

The Camel Express



Newsletter of the Friends of Niger

June 2004

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Friends of Niger Helps Fund Summer Leadership Academy for Young Girls in Niamey New FON Partner ORUWOCA Plans to Launch Program in August with Help from Friends of Niger

Friends of Niger President Jim Schneider announced that the **FON** Board of Directors recently took the decision to fund a new initiative in partnership with the Organization for the Relief of Underprivileged Women and Children in Africa (ORUWOCA).

[ORUWOCA](#), founded and led by Nigerienne Mireille Gbetholancy, is a relatively new NGO, headquartered in Washington, DC The Summer Leadership Academy is the organization's first initiative in Niger and is a clear expression of one of ORUWOCA's goals - to empower girls and women through effective education programs (leadership and literacy academy for young girls and women's health education) and microcredit management programs (small loans for rural women).

The Summer Leadership Academy for girls will be held in Niamey in the 2nd half of August. The academy model was designed by ORUWOCA member Dr. Hassana Alidou, Associate Professor of International Teacher Education Program, Graduate School of Education, Alliant International University, San Diego, California, a gender and development specialist. The academy seeks to assist poor young girls to develop social and leadership abilities and to enhance their academic abilities. The focus of the 4-week program will be on the development of critical awareness about basic health issues such as prevention of malaria, STD and HIV/AIDS; and the preparation of participants for the end of primary education exam by enhancing their ability for critical thinking, mathematical problem solving and literacy.

Participants in the program will be drawn from Niamey's poorest neighborhoods with the help of primary school personnel, les chefs de quartiers and neighborhood Women's Associations, local griots and local radio.

ORUWOCA and FON hope to expand the program into rural areas and other urban centers in the coming year.

Financial contributions to this and similar initiatives can be made by sending a check or money order, payable to **Friends of Niger** to

FON & NPCA
Meet in Chicago this August
Plan to Attend the Combination
Reunion/Conference: August 6-8, 2004
The Late July Update

Plans have now begun to firm up for FON events in Chicago next month. Check the schedule below again in another week. There will be more information on more FON events.

Friday - August 6 - FON Social & Dinner - 6:30 PM

Join FON members, Niger RPCVs and Nigeriens at the Ethiopian Diamond Restaurant, 6120 North Broadway, Chicago for a great evening. Other 'Friends' groups will be there as well, including Friends of Ethiopia & Eritrea and Friends of Mali. The Diamond is near the Granville stop on the Chicago transit Red Line (about 30 minutes from downtown) and is reputedly the best African restaurant in Chicago. We'll gather from 6:30, eat at 7:30 and stay for the music and dancing.

The buffet dinner costs \$20 (taxes & tip included). The buffet will include doro wett (chicken stew), ciga tibs (fried beef), another meat dish, two or three vegetable dishes, salad, and injera (Ethiopian bread) and soft drinks. The Diamond also features various African beers, Tej (Ethiopian Honey Wine) and great desserts. We need a reasonably accurate head count for Sisay Abebe, our contact at the Diamond. Please, please contact [Jim Schneider](#) and tell him that you'll be attending.

Saturday - August 7 - Niger/FON Exchange - 3 PM

Not a meeting in the usual sense, but an opportunity to gather and have an exchange on FON activities and initiatives as well as to share photos and other souvenirs of Niger. We are arranging to have the **FON Archives** exhibit on hand as well as **FON T-Shirts** and the **FON** video *Brother from Niger*. The gathering will be held at one of DePaul University's downtown campus buildings on Jackson Blvd between State and Wabash, just 2 blocks from the Palmer House (the NPCA conference hotel). Exact location TBA - check back at this site for an update.

Saturday, August 7 - FON Social Event - 7 PM

'Friends' will be gathering from 7 Pm at Bar Louie West Loop located at 123 N Halsted Street, blocks from the conference hotel. The Louie has a varied menu, a good selection of libations, and a casual ambiance.

Several joint FON/NPCA events are also scheduled. For details regarding these events [click here](#) and scroll down the page to the listings for Niger. For information regarding other happenings at the NPCA conference go [here](#).

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."

Brother from Niger Goes DVD

Brother from Niger, the 42-minute video which focuses on FON's microcredit initiatives and which was produced by Whalesong Productions of Halifax, Nova Scotia, will soon be released in DVD format. **Friends of Niger** plans to make the DVD version [available for purchase](#) at the same price and on the same basis as the VHS version.

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 2003 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** in both DVD and VHS formats.

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**

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



**Makes a
Great
Gift!!**

**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@ca.inter.net**; 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 and Penni St. Hilaire. 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