me he wanted to greet us and as we headed over, he told me, "This is my opposition – the local Juju priest."

We entered the hut, and the old man poured us a drink of "kai-kai" (distilled palm wine). We saluted the ancestors, by pouring a bit on the ground, drank the rest, and then went off to mass. After the service, Fr. Gal asked to see the garden. I was to learn that in every village Fr. Gal visited, and at the school, he encouraged folks to plant a vegetable garden. As he explained to me; "You can't win their souls if they have an empty belly".

There are other ways he showed his kindness to all he met, but there was one

piece of advice he gave me, that I still remember. He told me to be careful about drinking the water. Boil the water, then filter it, and then filter it again. Then put the water in a bottle and put it in the fridge, and take out a Star beer and drink it. He cared greatly about the folks he worked with, and leavened his work with a wonderful sense of humor.

The next beer is on me Father Gal!
Patrick O'Reilly (16) 65-67

Dear Editor,

Why is the FON board funding projects to give GMO (genetically modified organisms) corn seeds to Nigerian farmers? GMO seeds IMO (in my opinion) are not safe to be released, especially in an undeveloped country where the infrastructure and political system is unable to respond to environmental crisis.

I taught biology in a boarding school in Iseyin (Western Region) from 1965-67 where farming was the only real industry. If GMOs prove to be the death of the small farm (as in the US) the people in my town will suffer. GMOs released into the environment pose a worldwide agricultural threat where only big ag and big pharma benefit.

I think FON should do real science before encouraging Nigerian farmers to put their futures at stake.

Who made the decision to release GMOs into Nigeria????

Carol (Strickland) Storm (14) 65-67

*(President's Column
Continued from p. 2)*

an election for the board. Then David Koren will elaborate on his Peace Corps experience and the Biafran relief efforts he participated in soon after completing his service. David worked in the airlift ferrying humanitarian relief supplies into Biafra having to land on a tiny airstrip at night that could only turn on its lights just before the plane came in for a landing.

At the conclusion of the business meeting I will introduce the idea of the three major themes for the rest of

the meeting. Those who are interested in wrestling with the future of FON will form one track, those interested in sharing reflections on their volunteer experience will form a second track, and those who are interested in discussing communications will form a third track. There will be two meetings after lunch on Friday and a third Saturday morning. During these formal sessions, each track will perform steps in the process of planning, storytelling, and communicating. Then at the dinner on Saturday night, each track will report back to the group as a whole, either presenting a formal

plan, sharing the highlights of the stories exchanged, or recommending ideas for improved communications. I will be recruiting various individuals to lead each track, and anybody who professes to have expertise in any area is welcome to volunteer. The attendees will be asked to participate actively. Instead of having speakers drone on at you, you will be asked to listen to the general concepts and offer your own ideas.

The date for our biennial meeting at Asilomar is coming soon. Sign up and see you there! Help us figure out what FON's future will be.

Maize Seed Project Underway in Mangu, Plateau State

By Jim Clark (12) 64-66

(Compiled from a report by Collins Adubango, Extension Manager).

In May 2013, VSO volunteer, Lukas Partzch (Germany), requested and received a grant in the amount of \$1,525 from the FON grant committee to purchase certified GMO seeds to be distributed to farmers in the Mangu, Plateau State area. The goal, according to Partzch, was to improve corn yields for farmers growing the crop in harsh conditions and to establish a seed bank that could be accessed by local growers.

Since the awarding of the grant in May, over 570 units of seed have been distributed to over ten different communities/groups in the area with another 94 units placed in a seed bank. By the end of May, all distributed seed had been



Fwankshak Gayus standing in a field of maize planted with a local variety of maize seed.

planted and requests for additional seed were coming in.

Unfortunately, Partzch had to return to Germany in August due to a family illness, but Collins Adubango, another VSO serving as a local extension agent assumed the reins of the project and will be in place until the project's conclusion. Adubango reports that he has visited many of the fields and farmers are seeing improved yields due to a number of factors:

The cobs were big and well packed as compared to the local varieties which were small in size.

Planted at the same time, the local variety had just started bringing out the cobs while the improved ones had already big cobs.

The new seed varieties were far more weed- and pest-resistant and continued to thrive as local varieties faltered.

The Improved seed varieties given to the farmers are short and can withstand strong wind.

Local farmer, Luka Aaron, like other farmers said "at the beginning, we did not like the maize variety because it was not growing, looking very short and it was like (an) infection of diseases was seen in them. Many farmers were getting



Aaron Luka in his maize field planted with a local variety of maize seed holding a cob to compare with the one grown from improved maize seed.

discouraged, but now from what we see, short as they are, they mature fast and bigger and are well compacted. We shall be able to look for where we can get more seeds next season and add on what we have to make us grow it more on large scale."

Adubango states that "this testimony is an indication of success because the farmers needed some varieties that can withstand harsh conditions and are also able to realize other benefits in terms of quality and quantity. Mr. Luka says that he will be able to look for more seeds and plant; this is an empowerment for one to search for the seeds."

Friends of Nigeria Seeking Applicants for Board of Directors

By Jim Clark (12) 66-67

At its board meeting on Saturday, September 7, 2013, the Friends of Nigeria (FON) board of directors appointed current members Murray Frank (staff, 61-64) and Jim Clark to serve as a nominating committee for its upcoming elections. Those elections, in keeping with FON's bylaws, are slated to be held on Saturday, October 19, 2013 at FON's biennial meeting in Monterrey, CA.

According to Frank and Clark, the committee is seeking nominees from the entire membership but is especially interested in getting applications from members who served in Nigeria in the

nineties. Realizing that most of the current leadership is comprised of those who served in the sixties, the board is seeking to be both inclusive and representative of all those who served in Nigeria and in forming a leadership team that can carry FON's mission into the future.

The present board consists of 14 members, and, from these members, the board elects a president, vice president, membership chair, secretary, treasurer and a newsletter editor. All board members and officers selected by the board serve two-year terms beginning with their election at a biennial meeting and ending at the next biennial meeting.

The number of board members can be increased or decreased by the board or by the members at the biennial meeting.

The nominating process is simple and straightforward: any active FON member may nominate any active member including oneself for a director position. To make a nomination, submit a nomination letter to Murray Frank at mwfrank17@gmail.com or Jim Clark at wjclark016@gmail.com prior to the cutoff date of October 10, 2013. The letter should contain a very short bio that would include information on where and when the nominee served in Nigeria.

Developing Empowered Women: The Girls' Power Initiative

By Sarah Corley (VSO)

Editor's note: Sarah is a VSO volunteer serving in Calabar, Nigeria. She was born in London, UK and spent most of her adult life living there while much of her childhood was spent living in the seaside resort of Bournemouth. She holds a degree in psychology and has always had a "volunteer spirit" that led her to volunteer with hopes that her placement would land her in Africa. "I love the challenge of living and working here," she says, "Nigeria is a fascinating place."

My VSO Placement has been with an NGO called Girls' Power Initiative (GPI). It has four branches in Nigeria and I was working at the headquarters based in Calabar. Founded in 1993, GPI had as its focus the

education, leadership and other gender-sensitive life management skills and information on human sexuality, family life and HIV/AIDS Education (FLHE). The understanding of the sexual and reproductive health and rights by adolescent girls (aged 10-18 years) was a key objective of the program.

The GPI programme developed a set of activities to help achieve its vision: running education programmes for adolescents, providing skills training for economic empowerment, creating publications and a weekly television broadcast, training teachers and advocating for the

implementation of FLHE curriculum in schools, and influencing policy. A long-running GPI programme is the weekly Sunday lessons where a three-year curriculum is taught to approximately 250 adolescent girls who split into eight groups and three levels. After three years of lessons, in order to graduate, the girls take part in a social work activity where they take their knowledge to a rural community, conduct a needs assessment and deliver an education programme tailored to the needs of the community. Recently GPI held its 17th graduation and a total of 48 girls graduated from the three-year programme. The graduation was complete with a huge celebration and was supported by several ministries and received local television coverage.

My year placement here with GPI is almost at an end; my roles were to capacity-build and strengthen GPI, and enable it to make more impact in its programmes. My main focus was to

conduct an organisational development analysis, produce a report summarizing my findings and to develop a programme of work to strengthen GPI based on my findings. I worked with GPI staff members, board members, beneficiaries, funders, other NGOs GPI works/partners with and ministries to conduct the analysis as well as researching into common issues faced by NGOs operating in developing countries.

I have loved my placement here in Nigeria and will be very sad to leave GPI. The GPI staff has welcomed me into their family and every day I enjoy getting up and going to work with such a dedicated group of people. These dedicated people have the skills and abilities to continue with the work streams and projects after I leave and I will continue to support them in any way I can, as the adolescent girls benefit hugely from the work of GPI.



VSO Volunteer Sarah Corley



Girl Power Initiative Graduation Day

<p>As of Sept., 2013 VSO Project (Since 2004) Total raised: \$44,974.42 Number of donations: 865 Number of donors: 351</p>		<p>Keep The Lorry Rolling! Fantsuam Foundation (Since 2008) Total raised: \$22,166.00 Number of donations: 381 Number of donors: 215</p>		<p>Results of November 2012 Solicitation: Fantsuam Foundation donations: \$1,535.00 VSO donations: \$1,120.00 Unrestricted donations: \$4,607.00</p>	
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Memories Preserved: Peace Corps Volunteer Archives

By Phyllis Noble (17) 65-67; Pat Wand (Colombia, 64-66) University Librarian Emerita, American University; Susan McElrath, University Archivist, American University; Erica Burman

In an effort to preserve the uniquely fascinating history and tradition of the Peace Corps, various universities and libraries have established archives of items donated to them by Returned Peace Corps Volunteers. Most archives collect letters, reports, photos, publica-



L-R Pat Wand, Susan McElrath, Karen Abramson, Phyllis Noble

tions and personal correspondence and one, the Museum of the Peace Corps Experience, accepts three-dimensional artifacts.

Information regarding several Peace Corps archives is detailed below along with links to discover how Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and friends of the Peace Corps community alike can donate items, photos, and memories to aid in protecting the history and promoting the work of the Peace Corps. As the National Peace Corps Association is informed of additional related archives, their descriptions and contact information will be added to the NPCA website.

JFK PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY - THE PEACE CORPS COLLECTION

The John F. Kennedy Library houses "The Peace Corps Collection" which preserves over 30,000 items that record the history of Peace Corps. The Peace Corps Collection generally accepts items from Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and staff who served specifically during the Kennedy administration, 1961-1963.

For more information regarding

The Peace Corps Collection at the JFK Presidential Library, visit their webpage www.jfklibrary.org/jfk/jfk-in-history/peace-corps.aspx. The official policy of the collection can be found at www.jfklibrary.org/Research/ResearchServices/-/media/assets/Reference/PCV%20Collection%20Policy.pdf.

Potential donors can reach the JFK Library archivists at Acquisitions.Kennedy@nara.gov or by telephone at 617-514-1642.

Oral History Interviews

Robert Klein, a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer who served in Ghana I from 1961-1963, together with the JFK Library Archivist, initiated a project in 1999 to collect oral histories of volunteers who served at any time and in any of the

countries. The Peace Corps oral history archive is an on-going part of The Peace Corps Collection in the JFK Presidential Library.

For more information about the RPCV Oral History Project, or to become involved, contact OralHistoryProject@peacecorpsconnect.org

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY - PEACE CORPS COMMUNITY ARCHIVE

American University in Washington, DC, houses a significant amount of Peace Corps history. Initiated by Friends of Colombia, a group of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, with support from the university librarian at the time, Patricia A. Wand, this collection has grown from a small exhibit of Colombia-based items into an extensive collection that includes the administrative files of Friends of Colombia, Friends of Nigeria and the National Peace Corps Association as well as many documents and photos from individual Returned Peace Corps Volunteers.

In 2013, American University announced the founding of the Peace

Corps Community Archive, an expanded collection of items from Returned Peace Corps Volunteers who served at any time and place. The purpose of the Archive is to collect, exhibit, and provide educational and public programs that document the experiences and impact of individuals who served in the Peace Corps and of individuals and institutions in host countries. The Peace Corps Community Archive preserves primary research material for scholars and students and, through its exhibits and website, serves to increase awareness of the legacy of Peace Corps.

To learn more about the Peace Corps Community Archive at American University, visit the website: bender.library.american.edu/pcca/. If you are interested in donating to the Peace Corps Community Archive, visit the donate page.

PEACE CORPS DIGITAL LIBRARY

The Peace Corps Digital Library, developed by the U.S. Peace Corps agency, features Volunteer, staff, and agency photos and stories, as well as brochures, posters, graphics, and documents pertaining to Peace Corps service. The searchable online database provides the opportunity to browse instantly and effortlessly through a large collection of official Peace Corps materials contributed by the U.S. Peace Corps and the Peace Corps community.

To learn more or browse the fascinating digitized items, visit the Peace Corps Digital Library website: collection.peacecorps.gov/. If you are interested in contributing a Peace Corps photo, visit the [photo contribution page](#), or offer to [contribute a story](#) as well.

MUSEUM OF THE PEACE CORPS EXPERIENCE

The Museum of the Peace Corps Experience is devoted to sharing the Peace Corp's unique and captivating story with the broader American public. While this museum is not a physical reality at this time, support from Returned

(Continued on page 8)

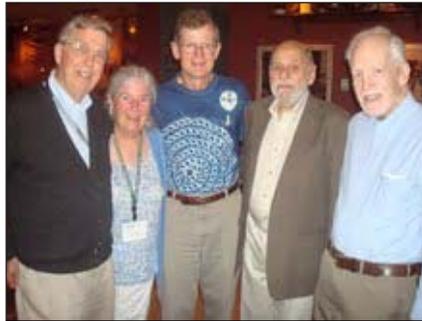
FON Members Gather in Boston for Peace Corps Connect Meeting

By Jim Clark (12) 64-66

Ten Friends of Nigeria members gathered with hundreds of other former volunteers at the annual NPCA meeting in Boston during the weekend of June 29-30, 2013. A total of 365 returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs), current and former Peace Corps staff, friends and family came together for panel discussions, practical workshops, open forums, exhibits and social events. Attendees represented a good cross section of the Peace Corps community, including RPCVs who had returned as recently as April, as well as others celebrating more than 50 years since their return.

Greg Jones, current FON president, was among the former Nigeria volunteers attending. He described the meeting itself as “very informative” and discovered that FON has much in common with groups representing countries that no longer accept volunteers. For

these groups, discussions focused on ways to involve interested parties in becoming members of their groups now that the original volunteer members are ageing and there are no longer returned volunteers to replace them. Iran and Korea were two groups mentioned by Jones that fall into that category.



L-R Peter Hansen, Phyllis Noble, Greg Jones, Murray Frank, Aubrey Brown at PC Connect Meeting.

Hauwa Ibrahim, FON’s keynote speaker at the last biennial meeting in Washington in 2011, gave a stimulating presentation about her strategies for winning precedent-setting cases for women’s human rights in Nigeria in Shariah Islamic Courts. Glenn Blumhorst, NPCA president, gave a general report on the organization as part of the NPCA Annual General Meeting. He said they plan to hold a strategic planning session to reevaluate their objectives, strategies, and tactics.

Saturday evening dinner for FON attendees was held at Boston’s Bertucci’s Restaurant located a short walk from the convention site. Former volunteers, spouses and friends celebrated this opportunity to reacquaint, reminisce and share stories of life after Peace Corps.

The next Peace Corps Connect meeting is scheduled to be held in Nashville, TN on June 20-21st, 2014.

A Brotherly Nigerian Reunion

Brother Leo V. Ryan, CSV, (staff, 66-67) observed the 46th anniversary of becoming an African tribal chief Sunday, Aug. 4. He was joined by the son and granddaughter of King Oga Adenle I



Leo Ryan with the granddaughter and son of King Oga Adenle I.

of the traditional tribal Kingdom of Oshoylo in Nigeria who named Brother Ryan (now a resident of the Viatorian Provincial Center) to the Asoju Ataoja chieftaincy in recognition of his promotion of Yoruba life and Nigerian culture.

The idea of celebrating the event began when Mary Ademle Ikekwere attended DePaul University’s recent commencement as the guest of a graduate. She was surprised, excited and thrilled when her grandfather was mentioned as Brother Ryan, 86, was introduced as the recipient of an honorary degree – Doctor of Humane Letters *honorius causa*. Brother Ryan was dean of DePaul’s college of business from 1980 to 1988.

Mary Ikekwere couldn’t wait to

tell her father, Adebouye Adenle, now an aerospace technician with Gulf Stream Aerospace in Appleton, WI. As an adolescent in 1967, Mr. Adenle had attended the memorable ceremony. Both he and his daughter joined Brother Ryan at Sunday’s anniversary dinner at Palm Court Restaurant where they presented him with a book focusing on the life and family of Samuel Adenle I’s role promoting Ataoja of Osogbo. It includes a chapter on Brother Ryan’s chieftaincy ceremony and his role as well in promoting Yoruba life among the Peace Corps volunteers in Nigeria’s western region.

“The anniversary dinner was a very unique reunion occasion – actually the beginning of a new lifetime relationship,” said Brother Ryan.

**FON Biennial Meeting
Registration Form
Thursday, Oct. 17 to Sunday, Oct. 20, 2013**

Name(s) _____ #of persons _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

FON member: ___ Yes, ___ No, but let me know how to sign up.
 FON affiliation: RPCV? ___ Yes, group number _____ Other _____
 ___ I am coming to the October FON events. Enclosed is a check for \$135 per person.*
 ___ I am interested in a training group reunion during the weekend.
 ___ I would be interested in sharing a hotel room.

Please mail check and the completed form to:
Mary-Ann DeVita Palmieri
149 West St.
New Salem, MA 1355
Phone: 978-544-2611; E-mail: mapalmieri1126@gmail.com

Hotel Reservations: To reserve a room, call Asilomar at 888-635-5310, Prompt 2. Please tell the reservationist that you would like your reservation keyed to individual itinerary 8000218X0 (zeroes, not letter “o”).

Transportation: shuttle buses connect San Jose (SJC), San Francisco (SFO) and Monterey (MRY) airports with the front door of Asilomar. Driving time from SJC is about 75 minutes. Rail and bus are also available.

For further information, contact Mary-Ann at the above address or use our email hotline, FONAsilomar@gmail.com. (We'll be happy to phone back).

MEETING DETAILS WILL BE UPDATED ON THE FON WEBSITE:

www.friendsofnigeria.org or join a discussion at the FONmembers GoogleGroup site: <http://groups.google.com/group/FON-members>

*A portion of any unspent funds may be used to fund FON's charitable activities in Nigeria.

(Archives continued from page 6)

Peace Corps Volunteers is contributing to bringing this museum to life. Founded in Portland, Oregon, contributions from interested parties across the globe are enthusiastically accepted.

To learn more about the Museum of the Peace Corps Experience, visit their website: www.museumofthepeacecorps-experience.org/. More information regarding the long term vision of this archival project can be viewed on the website as well. If you are interested in contributing artifacts for the collection or to help fund the development of the Museum of the Peace Corps Experience, visit their [contribution page](#)

PRESERVATION RESOURCES

Preservation: Northeast Document Conservation Center: Caring for Private and Family Collections
www.nedcc.org/free-resources/preserving-private-and-family-collections/caring-for-private-and-family-collections

National Archives: Caring for Your Family Archives:
www.archives.gov/preservation/family-archives/

Library of Congress: Preserving Your Family Treasures
www.loc.gov/preservation/family/

Create Your Own Family Archives:
www.familyarchives.com/

Donating to an Archival Repository: Society of American Archivists: Donating Your Personal or Family Papers to a Repository
www2.archivists.org/publications/brochures/donating-familyrecs

Blogs on the NPCA website pertaining to archives:
 Peace Corps Community Archive Established at American University
 Remembering Bob Klein (1929-2012)
 Polish Archive Looking for Peace Corps Artifacts, Memories
 Preserving your Peace Corps Memories

Tentative Asilomar Schedule

Day	Start	End	Activity
Thursday:	All Day 6:00p	8:00p	Arrive at Asilomar Cocktail Reception in Lodge Reception Hall
Friday:	8:00a 9:00a	8:45a 12:00a	Guided beach walk General Session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President's Welcome and Opening Remarks • Treasurer's Report • Planning Committee Report: What to do in Monterey! Keynote Address: David Koren: Reflections on Biafra
	12:00a	12:30p	Strategic Planning Organization Session Create Planning Groups and Describe Group Responsibilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Planning • Story Sharing • Communications
	12:30p 1:30p	1:30p 3:30p	Lunch Workshop 1 Group Meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Planning Group (Trade Mission and Vision Ideas) • Story Sharing Group (Share Individual Stories) • Communications Group (Discuss Ways of Communicating Among Members)
	3:30p	5:30p	Workshop 2 Group Meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Planning (Create Mission & Vision Statements) • Story Group (Discuss Ways to Gather Individual Stories) • Communications group (Construct FON Member Survey)
	5:30p 6:30p 8:00-	6:30p 8:00p Bed	Social Hour Dinner / BBQ Free time to socialize with old and new friends.
Saturday:	7:30a 9:00a 9:30a	9:30a 4:00a 11:30a	FON Board Meeting over Breakfast Wine tour with Norm Gary Workshop 3 Group Meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Planning (Create Goals & Objectives) • Story Group (Create Publicity Campaign to Convince FON Members to Capture Their Recollections) • Communications Group (Discuss Website and Specific Features Needed)
	11:30a Afternoon	1:30p	Lunch on Your Own Wine tour, beach walks, free time Guided walk by Bud Abbott to Monterey Bay Aquarium
	5:30p 6:30p	6:30p 8:00p	Social hour Dinner with informal reports from work groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Planning (Present Strategic Plan) • Story Group (Present Publicity Campaign Details) • Communications Group (Share Conclusions)
Sunday:			Tours, beach walks, Aquarium visits, free time Departures
Thereafter:			Implement the strategic plan Perform the Survey Seek out stories from those not in attendance.

The Lost Volunteer: Whatever happened to Jim King?

By Bob Criso (21) 66-67

In the past, I spent a lot of time searching for Jim King (20) 66-67, eager to talk with him about the last intense days that we spent together in Biafra. Jim was stationed at Macgregor Teacher Training College in Afikpo, about an hour ride from my house in Ishiagu on my Honda 50. When the war was heating up in the spring of '67, PC Enugu gave me a van and a list of people to pick up in case of an emergency evacuation. Jim was on that list and I picked him up during the last-minute rush to leave the country.

Jim, a tall, wiry, blond guy with glasses, was on the PC "whereabouts unknown" list for years. His family had moved from his last Altadena, California address while he was in Nigeria. With no forwarding address and one of the most common names in America, he was not an easy guy to find. I tried calling several James and other Kings in the California directory but always ran into dead ends. Over the years, I've asked a number of volunteers who were in the Eastern Region if they knew where he was but the answer was always no.

In the spring of 2013 I got an email from a woman named Eileen who had read one of my Nigerian articles online.

"I read that you were in the Peace Corps in Nigeria in the sixties," she wrote. "Is there any chance you knew my brother, Jim King?"

Soon after that we spoke on the phone. I learned that Jim would have been hard to track down after he returned to the States because he had moved around a lot with different teaching jobs. Eileen had in her possession a trove of letters that her mother had saved, all written by Jim during his days in Afikpo. She was in the process of typing them up and had hopes of publishing them as her mother had wished.

Eileen sent me a copy of the letters (175 dense pages.) I found them well-written, compelling and historically valuable. They tell a kind of coming-of-age story as we follow Jim's experiences in a strange new land. Many of us will identify with the somewhat naive altruist who discovers that the Africa in his mind is not the Africa he finds at his post. We hear about his initial isolation in a bush assignment, a difficult principal, the snakes, the bats, the bugs, the health problems, the housing problems and the resulting depression.

Initially, the loneliness overwhelms Jim and at night he clings to the childhood Pooh bear that he brought with him. His letters home become a kind of almost daily lifeline that sustains him. At a low point, he talks to PC Enugu about going home but then gives it another try and becomes, in my opinion, an exemplary volunteer. He spends a lot of time preparing for his science classes and labs and making trips to Enugu and Port Harcourt to buy supplies with his own money. He appeals to family, friends and organizations back home to send books and materials for his classes and gets excellent results. He gets very involved with school administration, activities and organizations. He uses money from his living allowance to furnish his steward's living quarters and to pay for a needy student's medical bills, never giving it a second thought.

Dire circumstances seem to bring

out the best in Jim. One example (and there are several) is when he is in the front seat of a taxi to Enugu and the driver falls asleep at the wheel. The taxi is headed straight for a tree when Jim grabs the wheel at the last minute and steers it away from the tree by a couple of feet. The driver is seriously injured in the crash, a couple of passengers less so. Jim has some scratches and soreness. A group of people that the driver almost ran over gather to beat him up, but Jim intercedes then brings him to a hospital in another taxi.

The letters reveal that Jim is a polished writer and a keen observer who knows how to tell a good story. This is especially apparent when he vividly describes some of the tribal rites and rituals that he witnesses around Afikpo, things that I'm sure few outsiders have seen. He also has the ability to pull back, reflect and get perspective about what is going on around him. He is prescient about the direction of the war that has been brewing since he arrived in Nigeria in April of '66. We are also reminded in the letters of what's happening in the outside world with repeated references to race riots in the States and the escalation in Vietnam. He's opposed to the war and worries about the draft when he goes home. Through it all, Jim reports objectively with no hyperbole or sensationalism. Part of that may be his wish to protect his parents but it could also be a kind of emotional detachment that insulates him from the gravity of the dangers around him.

Most poignantly, we read about a loving older brother who keeps up with the lives of his younger siblings. He writes to them frequently and wants to know about their lives. He offers his parents practical advice on how to handle his sister's early dating and his brother's budding



Jim King (center) in Nigeria.

(Continued on next page)

In The Rubble

By Bob Criso (21) 66-67

I became a Nigerian news junkie after I left the country hastily on July 31, 1967. Having lost all communication with anyone there, I searched for any newspapers and magazines with the tiniest article related to the war. I followed the early Biafran victories and the later losses closely. When Enugu fell, I worried about what might be happening in my village, Ishiagu, about fifty miles south. Whenever I saw pictures of dead soldiers, I thought about students like Celestine and Sylvester who had joined the army. When I saw pictures of kwashiorkor babies, I thought about my fellow teacher Otu's daughter, Ngozi, who I had cradled in my arms. The only good news came when the damn war finally ended. But what happened to Ishiagu?

Sometime in the early seventies I got a small brown-paper package in the mail with a letter attached, postmarked London. When I saw a return address from C. Whitney, I flashed back to 1967. Fr. Ciaran Whitney, a tall, thin Irish priest with salt and pepper hair and a winning smile, came to my school in Ishiagu for a few months to help the principal. I liked him from the start, admiring his low-key modesty and dedication. He spoke to the students and the locals with the same

sensitivity and respect with which he spoke to me or the principal.

In the letter he said he passed through Ishiagu after the war on some kind of church business and thought I might want to know what happened there. It took him a while to track me down but he persevered until he got my address. The news was grim. My house was looted after I left. The school was turned into Biafran army barracks. When the Federal troops were advancing toward the village, all the young women fled into the bush for fear of being raped. All the young men did the same for fear of being killed. Many of the students did not survive the war. "Ishiagu," he said, "became a village of the very old and the very young."

While he was in Ishiagu, an old man approached him and asked about me. Fr. Whitney told him he knew me and could find a way to contact me. The villager asked him to pass on the article wrapped in the brown paper. When I opened the package, I was astonished to find my college ring. The old man found it in a pile of rubble outside my house and saw Robert Peter Criso written on the inside of the ring. It was great to have it back, of course, but the real gift was knowing that the old man and the priest remem-

bered me and took the trouble to return the ring. I never found out the name of the man. I wrote to Fr. Whitney thanking him for his efforts and then tried to find him when I was in London a year and a half later.



Bob Criso

"He was only here for a short time," a priest at the rectory told me. "He tends to move around a lot. He's somewhere in Africa."

(Continued from p. 10)

activities and interests – all delivered with great underlying affection.

This was an exciting read for me, a rich and illuminating chronicle of a Peace Corps experience in the sixties not so different from my own. (I've often regretted not keeping a journal during my Peace Corps years.) Jim also wrote a book, a fictional account of his Nigerian experiences, and a two-act play. Act II of the play, which Eileen also sent me, is about a small group of PCVs whose lives are threatened by a menacing mob

who have circled a PCV's house. Some of the details he describes in the play are astonishingly similar to the experiences I recall myself when Jim was with me in those final days at my house in Ishiagu. In a way, I finally found the Jim King I had been looking for.

Jim's peripatetic post-Peace Corps years ended when he finally settled down with a partner in Hawaii. When his partner contracted AIDS, Jim took care of him until his partner's death. Jim had AIDS himself and when his father and brother visited him in Hawaii, they found him in poor health and circum-

stances. They took him and his two Welsh corgis home where they cared for him until his death in 1993.

I would give Jim King high marks for what he gave of himself to his family, his partner and the Peace Corps. His spirit lives on in the hearts of those he touched and in the words he left behind.

If anyone has any ideas about finding an editor and publisher who might be interested in Jim's letters, book and/or play, you can contact his sister Eileen at aedenne@peoplepc.com. Bob Criso can be contacted at bobcriso@gmail.com.

Biafra: My Story

By Allan Hall (24) 66-67

It seems that the FON letters to the editor are becoming an archive repository for Biafra War stories so I will put my two cents worth in for future researchers.

I was part of Nigeria 24 (Ag/Rd) which trained at U.C. San Diego and flew to Nigeria in 1966. I was stationed in Abakaliki which was located near the Northern border. I partnered with Keith Hill (24) 66-68 and our job was to assist the Ministry of Works in constructing reservoirs using heavy earth moving equipment. The reservoirs contained water that was filtered so that villagers would have access to clean drinking and cooking water. We continued working on projects that were started by Dale Lamski (12) 64-67 whom we were replacing. He taught us a lot about the realities of Peace Corps life. We were housed in little tin shacks that we moved from project to project. One such location was in the same compound that former FON president Mike Goodkind (16) 66-67 lived.

Soon after we arrived Biafra seceded and the war broke out. Periodically while sitting around a rest house drinking beer and munching on ground nuts an ex-pat would come over and recommend that we should go to Enugu because things were about to get hot militarily speaking. Except for getting there it was great fun for us to stay at the Presidential Hotel, eat well and socialize all on the Peace Corps tab. But getting to Enugu was a challenge. In most of Biafra there were three types of roadblocks; Police, Army and Civil Defense. The Police roadblocks were the easiest as they were manned by police who were reasonably well educated, trained and fairly well informed. The army checkpoints were challenging and time consuming as they were suspicious, lower rank and well-armed. The Civil Defense roadblocks were the scariest as they were usually manned by uneducated elders (all the younger men having gone to the army) who were armed with Dane guns and who were full of rumored "information" about white mercenaries (or

was it missionaries).

Eventually the Biafran army came and commandeered the earth movers, tractors, dump trucks and anything else they could use in their war effort. The Peace Corps took the stand that it was going to tough it out in this "police action" and not be seen as an organization that would cut and run at first sight of violence. After five or six trips back and forth between Enugu and Abakaliki we were finally advised that the total blockade around Biafra would be lifted temporarily so that we could evacuate. A Greek freighter was to sail into Port Harcourt in two or three weeks and all volunteers were to be transported out of the country and harm's way.

The Peace Corp staff had mapped out every volunteer's location and drafted pick-up assignments. I was in charge of one of the three or four van convoys. We were to drive from Enugu to PH picking up volunteers on the way. The hardest part was coming into a village or small town, finding the PCV and informing them that they had about 20 minutes to pack 44 pounds of luggage say good bye to their friends, neighbors, chiefs, Headmasters and students they had lived with for months or years and leave.

Every convoy had a personal letter of passage signed by Col. Odumegwu Ojukwu himself. So we should have been able to breeze down the road through the roadblocks. Unfortunately the ones manning them who could read did not believe that such a god like figure would write such a letter for mere mortals so it was useless. My first passenger was not a volunteer but the director, Del Lewis (staff) 68-69, which was an asset except when, early on, we happened on a civil defense roadblock. Because Del, an African American, didn't speak Igbo the locals were convinced that they had discovered a Hausa or Fulani. Seeing them put a dane gun to his head was one scary sight. I didn't realize that I could speak Igbo so fast to calm the situation but we got out of their by the skin of our teeth. What was both humorous and frustrat-



All Hall now.

ing was coming upon three roadblocks in a row each within sight of the other (police, army and CD), each one searching the suitcases or backpacks or purses. Mostly they were curious about what these Europeans hid in their boxes.

After picking up our assigned volunteers we arrived in Port Harcourt in time to board the Greek Freighter. They had made rectangular markings on the floor of the ship's hold and each evacuee was assigned a space for the trip to Accra, Ghana. I don't recall much about the trip except that we drank a lot of wine and were fed peanut butter sandwiches and got sea sick. Once in Accra we were transported to University of Ghana in Legon. I remember a Peace Corps official, C Payne Lucas, giving us various choices of going home or to another country. He was especially convincing in the Peace Corps way of selling my group on going to Somalia ("they hate Americans, they spit on you and throw sand in your face"). So most of my group went there and I understand that that is pretty much what happened to them.

Four of us, Bob Claflin (24) 66-68, Jon Seale (24) 66-67, Jim Hammons (24) 66-67 and myself made our way to Malawi (where they didn't throw sand in our face) to finish our Peace Corps careers.

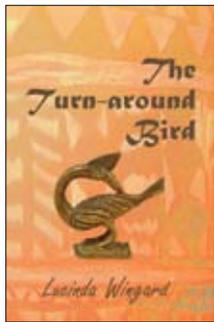
The Turn-around Bird

By Lucinda Wingard (22)
66-68

Plicata Press (2012), 286 pages, \$14.40
(available as Kindle download)

Reviewed by David Strain (07) 63-64

Aimée and Zoë Thurman are two black American high-school-age fraternal twins who live in a predominantly white Madison suburb. Aimée is brainy, a word and language freak. Zoë is the athlete and loves animals. They are taken to Timbuktu by their divorced father Kenneth, a history professor at LSU. He wants to study manuscripts dating back seven or more hundred years



when Timbuktu's Sankore University was a world renowned center of learning, Timbuktu a center of trade and commerce, and Mali a political power. (Some of these same manuscripts were damaged recently by radicals in the Malian uprisings.)

The Thurman's arrival in an unprepossessing Timbuktu does not bode well. (A Peace Corps friend of mine described 1963 Timbuktu as nothing but a bunch of dirty huts.) Aimée and Zoë, dragged from their affluent Wisconsin surroundings largely by Aimée's compulsion to please her father, are not in a mood to make lemonade.

Early in the book the major concerns of Aimée, the narrator of this story, are her difficulty in dominating Zoë as she had in the past and her desire to continue in her father's favor. As you might suppose, these concerns get a good deal of buffeting.

Zoë's love of animals leads Kenneth to agree reluctantly to a camel ride in the desert suggested by Ifrit, a mysterious character who, over Kenneth's objec-

tions, takes over the camel ride arrangements. The day long camel ride turns into an overnighter, and when their group encounters a caravan bringing a scholar and his lawyer-daughter Layla from Egypt to Timbuktu for study at Sankore, the Thurmans realize they have been carried further than they'd bargained for, into the 14th century Malian kingdom ruled by Mansa Musa. Ifrit intones, "there is no problem. It is all in hand." Then he advises that they should say they are from Fez bearing documents for the university (which Ifrit supplies).

The seven-hundred-year transition is eased by the twins' immediate affection for the beautiful and cosmopolitan Layla and a new and wholly surprising ability to understand Arabic and Tamashek, the Tuareg language. When they arrive in Timbuktu, Kenneth and Layla are welcomed as instructors at Sankore, and Kenneth soon is recognized as a Malian descendant. As seems appropriate to him, Mansa Musa dashes the single "Mallam Kennet" with an attractive, ambitious and flirtatious slave girl Yasmina whom Kenneth, circumspectly, takes to the women's quarters to bunk with Layla and his daughters. This sets up interesting interactions between the enterprising slave girl and the aristocratic Layla.

Aimée and Zoë settle in, meet other young people through Yazmina, and attend dances and government functions. Mansa Musa presides over four criminal trials in an afternoon, one leading to an immediate beheading. (Appeal unlikely to help.) Aimée studies with a griot (storyteller) who predicts she will be able to foretell and influence events. They meet a goldsmith making objects for a prince's trip to Mecca. His daughter Jemila is illiterate with a deformed foot, but is an accomplished sculptor. She is loved by Mansa Musa's son Prince Dauda; his father and mother object both to Jemila's class and infirmity. Aimée and Zoë are pursued by two princes from Gao, a province conquered by Mansa Musa, who serve in Mansa Musa's army. Their charm and aggression intrigue, attract ... and somewhat frighten Aimée and Zoë.

Through such events author Lucinda

Wingard is able to convey the pace, feel, and history of a different world on top of its game, an Islamic society of political and intellectual power. The Malian kingdom accommodates great diversity in thought and religion, quite a contrast to current depictions of Islamic polity. Islam in ascendancy, moreover, provides an interesting vantage point to compare and contrast issues having a definite contemporary ring: When a wife is too busy with academic interests to have children, is polygamy a solution? Should marriage be for love or for social and political advancement? How do you deal with attractive dangerous boyfriends? Even female genital cutting seems arguable where the context is unanimous female society support. Aimée and Zoë's secular views are tested and expanded in a society which embraces Islam, ancestor worship and spirit worship. What is real, what imaginary, is unclear, particularly in a story which propels us into a 14th Century parallel universe.

Wingard populates her story with characters who draw out these issues, but the story is a continuous adventure which advances on its own power. The reader is caught up in a 14th century world and Aimée's, Zoë's and Kenneth's predicaments. Kenneth is charged with rape, a charge which could lead either him or his companion to a visit with the executioner's sword. In Mansa Musa's world, corruption and political intrigue abound and touch the visitors' lives. And there are those insistent Gao Princes to control, and the thwarted different class lovers to defend. Aimée and Zoë gain maturity and understanding, and history professor Kenneth, often derided by his daughters for his "Little Known Facts," gets a new appreciation for what his job entails.

This is a book for young adults and I cannot presume to judge for them. Aimée and Zoë often speak in a relentlessly bantering and wisecracking patois, but this distraction disappeared for me as I was caught up in their adventures. The time travel idea is a great one, which Wingard intelligently and gracefully exploits to make an excellent historical adventure story with definite contemporary interest.

Nigerian Art Objects

By Henry John Drewal (11) 64-66

As a member of Nigeria 11 (1964-66) I taught French and English at the African Church Grammar School in



Henry Drewal

Abeokuta, planned the creation of a museum with Professor Biobaku, and organized vacation arts camps. In 1965 I became friends with the Yoruba sculptor Sanusi of the famous Adigbolope workshop and asked if I could become his apprentice to learn traditional wood-carving techniques. He agreed and I apprenticed under him for about eight months – a transformative experience that led me to interdisciplinary studies at Columbia University in African art history and culture, where I received two Masters' degrees and a PhD. I went on to teach, first at Cleveland State University (where I was chair of the Art Department), and then as a Visiting Professor at the UC-Santa Barbara and SUNY-Purchase, and served as guest curator at the Neuberger Museum in 1986, the Toledo Museum of Art, and the Adjunct Curator of African Art at The Cleveland Museum of Art in 1988-90.

Since 1991 I have been the Evjue-Bascom Professor of Art History and Afro-American Studies at the University

of Wisconsin-Madison and Adjunct Curator of African Art at the Chazen Museum of Art, UW-Madison. As curator, I am always looking for good donations or purchases (we have limited acquisition funds) of African art to enrich the collection that now has its own permanent gallery of about 55 works. We have accepted donations from RPCVs and others who worked in Nigeria in the 1960s and 1970s, so there are always possibilities, whether older "traditional" works of art or newer works by Nigerian 20th century artists: Twins Seven Seven, Muraina Oyelami, Asiru Olatunde (and many others of the Mbari Mbayo/Oshogbo School); the Ori Olokun School at the University of Ife in the early 1970s; the Ona group of artists also at the University of Ife (later Obafemi Awolowo University); the Zaria group at Ahmadu Bello University; the Uli group at the University of Nigeria-Nsukka; or the artists associated with the University of Benin, Benin City.

Probably the best way to do this is for potential donors/sellers to send me



Sculpture by Lamidi Fakeye

jpeg photos of the pieces to see if there would be interest in having them. For those interested in selling their works, I am planning to set up an online auction option where sellers would receive 50% of the purchase price and the remainder (after my expenses) would go to non-profit organizations active in African/African Diaspora social and culture matters. If this is of interest, please contact me at hjdrewal@wisc.edu or the address shown below:



Igbo tutelary deity figure

Henry John Drewal
Evjue-Bascom Professor
Department of Art History
229 Elvehjem — UW-Madison
800 University Avenue
Madison, WI 53706

Charles C. Gray Jr. (24) 66-68

Charles C. Gray, Jr. passed away on June 14, 2013 after a brief hospitalization. Charles was a member of Nigeria 24 and served as an agriculture/rural development volunteer in Ilesha, Nigeria.

Prior to his Peace Corps service, Charles graduated from Shaw University in North Carolina. Following his Peace Corps service, he returned home to Radnor, PA where he raised his two daughters. While living in Radnor he was employed by Sesame Street and Villanova University. He served on the Radnor School Board and spent his last twenty-five years of employment as a community relations specialist for Delaware County's Juvenile Court and as Director of the Juvenile Justice Office for the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency in Harrisburg.

Upon moving to Chester, PA in the 1980's Charles committed himself to serving on many boards including The Chester Educational Foundation, The Chester Fund for the School of the Arts, The Chester Housing Authority, State-wide Weed and Seed Advisory Board, Pennsylvania State Board of Control for Chester Upland School District, Penn State Advisory Board and Widener University Partnership School.

Survivors include his wife, Nancy Crane Gray; daughters Marlissa (Michael) Harrison and Constance Gray; brothers William (Brenda), Ralph (Marge) and Tom Gray and three grandchildren Michael, Jady, and Jurnee Harrison.

[Sources: Frank Steward, Al Hannans and www.carrfuneralhome.net]

David G. Yuronis (15) 65-66

David G. Yuronis passed away on Friday July 26, 2013. As a member of Nigeria 15, David served as a chemistry and math teacher at the Government Technical College in Ibadan.

Following his Peace Corps service, David continued his life as a research chemist, plater, water treatment specialist and teacher until he retired. He was a devoted sailor and boater and last lived aboard his classic Chris Craft Tri-cabin on the Tombigbee Waterway in Alabama. It is hoped that his Nigeria friends will remember him with a smile and fondness.

[Source: Valorie Gifford]

Terry Lee Robinson (13) 64-66

Terry Lee Robinson of West Valley City, UT passed away July 3, 2013 at the age of 71. Terry was a member of Nigeria 13 serving from 1964-66 as an English teacher at Mercy Secondary School in Okigwi.

Terry was born in San Francisco, CA and was a graduate of San Francisco State University. Following her Peace Corps service, she married and lived in Japan and Guam while her former husband served in the Navy. She lived for many years in Hawaii on the islands of Molokai and Oahu. Terry was a wonderful pastor's wife and impacted many people by her outgoing and caring nature. She often substitute taught at the high school level and in her later years was English as a Second Language (ESL) instructor at Hawaii Pacific University

Terry is survived by her son David Jay Inouye of Yokohama City, Japan and two granddaughters.

[Source: www.garnerfuneralhome.com]

James K. King (20) 66-67

James K. King passed away on February 04, 1993. "Jim" King taught science at Macgregor College, a teacher training school located in Afikpo, Nigeria. Like many other volunteers at the time, he was evacuated from the area following the outbreak of the Biafran War. (See Bob Criso's article, *The Lost Volunteer*, on page 10).

Mikal E. Bales (20) 66-67

Mikal E. Bales passed away on November 10, 2012 in Palm Springs, CA. Mikal served as a teacher in what was Nigeria's Midwest region as a member of Nigeria 20 from 1966-67. Mikal was born in Pomona, CA and served in the Air Force as well as the Peace Corps

A photographer and filmmaker, Mikal was a leader in introducing erotic gay leather photography to the world. He was the owner of Zeus Studio's, an early producer of gay leather and BDSM films. Many of his photographs were featured in Drummer Magazine. He also worked as a publicist in Los Angeles with some of the best known leading ladies of the day including Bette Davis, Doris Day and Elizabeth Taylor. In 1975 he borrowed \$2000 and, along with a friend, started Zeus Studios. Their first effort was a mimeographed fetish magazine that attracted a wide and loyal following. As Daddy Zeus, Mikal also starred in adult films but arguably his best work was behind the camera as the director of over 150 groundbreaking BDSM titles for Zeus Studios, including *Tightropes*, *Twenty-Nine*, *Brutal Combat*, and *Punishment Asylum*.

Presidents Jonathan and Obama to Meet in the U.S.

President Jonathan is to arrive in the U.S. on Sunday, September 22 where he is to meet President Obama to discuss the persistent security issues of Nigeria as well as other issues relevant to the U.S.-Nigeria bilateral relationship. He will also address the U.N. General Assembly; hold five bilateral meetings with the European Union, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Lebanon, and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as campaign for Nigeria's admission to the Security Council as a non-permanent member. Nigeria's peace-keeping operations with UN troops in Mali, Guinea-Bissau, and Liberia have been important contributions which should bolster its bid for membership.

The president's entourage will include the First Lady, Patience Jonathan, who also has a number of activities for herself, the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, Professor Viola Onwuliri, and other ministers. (Sources: *Leadership* [Abuja], 9/19/13; *This Day* [Lagos], 9/19/13; *Vanguard* [Lagos; Abuja], 8/28/13).

President Jonathan to Meet Investors at NY Stock Exchange

President Jonathan intends to meet with key investors in agriculture, power and infrastructure at the New York Stock Exchange on September 23. A team of Nigerian ministers led by the Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, will also be in Washington as of September 20 to underscore the positive changes made by the government. The Nigerian Ambassador to the U.S., Prof. Ade Adefuye, said that investors will be provided with information on the steps that the government has been taking to attract foreign investment in agriculture, power and infrastructure. (Source: *Daily Times*, 9/14/13).

Nigeria has Good News about Economic Growth and Competitiveness

The World Economic Forum's 2013-2014 Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) highlighted various countries,

including Nigeria. Since the global economic crisis of 2009, Nigeria has performed better than most countries and enjoys a 6.1 percent GDP growth rate, despite a drop in the price of oil, its major export. Nigeria maintains single-digit inflation at around 8.6 percent and is expanding both trade and investment in other sectors outside the oil industry, particularly in agriculture and infrastructure development. Both Nigeria's banking sector and stock exchange have helped bolster confidence in Nigeria among global financial circles. (Source: *allAfrica*, 9/13/13).

Kerry Criticized Nigeria on Human Rights

Nigeria has the right to defend itself against an Islamic terrorist group threatening the country's north, but must not condone human rights violations committed by its own forces fighting the Boko Haram, according to Secretary of State John Kerry last May on his first visit to sub-Saharan Africa after taking office. He addressed what Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have charged as a campaign of violence, harassment and killing carried out or abetted by government forces fighting in the north.

"Boko Haram is a terrorist organization, and they have killed wantonly and have upset the normal governance of Nigeria in ways that are unacceptable, and so we defend the right completely of the government of Nigeria to defend itself and to fight back against terrorists," Kerry said as he attended an African Union summit. "That said, I have raised the issue of human rights with the government, with the foreign minister; we have talked directly about the imperative of Nigerian troops adhering to the highest standard and not themselves engaging in human rights violations and atrocities," Kerry said at a brief press conference. (Source: *Washington Post*, 5/25/13).

School Attacks Incite Vigilante Groups

Youths in Borno State, where many members of Boko Haram have been arrested, are increasingly joining vigilante groups to pass on the identity of Boko Haram members to the military police Joint Task Force following a string of deadly attacks on schools, according to vigilante groups and residents of Borno State capital, Maiduguri. On June 16 and 17, Boko Haram opened fire on the Government Secondary School in Damatunu, Yobe State, and Ansaruddeen private school, killing 16 students and 2 teachers. According to the leader of a vigilante group, youths have realized that they must either fight by exposing Boko Haram or they risk being killed by Boko Haram.

Vigilante group members are joining the police and military at check points to identify Boko Haram members because they know them and the soldiers do not. The vigilantes do not bear arms, however, which put them at great risk of Boko Haram reprisals. (Source: *IRIN* [Kano], 6/27/13).

Top Commanders in Boko Haram are Killed, but Violence Continues

Nigeria says soldiers have killed a top commander in Boko Haram. Military officials say that Commander Momodu Bama died in a gun battle in the northern region in early August, although there was no confirmation of the death from the militant group.

Military leaders also announced that Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau died in Cameroon in early August following injuries sustained in battle. However, there has been no confirmation or proof of his death, and he has been declared dead at least twice in the past four years. It was Shekau who resurrected Boko Haram in 2010 after a military crackdown the previous year that led to the detention and murder of sect founder Mohammed Yusuf by police. (Source: *VOA, Voice of America*, 8/14/13, 9/3/13).

Death Toll in Militant Attack Continues to Rise

The struggle between Islamic militants and the Nigerian government continues. Nigerian officials say that the death toll from an attack by Islamist militants on September 17 in northeastern Borno state has risen to 143.

Militants believed to be from the group Boko Haram burned homes and buildings in and around the town of Benisheik. Residents said that militants also pulled people from their cars to kill them. Witnesses said that the Boko Haram fighters were better armed than soldiers who tried to fight them, and that the militants looted the town, taking food and numerous vehicles.

In a separate incident, on September 20, Nigerian officials said that nine suspected members of Boko Haram were killed in a gun battle with security agents in Abuja. The state security force said that several people were also wounded in an early morning clash which took place at an unfinished home in a community for Nigerian lawmakers. After two captured Boko Haram members told agents about a buried stash of weapons, a joint security team proceeded to the site, came under attack, and responded with deadly force. (Source: *VOA, Voice of America*, 9/20/13).

Airtel Seeks Implementation of National Broadband Plan

Leading telecommunications services provider Airtel Nigeria is urging the immediate implementation of the recently approved National Broadband Plan (NNBP), saying that rapid execution of the strategy document can contribute about N190 bn (\$1.16 bn) to the country's GDP in 2015.

Airtel also announced that it is in partnership with Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) in a bid to make smart phones more affordable for consumers in Nigeria. (Source: *Vanguard* [Lagos], 9/20/13).

Nigerian Jailed in U.S. for \$11 Million Scam

Emmanuel Ekhaton managed to defraud unsuspecting persons in the U.S. and Canada of \$11 million in a mail and wire scheme. He was arrested and investigated by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) before being extradited to stand trial in the U.S. where he pleaded guilty and was ordered to forfeit property he acquired in Canada with the funds, as well as cash lodged in several banks in Nigeria. He was also sentenced to three years in jail for conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud in the U.S. (reduced from the stipulated 20 years because of a plea agreement in which he admitted the crime that drew in more than half a dozen law enforcement agencies in the U.S. and Canada).

Ekhaton was part of a fraudulent attorney collection ring which would contact U.S. and Canadian law firms by email, claiming to be individuals or businesses outside North America who were owed money by entities in the U.S., and ask for legal representation to collect the money. Once the law firm agreed to represent the out-of-country client, the law firm would be contacted by the U.S. entity which purportedly owed the money with an offer to pay the client by check. The client would instruct the law firm to deposit the check in the law firm's trust account, retain the law firm's fee, and wire the remaining funds to accounts in Asia. The law firm would discover, after it wired the funds to accounts in Asia, that the check in its trust account was counterfeit. The counterfeit checks, which appeared to be drawn on legitimate accounts from well-established financial institutions, often included a telephone number for the financial institution. Lawyers trying to verify the validity of the check would call the number only to reach another conspirator who would falsely verify the check.

A co-defendant has also been charged for conspiracy and is awaiting extradition from Canada, while another was arrested as he arrived in Atlanta from Nigeria and is awaiting trial in Pennsylvania. Other co-conspirators are

pending extradition from several foreign countries, as the investigation continues against other members of the large, multi-national scam. In addition to the EFCC, other agencies involved in the investigation included the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the FBI, the US Secret Service, the Toronto Police Services, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. (Sources: *Leadership* [Abuja], 9/12/13; *Premium Times*, 9/11/13; *Vanguard* [Abuja], 9/12/13).

Sesame Square Launches New Season with Hausa Translations

Sesame Square, Nigeria's co-production of *Sesame Street*, will launch a new season which, along with previous segments, will include Hausa translations. The program is funded by the U.S. government through USAID which partners with the Nigerian government. Season three, like the previous seasons, was developed in collaboration with education advisors which include Nigeria's Ministries of Education and Health. It consists of 26 half-hour episodes designed to promote fundamental literacy, numeracy, the importance of recycling, health and good hygiene habits in settings that foster children's self-esteem, cultural pride, and respect for differences and diversity. The series will also emphasize malaria and HIV/AIDS prevention and immunization education against other childhood diseases. (Source: *Daily Trust* [Abuja], 9/14/13).

TTC Subway Cars are Bound for Nigeria

As new Toronto Rocket trains enter the subways, the old cars will cross the ocean. The company Eko Rail has a deal to buy 255 H5 and H6 cars from the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) to furnish a 27-kilometer surface rail line in Lagos. The price for the cars is still under negotiation. The first of the H5 cars will be trucked to the U.S. for an engineering evaluation. The interiors of the cars will be refurbished, and they will be converted to run on international track gauge. The H5s are from 1977-1980, and the H6s are from 1986-1990.

They were built by a company that later became part of Bombardier. It is not unusual for subway cars to be recycled. Seoul and Beijing cars have both had second lives in other cities. (Source: *The Star* [Toronto], 9/6/11).

Nigeria Increases Relationship with UNESCO

Nigeria and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) have endorsed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on a \$6.4 million self-benefiting funds-in-trust for the revitalization of adult and youth literacy.

According to Vice President Mohammed Namadi Sambo, Nigeria has also made commendable achievements on the establishment of the Regional Centre for Integrative River Basin Management at the National Water Resources Institute in Kaduna and the International Centre for Biotechnology at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. Those successes have also led to the election of Nigeria into the UNESCO Executive Board and the International Bureau of Education, as well as the selection of Abuja as one of the five new UNESCO multi-sectorial regional offices in Africa. (Source: *Daily Trust* [Abuja], 9/13/13).

Oil Theft in Nigeria has Worldwide Impact

In Nigeria, stolen crude oil flows out of the Niger Delta to markets in Nigeria and around the world. A new report by London-based think tank Chatham House says that 100,000 barrels of oil are stolen daily from the Niger Delta, about five percent of the two million plus barrels per day output. Some analysts put the total amount of stolen oil much higher, at 400,000 barrels a day.

According to former U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria John Campbell, oil theft is deeply engrained in the fabric of the Niger Delta and, he suggests, in Nigerian life generally. The Chatham House report says that military and governments, militants, oil executives, crime rings, and communities all profit from oil theft. The report also says that oil theft

in Nigeria impacts economies around the world as big-time thieves launder money in foreign countries and stolen oil disrupts the markets. Foreign buyers, it says, should at least be researching the issue to see what they can do about regulating stolen oil in their own countries. The report also suggests legal means, like lawsuits and tracking regulation, to slow the flow of stolen oil. But, it also warns that many actions that the international community could take, like sanctions or regulating oil sales could worsen the situation. Ambassador Campbell also says that, at this time, international intervention is highly unlikely, because it would require a substantial political will on the part of the Nigerian government, and that the government has other things to do and is stretched thin at this time. (Source: *VOA, Voice of America*, 9/19/13).

Hijackers Now Pose as Charter Companies

Hijackers now pose as charter companies that hire ships, but they carry out criminal acts, according to the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA). NIMASA raised the alarm to ship owners, shipping agents, and mariners in a notice stating that members of the hijack syndicate pose as charter companies seeking to hire ships for petroleum ship-to-ship operations but who use the ships for forceful and criminal transfer of stolen petroleum products from hijacked tankers. NIMASA advised them to request valid documentation and clearance issued by relevant regulatory authorities and warned them that they would be liable for the illicit activities of a syndicate which abandons such chartered ships at sea to evade arrest. (Source: *Leadership* [Abuja], 9/20/13).

Nigeria Resumes Rocket Testing

Nigeria has resumed controversial testing of rockets at the Centre for Space Transport and Propulsion (CSTP), an arm of the National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA). The new CSTP director and chief execu-

tive officer confirmed that a series of test firings of experimental rockets was conducted in March and April. He also confirmed that the launches are ongoing, primarily for scientific purposes, but also as training exercises for Nigeria's technical personnel and as a challenge to the country's scientists and engineers.

A NASRDA scientific officer reported that CSTP had launched several rockets, some of which had reached altitudes of three kilometers, possibly higher. The size and configuration of the crafts, or whether there is foreign involvement, was not specified. However, in 2008, it was reported that CSTP had been secretly launching indigenously constructed experimental rockets. At that time, one of them was observed to be about three meters long and constructed entirely of locally-sourced materials. It is believed that the current missiles are larger than the earlier ones. (Source: *Nigerian Guardian News*, 9/15/13).

Nigeria in World Cup Play-Off with Ethiopia

After winning a recent qualifier at home against Malawi, Nigeria will meet Ethiopia on October 12 in Addis Ababa for a World Cup play-off game. The second game will take place in Calabar on November 16. (Source: Confederation of African Football, 9/21/13).

Floods Test Nigeria's Preparedness

Heavy Rains in August unleashed floods in parts of Nigeria, testing the country's emergency preparedness one year after its worst flooding in decades. In 2012, during the rainy season, flooding killed nearly 400 people, displaced an estimated 3.8 million more, damaged oil productive facilities, destroyed homes and businesses, and affected a total of 7 million people. This year, some 35,000 people have been affected, most of them in five states, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). A National Emergency Management Authority (NEMA) spokesman said that early warning and rapid relocation of communities helped prevent greater loss of lives. The Nigerian

Red Cross also said that it had improved its emergency response by training 22,000 volunteers across the country and stocking warehouses with emergency supplies. It has also educated people on what to do, so that everybody in Nigeria has better awareness of flooding than last year. In addition, NEMA has urged dam management officials to lower water levels early enough to minimize flooding risks.

This year's flood-hit states are still recovering from last year's flooding which was the worst in more than 40 years. However, the Nigerian meteorological department has predicted more rains this year than in 2012. (Source: *IRIN* [Lagos], 8/27/13).

Nigeria Seeks to Lessen Impacts of Climate Change and Reduce Its Carbon Footprint

As Nigeria prepares to become the world's 20th largest economy, its leaders are looking at ways to lessen the impacts of climate change and grow the economy with a reduced carbon footprint.

Two new reports from the World Bank, *Toward Climate-Resilient Development in Nigeria* and *Low-Carbon Development Opportunities for Nigeria* examine the challenges that Nigeria faces from potential climate change effects in several sectors, such as agriculture, energy, and water management. (Source: The World Bank, 6/10/13).

Nigerian Activists Plan Walk to Mali

Nigerian activists say that security in West Africa is directly related to the region's ability to adapt to climate change. To raise awareness, an environmental group called "Walk to Mali" is planning a 3,400 km. trek from Nigeria to Mali. The organization is raising funds to send 12 people from the Nigerian capital on a trek through Niger, Mali, the Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin, and finishing in Nigeria's financial capital Lagos. The group plans to travel by foot sometimes and at other times to hitch rides with humanitarian organizations they hope will host some of their activities.

The "Walk to Mali" program director says that farming communities are victims of environmental degradation and need to develop strategies to cope with deforestation, increased flooding, and other impacts of climate change. He says that Walk to Mali participants will teach communities to protect themselves from climate change through strategies like identifying evacuation routes to escape floods and learning ways to cook food without cutting down trees.

The "Walk to Mali" group plans to pass through remote areas where militants battle with governments and with each other. The director believes that it will be dangerous, but that the impact and outcome should be worth it. He says that the group is currently working with aid organizations to identify the safest route to Mali and back again. (Source: *VOA, Voice of America*, 9/22/13).

Nigerian Wins Miss Muslimah Beauty Pageant.

In Indonesia, organizers of the Miss World beauty pageant bowed to pressure from Islamic hardliners and moved the event to the Hindu-majority Island Bali. But, in Jakarta, Muslim women from throughout the world competed in a Miss World of their own. At Miss Muslimah, floor-length hijabs, rather than bikinis were the official attire, and contestants came from as far away as Iran and Nigeria.

Eka Shanti, a former Indonesian TV anchor founded the event after losing her job because she refused to take off her headscarf on air. She said that the Jakarta event was held in deliberate defiance of the controversial Miss World contest in Bali, and she argued that it promoted an alternative, more modest idea of beauty.

Miss Mulimah contestants are required to wear hijab in their daily lives and were judged on how well they recited Koranic verses, as well as on their views on Islam and the modern world. Andreas Harsono from the Indonesian branch of Human Rights Watch said that both Miss World and Miss Mulismah are essentially beauty contests and so are not that different from each other.

This is the third time that the Miss Muslimah pageant has been held since 2011, and the first time that it has accepted international contestants. Obabiyi Aishah Ajibola, a 21-year-old Nigerian woman took the grand prize which included some \$2,000 in prize money and a trip to Mecca and India. In India, Ajibola says that she will help raise money to educate the children of sex workers. Source: (*VOA Voice of America*, 9/19/13).

Despite Bans, Child Labor is Still Prevalent

Ten years after Nigeria adopted international prohibitions on child labor into law, millions of children are still engaged in child labor activities. The International Labor Organization estimates that about 25 percent of Nigeria's 80 million children under the age of 14 are now in the work force. Most of them are involved in domestic work.

The prevalence of child labor is raising concern among activists who are calling for new programs and tougher laws to control the problem. Among them is the Nigeria-based League of Democratic Women, which has become a key actor in efforts to end child labor in the country. One League official noted that those subjected to child labor rarely have access to education and are often subjected to physical, sexual and psychological abuse.

In 2003, Nigeria passed a Child's Rights Law designed to incorporate into its laws all the rights guaranteed by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Although the UN Convention was signed by Nigeria as a nation and its provisions incorporated into federal law, it was not incorporated by all of Nigeria's 36 states. For that to happen, the Houses of Assembly of each state must pass it into law. As of now, only 24 of the 36 states have done so, and all but one of the states that have not incorporated the UN Convention into its local laws are in northern Nigeria. (Source: *VOA, Voice of America*, 9/10/13).

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