

The Camel Express



Newsletter of the Friends of Niger

January 2004

- [Friends of Niger and NPCA Meet in Chicago this August - Combination Reunion/Conference: August 5-8, 2004](#)
- [Ambassador Robert J. Ryan Passes Away in His 90th Year](#)
- [FON Announces Another Trip to Niger: Planning Begins for Early 2005](#)
- [MicroNiger - How You Can Help](#)
- [Vitamin Campaign: How You Can Help](#)
- [Video Production that Features FON Available for Purchase in DVD & VHS](#)
- [Friends of Niger T-Shirts...](#)
- [Credits and Other Information](#)
- [FRIENDS OF NIGER 2004 MEMBERSHIP & ORDER FORM](#)

Friends of Niger & NPCA Meet in Chicago this August Plan to Attend the Combination Reunion/Conference: August 5-8, 2004

Once again, **Friends of Niger** will sponsor and organize special **FON** events to coincide with the biannual NPCA conference. The 2004 gathering will take place August 5-8 in Chicago.

As has been the practice, **Friends of Niger** events will be open to all 'friends' of Niger - members of **FON**, Nigeriens, RPCVs, friends and family of PCVs, etc. **FON** members who are also NPCA members may choose to attend NPCA sessions as well and will receive information regarding these meetings (and their costs) directly from NPCA.

FON events (which are free of charge) will include social gatherings on the evenings of August 5, 6, and 7; an information/exchange session on Saturday, August 7; and other opportunities for 'friends' to gather, reacquaint themselves with old friends and make new ones. Updates will be posted to this site on a periodic basis between now and August.

Ambassador Robert J. Ryan Passes Away in His 90th Year

Robert J. Ryan, Sr., U.S. Ambassador to Niger, 1964-68, and long-time member and supporter of **Friends of Niger**, died at his home in Daytona Beach, Florida on September 17, 2003. 'Bob', as he was known to **FON** activists, was 89 years old.

Ambassador Ryan was born in Massachusetts and joined the Department of State in 1937. Upon retirement, he was appointed an Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations where he was responsible for overseeing the logistics of peacekeeping operations. He retired again in 1977 but retained an ongoing and active interest in both the Foreign Service and the United Nations.

Bob's love for and commitment to Niger never flagged. He retained an active membership in **Friends of Niger**, was strongly supportive of the organization's various activities and projects, freely sharing his knowledge and his personal resources. In 2001, at the Celebration of Niger event in Washington, D.C., Bob was recognized with a Friends of Niger Special Achievement Award for his "important and lasting contribution to Niger and its people and to the purposes of Friends of Niger."

Ambassador Ryan is survived by his wife Mary, two sons, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.



Standing in the middle of the second row, Ambassador Ryan is flanked by his wife Mary and Nigerien President Hamani Diori. The photo was taken in 1965 at the presidential palace in Niamey on the occasion of a reception in honor of Peace Corps Volunteers and staff. In the bottom row, between President Diori and Ambassador Ryan is Niger Peace Corps County Director C. Payne Lucas.

In his June 10, 1963 speech at American University, President Kennedy said:

"What kind of peace do we seek? Not a Pax Americana enforced on the world by American weapons of war. Not the peace of the grave or the security of the slave. I am talking about genuine peace, the kind of peace that makes life on earth worth living, the kind that enables men and nations to grow and to hope and to build a better life for their children -- not merely peace for Americans but peace for all men and women -- not merely peace in our time but peace for all time."

FON Announces Another Trip to Niger: Planning Begins for Early 2005

The FON Board of Directors has taken the decision to begin the planning required for a second Friends of Niger trip to Niger. The first trip took place in October 2002.

According to FON President, Jim Schneider, "tentative plans envision the 2005 trip taking place early in the year - January or February."

Schneider also indicated that the 2005 trip will include many of the same features as the highly successful 2002 event, "with, perhaps, a little more emphasis on participation in service activities or work projects."

Anyone with an interest or questions related to participation in the trip is encouraged to contact [Jim Schneider](#)

Micro Niger - How You Can Help -

Contributions to our ongoing support for microcredit in Niger should be made payable to **Friends of Niger** and sent to: **Micro Niger** c/o FON, P.O. Box 33164, Washington, DC, 20033-0164 or sent along with the [Friends of Niger 2003 Membership & Order Form](#)

Vitamin Campaign - How You Can Help -

Donations to FON's ongoing vitamin campaign should be made payable to **Friends of Niger** and sent to **Vitamins, c/o FON, PO Box 33164, Washington, DC, 20033-0164** or sent along with the [Friends of Niger 2004 Membership & Order Form](#)

Video Production that Features FON Available for Purchase in DVD & VHS



The 42 minute documentary on Niger, originally produced for Canadian TV and shot in Niger in January 2002, is now available for purchase from **Friends of Niger**.

From the blurb of the video's jacket - "In a '*Brother from Niger*', award winning journalist Andrew Younger brings a story of courage, hope, and struggle from one of the world's poorest countries. '*Brother from Niger*' follows **Friends of Niger** president Jim Schneider as he returns to a country he once called home, a country that's still as poor as when he left it.

The video was shot on location in Niamey, Maradi, Matamaye, Botsotsoua, Kantche and Zinder and includes interviews with Haoua Diatta of the Oxcart Project as well as with Schneider, representatives of FON's Nigerien partner organizations and others.

Copies of the videotape may be purchased for \$20 each (2 for \$35). Use the [FON 2004 Membership & Order Form](#) or send a check or money order, made payable to **Friends of Niger**, to **Video, c/o FON, PO Box 33164, Washington, DC, 20033-0164**.

“Serve, serve, serve. That's the challenge. For in the end it will be the servants that save us all.” - Sargent Shriver .

Friends of
Niger

**You're Gonna
Love This T-Shirt**

**Makes a
Great
Gift!!**

**Available in 4
Sizes
- S, M, L, XL**



**It'll Look
Good on
You as
Well!!**

*Introducing - 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 and very own T-shirt. 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 Small, Medium, Large and Extra Large sizes and sell for \$18 each, shipping included. Use the [FON 2004 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.**

Credits and Other Information

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

This edition of **The Camel Express** was prepared, produced and distributed by Sue & Don Bracken, Irma Poots Sarata, Judd Lyon, Gabriella Maertens, John Soloninka, Larry Koff, Penni St. Hilaire, and Evelyn Siemens. Please send address changes and corrections, as well as any queries to **The Camel Express** at any of the addresses above.

FRIENDS OF NIGER
2004 MEMBERSHIP & ORDER FORM

