

July 2011

Dear Friends of Kenya Friends,

This is certainly an exciting year for Peace Corps! Happy 50th Anniversary!

While there have been many celebrations throughout the year and around the world, Peace Corps, the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA), and Friends of Kenya are celebrating the Peace Corps' 50th Anniversary in Washington, D.C., the weekend of September 23-25. Please click on this link if you have not already checked out all that is happening or if you want to register for activities:

<http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/resources/peace-corps-50th-anniversary/september-events/>

Friends of Kenya is looking forward celebrating this very special occasion. We are planning several activities in conjunction with the anniversary weekend and also encourage participation in PC/NPCA activities! (And, by the way, Peace Corps Kenya will celebrate 50 years in Kenya in 2014!)

If you are not an active member of FOK (dues are \$15 a year), we invite you to reactivate your membership or become a new member! Your membership helps contribute to the weekend's activities as well as to our projects fund for projects in Kenya. We won't turn down donations either! Go to our website for membership and donation information: www.friendsofkenya.org. (If you are not sure, please email me and I'll be happy to check on your membership status!)

Here are Friends of Kenya activities planned so far:

- **Friday, September 23: No-host gathering.** A perfect venue to kick off the weekend and link up with other RPCVs/Kenya. No RSVP required. Stay tuned for place and time.
- **Saturday, September 24: Afternoon reception at a private home,** 4-6 pm in downtown Washington, DC. Because it is being held at a private home, you must RSVP to attend. This is not an open party! There is no cost for this. Location and directions will be available when you respond.
- **Sunday, September 23: Arlington Cemetery program and walk across the Memorial Bridge.** We will meet at the program and march together under the Kenya flag. There will be a closing ceremony which also will mark the end of the celebration.

Friends of Kenya has been part of the NPCA for over 25 years. We have funded many successful projects in Kenya, contributing more than \$50,000 to help communities throughout Kenya. We have planned activities for the Peace Corps celebrations in D.C., held meetings, welcomed Kenyans to our gatherings, and even made Wangari Maathi an honorary member long before her worldwide recognition. We continue to receive at least one funding request a week for projects in Kenya.

It's time for Friends of Kenya as an organization to have new leadership and we're asking individuals to volunteer and/or a group to take over. Friends of Kenya is well

known and our website is visited by many Kenyans as well as RPCVs and others interested in Kenya.

Most active members and those on the board have been involved since FOK's foundation in 1986. It's time for a change, giving these long-time active members a chance to retire and providing the opportunity for a new cadre of people to take the reins. Providing needed financial support for community projects in Kenya is more important than ever.

To continue the legacy of Friends of Kenya means a more active presence, fundraising, and perhaps a change in direction. Please consider renewing your commitment to serving Kenya by taking an active role in a renewed Friends of Kenya. We believe new leadership will help to reinvigorate what FOK can accomplish. And, of course, how exciting would it be to plan a 50th Anniversary Celebration for Peace Corps Kenya?

We invite you to come to the 50th Anniversary of Peace Corps celebration in Washington, D.C. This will be a weekend of service, camaraderie, and change in leadership for Friends of Kenya (we hope!), and celebration. Please register today and link up with us.

Asante sana! Tutuonana!

Jensy Patterson Richards

RPCV Kenya 78-80, (Harambee V)

Hotel information: If you are coming from out of town, please book a hotel as soon as possible as it is a very busy weekend in the city. I am staying at the L'Enfant Plaza Hotel. The NPCA website provides other options, which include reasonably priced hotels in Crystal City, a part of Arlington, VA. Check out couchsurfing.com as an option if a hotel and friends are not available.

P.S. You are receiving this letter because you are part of our mailing list, either through the National Peace Corps Association or the Friends of Kenya database. If you want to be removed from this list, please email me.