

The Camel Express



Newsletter of the Friends of Niger

April 2001

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FON Commits to Microcredit Project & Teams with MICA to Provide Oxen & Carts



Friends of Niger has formed a partnership with MICA, Inc. (Microcredit Africa) to provide oxcarts to women in villages in central Niger as part of a project whose aim is to empower women to reclaim their basic rights for education, health care and respect as human beings.

MICA is a non-profit organization, founded by Haoua Diatta, which seeks to alleviate poverty in Africa by empowering women. Mrs. Diatta is the author of *Shadow of Africa* and is the spouse of Nigerien Ambassador Joseph Diatta.

The flagship activity of MICA is the Oxcart Project which begins with the formation of an association of village women, who then choose their officers (including 2 Financial Managers) from amongst themselves and undergo training as a group. This process is followed by the provision of an ox and a cart to the group. The woman rent the carts to villagers who need transportation for a variety of purposes - as an ambulance, for farmers

taking produce to market, for craftspeople transporting goods, etc. Rental revenues allow the women to eventually purchase the cart while continuing to generate revenue. These recovered funds, in turn, allow MICA to purchase additional carts for other women in other villages. The cost of an ox and a cart is \$280.

The Oxcart Project is operating in the Maradi region with active projects in Dan Keri and Aguié and with another four villages at various stages of project development.

Friends of Niger has agreed to fund oxen/cart sets for two villages as well as to package donations from its members and contacts in units of \$280 for the purchase of additional oxen and carts. Information about where and how to contribute can be found below..

More information regarding MICA, its various projects in Niger, and Haoua Diatta's book (*Shadow of Africa*) can be found at the MICA web site - <http://justin.kirk.net/mica/>.

Contributions to the FON/MICA Oxcart Project should be made payable to Friends of Niger and sent to :

Oxcart; c/o FON; P.O. Box 33164; Washington, DC; 20033-0164

Message from the President

Greetings to each of you. Hopefully this message finds you still enjoying all the good things of a new year as well as the many pleasures of early spring.

It is likely that you've already read this month's lead story above, which describes FON's new working relationship with MICA and which encourages your support for the Oxcart Project. We believe that the project has great potential as a triggering mechanism for the mobilization of the largely untapped energy and creativity of the women of Niger. While encouraging your support for this project, I want to thank all of you who so generously responded to last fall's appeal related to Niger's NID campaign to eradicate polio in Niger. The goals of the project were largely achieved, though work remains to be done and you will hear again from us regarding NID activities.

Elsewhere in this issue of The Camel Express you will find Jim Bullington's latest column (Inside Peace Corps Niger), the inspiring Kabey Fo story; the latest report on the BU/FON campaign; an update on FON's 2002 return trip to Niger; and much more.

We hope that you'll take special note of the story and information regarding Celebration Niger 2001 (which follows below) and that then you will begin making plans to join us in August in Washington).

Help Needed

In that context - discussion of the big reunion/exhibit/celebration scheduled for August - we need help. Specifically we need a few people from the DC area to come forward and help us with the initial stages of several critical organizational tasks. Quite a few of you have offered to help during the event itself and these offers are very gratefully accepted. I've been in contact with most of you and you'll be hearing from me again as the event draws nearer. But we still need a few people to help us with things that must be done now. Please contact me by e-mail - lorenz3@magi.com - or phone - 819-827-4870. Thanks in advance.

FON Membership Drive

Friends of Niger continues to depend on membership contributions to cover the cost of its operational expenses. Members will be in receipt of the annual President's Report. Its contents will show that, once again, FON more or less broke even but that the organization does not have a lot of financial latitude. So - please, please renew your 2001 membership now and/or join us for the first time. The FON 2001 Membership Form can be found below.

You can also access the membership form from the FON website - <http://www.friendsofniger.org>. Our webmaster, Jai Evans, has just finished updating the site - check out the sections on news, books, art and photos.

Enjoy the newsletter, stay in contact and - please, please - join Friends of Niger.

Jim Schneider
President

Celebration of Niger 2001: See You This August in DC

As previously announced, Friends of Niger is sponsoring Celebration Niger 2001 on the weekend of August 3-5 in Washington, D.C. The event, a combination reunion/exhibition, kicks off on the afternoon of Friday, August 3 - Niger's Independence Day and is being held in DC in recognition of Peace Corps' 40th anniversary activities.

Celebration 2001 will be an opportunity to make new friends, reacquaint with old friends, reconnect with Niger and celebrate the relationship between Niger and its friends - old and new. As such, all weekend events will be open to all friends of Niger - FON member or not - as well as their families and friends.

The weekend schedule, still tentative and open to input, has nonetheless begun to take shape - with a first contact/registration session set for the afternoon of August 3 and a dinner/social slated for that evening. Refreshments will be available.

The FON Exhibit, which will be located at the same site (to be announced) as Registration, will run Friday afternoon through Sunday morning. Amongst the exhibits will be the FON Archives, a growing collection of materials from people who have lived and worked in Niger over the past 40 years, and the Patrick Thomas collection of recycled tools from Niger.

Saturday's events at the Exhibit will include readings and book signings by authors of books on Niger - including Paul Stoller and Haora Diatta - as well as films and music from Niger. Additional exhibits, readings and events will be announced over the next few months at the FON website - <http://www.friendsofniger.org> - and in the next issue of The Camel Express.

Space on the exhibits site will be set aside and audio-visual equipment available for those wanting to bring along their own slides, videotapes or audiotapes - as well as their photo albums, newspaper clippings, etc.

Saturday evening planning envisages groups dining in years of service groups and then gathering for a cross-FON social evening, music included.

Additional events for the weekend will include participation of the Nigerien Ambassador to the US, Joseph Diatta. Current Peace Corps Director for Niger, Jim Bullington; PCDC Niger desk people Dan Reilly and Leanne Johnson; past PC Niger directors and staff, and members of the DC Nigerien community are expected to be in attendance.

If you are planning to attend Celebration 2001, please let us know. We'll understand if your plans change - but we need to build an estimate of numbers for a variety of purposes. Thanks!!

Re: Housing: Some people have offered to host out-of-town attendees. If you can accommodate one or more persons for the weekend - please let us know. If you are hoping to board with someone - please send us a query. We'll try to put potential hosts and guests in contact. Please try to be specific regarding what you need or what you are offering. Thanks!!

For this or other purposes related to Celebration 2001, contact Jim Schneider by phone at 819-827-4870 or via e-mail at lorenz3@magi.com.

INSIDE PEACE CORPS NIGER

Dear Friends of Niger:

New Volunteers

On March 30 we swore in 45 enthusiastic new Volunteers. The ceremony, combined with a celebration of Peace Corps' 40th anniversary, was at the Ambassador's residence. Including Volunteers, there were about 300 guests for cocktails and dinner, among them four Government Ministers and other senior officials. The Minister of Justice, who is currently Acting Foreign Minister, gave a warm and supportive address in which he recalled being influenced as a youth by a Volunteer in his village. I presented a "Superstar Service Award" to Pat Alio, who arrived as a Volunteer in 1964, married a Nigerien, and taught for many years in Niger public schools.

The event drew extensive media coverage, including a front-page story in the Government daily and lots of radio and TV air time.

This was an outstanding finale to a very successful PST. Our only disappointment was that 11 of the original 56 trainees departed before swearing in. Their reasons were varied but all personal, not due to any unhappiness with the training or the program. The remaining new Volunteers seem highly motivated and enthusiastic about beginning their service.

The PST was co-directed by our new Training Manager, Hassane Abdourahamane, and Noelle Smith, a former PST director and Niger PCV whom some of you may remember.

Food Crisis

The effects of last summer's drought and the subsequent poor harvest are now beginning to be tragically apparent, especially in the more northerly agricultural regions that were hardest hit. Prices for millet and other staple grains are double their level at this time last year. In some villages, people are already reduced to eating tree leaves and other "famine food". Irrigated gardens, an important food source in the cool season (with which many Volunteers have been assisting), have mostly withered with the onset of hot weather and are no longer productive. The population of Niamey and other towns has noticeably swelled with immigrants from the countryside seeking work or handouts.

The most alarming aspect of this situation is that there will be no further agricultural production in Niger until after the rains come (inshallah) in July and August. Moreover, Government and donor food stocks do not appear to be adequate to meet the problem. Even though the poor harvest has been known and widely reported for months, both Government and donors have been slow to appreciate the gravity of the crisis.

A complicating factor is that overall, the harvest was poor but not catastrophic, not bad enough to create a country-wide famine comparable to those in the 1970s and 1984-85. In many villages, the harvest was normal; while in others, sometimes only a few kilometers away, it was terrible. National or even regional averages tend to conceal the extent of the problem in the worst-off areas. Moreover, hoarding and speculation by rich merchants is part of the problem, and an infusion of money without a corresponding increase in food supplies would only serve to drive prices even higher.

Even in good years, many people go hungry in Niger during the two or three months preceding harvest. This year, however, it looks like

about a third of the population will go hungry for five or six months before harvest. The Government has appealed for 60,000 tons of emergency food aid. At this point we just don't know if a combination of traditional coping strategies ("famine food," selling/slaughtering animals, etc.) and external aid will be enough to avert widespread starvation.

We and our Volunteers of course want to do what we can to help. We are urgently assessing the situation and trying to decide what to do.

Crime Increase

I don't want to seem overly negative in this column - Niger is still a great place to live and work and visit - but I think it's appropriate to inform Friends of Niger about the increase in crime in recent months. By far the most serious incident occurred the night of December 23, when the US Embassy Defense Attaché, was killed outside a nightclub in downtown Niamey (La Cloche) in an armed hijacking of his vehicle. An Embassy Marine Security Guard was wounded in the same incident. The vehicle was subsequently found in Timbuktu, but the perpetrators have not been apprehended.

In January, a visiting RPCV was robbed and slightly injured in a mugging in broad daylight near the National Museum; and in March a PCV was the victim of armed robbery at a Niamey bus station. In the Agadez region, there have been three recent incidents of armed banditry against American and European tour groups.

Please don't think I'm trying to give you the impression that we and the Volunteers are in constant danger or that law and order is breaking down in Niger. This is not the case. On the whole, there is still much less violent crime in Niger than in many other African countries (e.g., Nigeria, South Africa) or indeed in parts of some American cities. Moreover, Volunteers in their villages are as safe from violent crime as they are likely to be anywhere in the world. However, caution is in order, and we have taken some steps (e.g., making La Cloche off limits, curtailing nighttime travel) to try to reduce the danger.

Also, I want to remind prospective visitors of the need for prudence, especially in downtown Niamey, and medical insurance to protect you in the event of sickness or injury. Our Peace Corps Medical Officers can treat only current Volunteers -- not former Volunteers, Volunteer parents, or PC staff members. They can recommend a local medical practitioner, but medical capabilities here remain limited and far below US standards. Medevac flights cost around \$10,000 and require advance payment, so visitors should have medevac insurance.

PC/Niger Staff

Jim Schneider suggested that some of you might be interested in learning more about the current Peace Corps/Niger staff.

There are about 40 of us in all, augmented by another dozen or so during the annual PST. In addition to the Country Director, there are four APCDs: one for Administration (Steve Peterson), and three for programs (Gaston Kaba, Health; Don Osborn, Agriculture; and Jenifer Burt Davis, Natural Resources Management). We also have two PC Medical Officers (Cindy Levick and Walter Kittoe). Other staff members whom many of you may remember include: Hassane Abdourahmane, Training Manager; Maimouna Iro, Admin Assistant; Assalama Dawalak Sidi, Gender and Development

Assistant; Yacouba Sangare, Technical Coordinator; Boubacar Ide, Budget Assistant; Clement Doamekpo, Cashier; Kabirou Amusa, Receptionist; Dominique Yattera, Director's Secretary; Yacouba Hama, General Services Clerk; Fatimata Gado, Admin Secretary; Boubacar Keita, Travel Assistant; Sariou Garba, Lab Technician; Caroline Yattara, Medical Secretary; Hadiza Kiepin Toye, IRC Manager; Mani Mahamane, Language/Cross-Culture Coordinator; Aboubacar Mahamane (Tondi), Hamdallaye Site Manager.

We also have a great group of drivers, mechanics, janitors, messengers, guards and other hard-working people. I'm very proud of the staff and all they do to support our Volunteers.

Jim Bullington
Peace Corps Country Director/ Niger

From the Creative Responses Department: The Kabey Fo Story

Until a little over ten years ago, the people of Kabey Fo led a nomadic existence. Drought and other economic and political stresses led them to seek more sustainable means of survival. This in turn led them to the traditional chief of Babangatta-Barekire from whom they secured access to land near Kollo in western Niger - where they settled.

When Virginia Emmons arrived in the village of Kabey Fo as a new Peace Corps Volunteer in March 2000, her assignment was agroforestry. A few weeks after her arrival, people from the village approached her with a proposal for a primary school and an adult literacy center with a difference - the language of instruction would be Tamachek rather than French.



The villagers of Kabey Fo gather in their newly built one-room schoolhouse. Teacher Elhadji Amadou is seated front right.

Reluctant to take on too much, too soon, Virginia concentrated on her work in agroforestry and on getting to know more about the village and the villagers. Undeterred, the villagers pursued their idea. They met on a regular basis, they found someone to do an educational needs assessment survey in the village, they sent two villagers off to Niamey to be trained in adult education techniques, they shared their idea with local officials, they formed a parents committee and established a village caisee with long-term financial sustainability in mind. And along the way, good things began to happen.

Virginia Emmons became involved as a planning resource to the village. She involved her sister, Lucy Spoerk, a teacher in Milwaukee. Lucy raised funds and gathered supplies both in the States and in Niger - where she went for 10 days in November. American Airlines even waived the excess baggage charges as a humanitarian gesture of support.

Meanwhile, working with PC Niger Country Director Jim Bullington and APCD Don Osborn, Virginia submitted a Peace Corps Partnership Program proposal. Due to the soundness of the project, Lucy's stateside fundraising activities as well as her liaison work with PC DC, and the responsiveness of people in and around Milwaukee (as well as Miami, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, etc.) - the PCPP proposal was fully subscribed almost immediately.

While all this was taking place, the people of Kabey Fo began to build a one-room schoolhouse as well as a temporary home for the teacher that had been enlisted - Elhadji Amadou. Soon after Lucy arrived on the scene in November, the school's first primary school term began at the Tamachek Experimental Primary School and Adult Literacy Center. Basic literacy training was already taking place in the evenings.

While they wait for formal accreditation for their school - and the state funding that comes with it - the village is housing and feeding the teacher. Lucy's fundraising has secured enough money to provide the teacher with a salary for at least a year. With any luck, the school will become accredited by that time - especially as the government now sees education conducted in Niger's national languages as a priority.

Luck or not, the villagers are determined that the school is there to stay. Thirty-seven children between the ages of six and eight attend class most every day (with additional classes slated for next year). The adult literacy classes are conducted at night, with Elhadji Amadou overseeing the work of the recently trained villagers. Other villagers have been sent off for training in agricultural techniques, AIDS prevention, etc.

Lucy Emmons Spoerk said it perhaps best - "There's a saying, it takes a village to raise a child. Well, in this case it took many villages ..." Or as The Camel has been known to say - it all counts, or none of it does.

Children's Chewable Multivitamins - the April Update

Friends of Niger continues to receive donations for the purchase of children's chewable multivitamins. As before, these donations are used for the periodic bulk purchase of vitamins as part of the FON/Boston University project which began last year. The vitamins are then carried to Niger and passed along to BU's Resident Director in Niamey - Sue Rosenfeld. Sue, in turn, makes sure that the vitamins are forwarded to the National Hospital in Niamey and to the SIM Hospital at Galmi, near Madaoua.

The next (and fourth) shipment is scheduled for shipment to Niger in late April when Sue Rosenfeld returns to Niamey after a trip to the States. Another shipment is tentatively planned for the fall of this year.

Financial contributions should be made payable to Friends of Niger and sent to:

Vitamins c/o Friends of Niger
P.O. Box 33164
Washington, D.C.
20033-0164

FON will continue to liaise between people going to Niger and anyone or any group wanting to make a contribution to the campaign. In this regard, anyone traveling to Niger and finding themselves with room in a suitcase or, better yet, a spare suitcase is encouraged to get in touch with Jim Schneider via e-mail at lorenz3@magi.com or by telephone at 819-827-4870. Remember - it all counts or none of it does.

Pat Alio Recognized as 45 New PCVs Sworn Into Service



A host of senior Nigerien officials joined American Ambassador Barbro Owens-Kirkpatrick on March 30 to swear in 45 new Peace Corps Volunteers for Niger. The new PCV contingent will bring the total number of Volunteers in Niger to 108. They will be living and working in rural villages in the regions of Agadez, Dosso, Maradi, Tahoua, Tillaberi, and Zinder - with responsibilities related to agricultural production, environmental preservation, and improved community health and nutrition. Some Volunteers also work with organizations such as Global 2000, Helen Keller International, CARE, Plan International, and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

The swearing-in ceremony, hosted by the US Ambassador, marks the completion of 11 weeks of training, and the start of the Volunteers' two years of service in Niger. The training program took place at the PC Niger Training Centre at Hamdallaye - for 16 years the site of new Volunteer training. Peace Corps began work in Niger in 1962, when seven Volunteers arrived to work as teachers in Nigerien schools. It has operated here continuously since that time and over 2600 Americans have now served as Volunteers in Niger.

At the March 30 event, Peace Corps Niger Country Director J. R. Bullington presented a special award to Pat Alio for "sustained superior service to the people of Niger, exemplifying the ideals of the Peace Corps." Ms. Alio arrived in Niamey as a physical education PCV in 1964. She has remained there ever since, for many years as a Nigerien public school system teacher and now as Director of the English language program at the American Cultural Center in Niamey. Pat married the late Dr. Aboubacar Alio,

with whom she had five children.

2002 Return Trip Taking Shape

The high rate of response to the questionnaire that went to all those who had expressed interest in the idea of participating in a return trip to Niger in 2002 has turned the likelihood of a trip into a strong probability.

According to FON President Jim Schneider, who sent out the questionnaire, the responses prompt and thorough and the input was very constructive. I would be very surprised if this trip does not take place.

The Board of FON has tentatively lined up Spector Travel of Boston, African travel specialists, to handle the arrangements for transatlantic travel. Initial indications are that the trip will be of the 10-15 day variety.

Both Peace Corps Niger and the US Embassy have become involved in discussions related to trip activities and in-country logistics.

Anyone who is not already on the list and interested in the trip can still contact Schneider via e-mail at lorenz3@magi.com.

FON Archives Project

Photographs, slides, audiotapes, newspaper clippings, film and correspondence - the accumulated, sometimes unorganized, but always fascinating record of the time spent in Niger by Peace Corps Volunteers, university students, career diplomats and members of the international development community - these are the targets of the FON Archives and the FON Recording Secretary, John Soloninka.

The project was initiated last year by the FON Board of Directors and is coordinated by John with the help of FON web guru and electronic storage wizard, Jai Evans.

Material donated is in the process of being organized into albums and onto CDs - some of which will be exhibited at the FON Celebration of Niger this summer in Washington, D.C.

The project will be ongoing. Queries or donations should be directed to John at any of the FON addresses (see below) or at soloninka.1@osu.edu.

Remember the FON Archives this year during spring cleaning.

Friends of Niger T-Shirts -- You're gonna love this T-Shirt!!

Based on a design originally created by our neighbors at Friends of Burkina Faso, FON had produced its first shirts in plenty of time to meet holiday gift giving needs. The short-sleeved shirts are 100% cotton, pre-shrunk beefy-T, natural muslin-colored fabric. The design (above) is four color: brown, black and the orange and green of the flag of Niger. You'll notice a nifty proximity map of Niger within the map of Africa which appears in the branches of the baobab tree. The shirts are available in Medium, Large and Extra Large sizes and sell for \$18 each, shipping included. Use the **FON Membership & Order Form** or send a check made out to Friends of Niger (indicating the number of shirts by size), along with your name and address to: **Shirts. c/o Friends of Niger, P.O. Box 33164, Washington, D.C., 20033-0164.**

You're Gonna Love This T-Shirt		
Available in 3 Sizes		Makes a Great Gift!!
- M, L, XL		It'll Look Good on You as Well!!

Crisis Corps Openings in Africa- Work with PC HIV/AIDS Initiative

As part of its HIV/AIDS initiative, Peace Corps is sending RPCVs to Africa via Crisis Corps. The effort includes a range of volunteer

assignments including the development of AIDS curriculum and activities related to capacity-building within local HIV/AIDS NGOs.

The Crisis Corps is looking for RPCVs who have completed two years of PC service, who have some HIV/AIDS experience, who have at least one year of experience in sub-Saharan Africa and who preferably would be available for a six-month assignment.

Additional information about this and other Crisis Corps programs is available on-line at - <http://www.peacecorps.gov/crisiscorps>. Crisis Corps can also be reached by the following means:

Peace Corps - Crisis Corps
1111 20th Street NW, 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20526
crisiscorps@peacecorps.gov
1-800-424-8580 ext 2250 - or - 2020-692-2250
Fax: 202-692-2251

African Language Training

The University of Wisconsin-Madison will again host the Summer Cooperative African Language Institute (SCALI). Co-sponsored by the African Studies Program and the Department of African Languages and Literature at the University, with support from other Title VI Africa centers around the country and the National African Languages Resource Center, SCALI 2001 courses will be taught from 18 June to 09 August.

The tentative list of courses includes Fula/Fulfulde/Puular I and Hausa I in addition to courses in a dozen other African languages. The intensive eight week courses are equivalent to one year of academic study (8 credits). For more information about SCALI, FLAS, and updates on the languages that will be offered., visit the website -

<http://polyglot.lss.wisc.edu/afirst/scali/> or contact Jared avia e-mail at scali@mhub.facstaff.wisc.edu.

Other intensive language learning opportunities are available at a variety of institutions, including the University of Pennsylvania, Michigan State University, and the University of Florida.

This 'n That

Nine students, all female, arrived in Niger on Jan 22 for the spring 01 semester of the Boston University/Niger program. They hail from BU, Georgetown, Occidental College, and Fordham/Lincoln Center.

There have been a number of recent changes to the FON website - <http://www.friendsofniger.org>. In addition to posting of the latest issue of The Camel Express, their has been a new section added, entitled Photos from Niger, and updates to the Niger Art and Niger Books and Niger News pages.

For any of you hoping to attend Celebration Niger 2001 in DC this August, the Bulletin Board at the website is a great tool for letting old friends know that you are going and for making group plans for the weekend. Scroll down the left hand column at the site until you locate the link to the BB. Click and follow the directions.

FRIENDS OF NIGER 2001 MEMBERSHIP & ORDER FORM

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Phone (h) _____

Zip _____ Phone (w) _____

E- Mail Address _____

Connection to Niger (RPCV, etc.) _____

Dates in Niger _____ Location in Niger _____

Program or Involvement in Niger _____

Membership Dues & Contributions Help Fund FON Activities, including The Camel Express

Please Check Appropriate Boxes

- Enclosed is \$20 for an Individual Membership in FON
 - \$45 to cover Individual Membership in both FON & NPCA
 - Enclosed is \$35 for a Family Membership (2 Members at One Address)
 - \$67.50 to cover Family Membership in both FON & NPCA
 - I am a New RPCV, entitled to a 1-Year Free Membership
 - Please send me a Copy of FON's Bylaws (Members Only)
 - In Addition to my Membership, I have enclosed a Contribution of _____
 - Instead of Joining FON at this time, I have enclosed a Contribution of _____
 - Please send _____ Friends of Niger T-Shirts at \$18 each (Shipping Included) _____
- T-Shirt Sizes: M _____ L _____ XL _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

Make Check or Money Order Payable to **Friends of Niger** and mail to:

P. O. Box 33164, Washington, D. C. 20033-0164

(Please Enclose Membership Form)

FON Participaction Menu

Indicate your interest with a check mark. Or add something new at the bottom. Tell us how to reach you on the **Friends of Niger 2001 Membership & Order Form** (see above).

- × ___ Will help set up local FON group
- × ___ Would participate in local FON group
- × ___ Will Attend Reunion 2001 in Washington, D.C.
- × ___ Trip back to Niger in 2002
- × ___ Will be local FON contact person
- × ___ Will help with BU/FON Vitamin Campaign
- × ___ Will help with Celebration 2001 (please contact me)

Other _____

Credits and Other Information

This edition of **The Camel Express** was prepared, produced and distributed via hardcopy, e-mail and website posting with the contributions Sue Bracken, Irma Poots Sarata, Judd Lyon, Jim Bullington, Lucy Spoerk, Sue Rosenfeld, Jai Evans, Don Bracken, Penni St. Hilaire, Betty Hutchinson, Justin Kirk, Gabriella Maertens, John Soloninka, Larry Koff and our friends from Burkina Faso. Please send address changes and corrections, as well as any queries to **The Camel Express** at any of the addresses below.

The Camel Express is the periodical newsletter of **Friends of Niger (FON)**.
FON can be contacted via the post at P.O. Box 33164, Washington, D.C., 20033-0164;

by e-mail at lorenz3@magi.com; and you will find FON on the web at the following Internet
address
www.friendsofniger.org.

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