



# Friends of Sierra Leone

## Trip to Sierra Leone by Aiah Fanday

Before I traveled to Kono, I visited Afrometric Cosmetology on Garrison Street, and Sam Kam Institution. Both schools applied for FoSL Small Grant Loan. I found the schools very credible. Though they were struggling to make ends meet, I found the teachers and students in high spirits.

The major event on this day was the donation of \$400.00 to the Progressive Women Association (PROWA) Training Institution Kono District Branch. The event took place in Freetown because the school administrators wanted the event to be covered by the Media. SLBS carried the event the same night. I visited the school's branch in Kono. I was very impressed with their progressive curriculum. PROWA Training Institution provides vocational skills training to war affected and less privileged women for self-reliance or independence. The school provides training in tailoring, gara tie dyeing, batik work, creative practical arts, soap making, adult literacy, agriculture and traditional birth attendance.

After completing training, which ranges from six months to a

year, depending on the career choice, successful candidates will graduate with certificate signed by the Minister of Education – Technical Vocational Division. After graduation, the graduates are provided with start-up kits in their various fields and encouraged them to go back to their different communities to serve their people. Some of the graduates organize themselves into small groups or partnerships. Others gain employment into the private or public sectors.

I made a courtesy visit to some of the Amputees Children's Relatives that FoSL co-sponsored through the Gift of Limbs Project. They expressed their appreciation for what FoSL did for their families. I sensed no animosity towards us. None of the relatives complained that we were benefiting financially from the amputees' trip to the United States.

To fulfill another aspect of my trip, I visited some displaced camps in the Western Area to see which camp would benefit most from our Pep-Project "Feeding Day." After a follow-up visit to the Grafton Camp I decided they would be most

helped because they were very desperate for help.

On Sunday, November 24, I delivered 40 bags of rice on behalf of FoSL to the residents at the Grafton Camp. Twenty Sections, made up of roughly five thousand displaced people, benefited from our generous contribution. During the presentation, I told the beneficiaries the historic background of FoSL. I stressed that the group was formed primarily by Returned Peace Corp Volunteers for the love of the country and the people they knew. I told the group that in the past FoSL has assisted 8 child amputees who have been provided with artificial limbs and that together with two adults, the amputees are now staying in the United States. I urged

*Fanday continued on page 8*

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## Survey of Sierra Leone RPCVs who served in the 1960s

Did you ever wonder what makes us so attached to Sierra Leone? Many people have commented that people who work in Sierra Leone make more of an effort to keep up contacts, return and continue to help out than those who have worked in other countries.

One of our Board members, Adjai Robinson, would like to see if there is an aspect of working in Sierra Leone that is unique. He would like to begin with a survey of the RPCVs who experienced Sierra Leone in the 1960s. After this analysis, he will survey RPCVs from the 1970s, 80s and 90s in turn.

Please go to the <http://www.fosalone.org/> website to view and fill out the survey – but only if you served in the 1960s. Others will have their turn in future surveys. You can either fill in the survey online where it will be sent directly to Adjai, or print it, fill it out and mail it to our post office box. Be sure to mark the envelop “1960s Survey.” Do it now – don’t delay.

## Are you ready to go back to Sierra Leone in 2004?



The FOSL Board has proposed to hold the 2004 Annual Meeting in Freetown. Are you interested in attending? Before we plan for this event we need to hear if there is sufficient interest on the part of our members and donors. An Annual Meeting in Freetown would entail an enormous planning effort, but we feel



that the time is right for us to help celebrate the end of hostilities and renew our direct contacts with Sierra Leoneans in Sierra Leone. In addition to a program in Freetown, we would include an opportunity to travel upcountry. If you have an interest in attending (this would not be a commitment, only a statement of interest), go to “2004 Freetown Annual Meeting” on our <http://www.fosalone.org/> web site and give us your name, phone number, email address, and how many people are interested in attending. If there is sufficient interest, we will get back to you with a tentative date and cost estimates. If you do not have access to the internet, send a letter or postcard to our P.O. Box and indicate on the envelope “Freetown Annual Meeting.”

**2003 Annual Meeting on the West Coast:** The 2003 FOSL Annual Meeting will take place in Portland, Oregon on August 1-3, 2003 in conjunction with the annual NPCA Conference. Further information will be mailed out and included in future Newsletters.

**2004 Annual Meeting tentatively planned for Freetown, Sierra Leone.**

**2005 Annual Meeting will be held on Sapelo Island, Georgia.** You may recall that this is the island where the Mende song featured in the documentary *The Language You Cry In* was passed on through many generations of an African-American family. Here is a web site with additional information on Sapelo Island: <http://www.accessatlanta.com/ajc/projects/gullah/>.

## Report from Sierra Leone by Les and Hope Law

Let me tell you more about Sierra Leone. The buildings at Harford School in Moyamba are still in good structural shape, but there are doors missing and glass broken out. Most of the desks and chairs are gone, apparently used for firewood, and the library books are completely gone. Most of the schools we visited were in the same shape. The day we were there the rains were so bad we could hardly see. Damage at the Rotifunk hospital was severe. The buildings there were 100% destroyed. Everything is gone. The government has built a small health clinic there now. The historic old church at Rotifunk is almost destroyed.

Freetown is very crowded. A lot of people are still too scared to move back up country. The UN is doing a great job there. They are contributing to keeping the peace very well, and they are providing transportation to get people back up country. We passed one convoy of 15 or so big trucks moving people up beyond Bo. We were told that Freetown is not nearly as crowded now as it was when the war was on.

Up country, the infrastructure is almost completely destroyed and roads are really bad due to lack of maintenance and war-related destruction. The education system is badly weakened and the health system is a mess. Many people who have jobs are not getting paid. The general thought is that roads or transportation need to be the first priority.

Communication is the only thing much better than when we were there in the 60's. As you drive up country through the jungle (the jungle is suffering from deforestation), you suddenly come upon microwave towers. Cell phones are everywhere. Enough people have cell phones so that communication is good. Obviously most people don't have cell phones but there are a lot of them. We visited a private venture in the formative stages to provide health care in Kabala. The Kabala hospital and clinic was destroyed during the war. Very few want to go back to Kabala as it is so far away.

Another thing we saw was everyone working. Remember in the 60's the attitude was that if you were educated you did not have to do physical work. When we were there, at the Baoma School, hand making blocks, and tearing apart walls for windows, the Principal and teachers would come out during their breaks and after classes, roll up their pant legs, take off their shoes, and work and sweat with us. We also saw a lot of self help programs actually working. We also noticed men taking care of children, actually in a nurturing way, where in the 60's it was unusual to see men recognizing the existence of children, except perhaps in a gruff, disciplining, way. The people, in my opinion, were shocked at the war, learned about themselves, and really are trying to make sure it does not happen again. It is really inspiring.

But there are thousands of people in Freetown with nothing to do. We were there during the long vacation, so there were young men, and women, wandering the streets. We were confronted once by a group of young men – high school age boys – accusing us of taking advantage of the situation. The situation was diffused rather rapidly, but it was an example of the frustration still present. There may be some underlying anger that needs to be dealt with. Getting people back to work and in school will help. Also getting people paid for their work will help.

Everyone suffered because of the war, but, the attitude of the people is unbelievable. They are very focused on never letting something like this happen again. The government and the churches, and the mosques, are all preaching forgiveness. They are trying to incorporate the rebels and the victims back into the society. They feel they must forgive or they do not have a chance of succeeding in the future. People ask, "How can I forgive someone who raped my daughter and killed my mother?" Then they add, "No matter how difficult it is, I know I must forgive." We heard this sentiment expressed over and over everywhere we went.

**(The Laws were teachers at Harford School for Girls in Moyamba during the 1960's.)**

## Freetown Visit by Skep Nordmark

I recently had the good fortune to return to Sierra Leone and I was asked by Mike Diliberti to provide some reflections. The purpose of my visit was to help evaluate possible new embassy sites, specifically a site off Regent Road near Leicester Peak. Unfortunately it was a very brief trip, spent entirely in the Freetown area, so did not get a chance to get up-country where I enjoyed most of my Peace Corps time. I understand that a lot of up-country embassy travel is done by helicopter due to the deteriorating roads outside of the western area. The habit of "rewarding" distinguished visitors with chickens is still in place as the embassy Pol/Econ officer was provided with three after a village visit. Not knowing what to do she left them in a bag in the embassy vehicle to say welcome to Salone to an Assistant Secretary upon his arrival. Three chickens would have been cause for a party at the Kabala rest house.

The trip in to Lungi is apparently a lot easier now that SNBrussels Airlines is flying a Brussels-Abidjan-Freetown-Banjul-Brussels loop twice a week. The trip from Lungi to Freetown is not as easy. Apparently only one of the ferries is still working, and only runs once a day (if that), so travel from the

airport is usually by helicopter. There was only one helicopter working at the time, which seats about twenty people with luggage, so your wait can be awhile if your luggage gets off last. After avoiding mosquitoes and wishing for a Star beer in a hot Lungi hangar for over an hour, the helicopter, which barely seemed able to get off the ground, takes you to the Heliport near the Aberdeen Bridge.

Our arrival was relatively late in the evening, but the first thing I noticed was the amount of people. This could be expected near the Heliport, but was evident in all areas at all times. We got to view Freetown and potential embassy sites from a UN helicopter, which was impressively beautiful from the air, but teeming with people when on the ground. I subsequently found out the population in Freetown is estimated at close to one million, which is four times the estimate in the late 70's, so with no noticeable road improvements third world type congestion was common. Taxies and lorries were everywhere, and the quality of the drivers was much the same.

Not much seemed to have changed in the places I remembered. There were several heavily damaged buildings near the embassy, such as the City Hotel, but the old Peace Corps Office seemed in okay condition and the market in Victoria Park was still

bustling. The only real construction I saw was for an international court complex near the closed Brookfield Hotel. The construction involved the removal of a large cotton tree, so the local tabloids were expecting bad juju for the complex. There was a lot more development and activity in the Cape Sierra area, but erosion was noted on the once beautiful beach between there and the Atlantic Club.

The local government and professional people I met with gave positive responses to everything asked, even if it may not be true or possible, just like when I was a PCV. The Sierra Leone people seemed to be as friendly as before, always with a greeting, with a few more beggars noted, and not as many young amputees as I thought I would see based on what I had been reading. The ex-pat community I noticed was mostly associated with embassies or UN activities, with most seeming to enjoy Sierra Leone. And although I did get to enjoy a few Star beers during my stay, I did not get the chance to drink palm wine again, and could not convince the embassy personnel of the advantages of chop, and only got to eat chop (ground nut) once.

**Skep Nordmark is a RPCV (1976 to 1978) and is now a Department of State engineer.**

## FoSL Advocacy: Conflict Diamonds

by Judy Figi

In January 2002 the U.N. Security Council supported the creation of a diamond certification scheme that would combat world trade in illicit diamonds and stop them from being used to fund wars in Africa. The **Kimberly Process Certification Scheme** is the result of negotiations between diamond producing and importing countries and diamond industry representatives. It establishes international standards of national certification for the trade in rough diamonds. In November, the U.S. joined 44 other countries in signing the **Interlaken Agreement**, pledging to implement the Kimberly Process and eliminate conflict diamonds from international trade. The Bush Administration feels that legislation by the U.S. Congress is also necessary and is working with Congress to pass legislation as soon as possible.

I recently spoke to Michelle Gavin, Legislative Assistant to Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI), Chairman of the African Subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, who has been a strong supporter of legislation that benefits Sierra Leone. She said that a Senate bill is being prepared and that Feingold would like support from FoSL members through their congressmen. When I have further information on the Senate Bill I will post it on the FoSL website. You can also keep track of the status of legislation by checking the Congressional Website at <http://thomas.loc.gov> and typing in Sierra Leone.

## The Man Behind the Sierra Leone Web by Etta Touré

Sierra Leone has been through one of the cruelest wars in recent history. Over the last decade, almost everyone in the country has been displaced at one point or another, and almost everyone has lost one or more relatives. Today, the war is over and the country is trying to rebuild. However, much of this will depend on others. With help from major international donors, supplemented by organizations such as Friends of Sierra Leone, there is good reason to believe that Sierra Leone will pull through and sustain peace.

This section is dedicated to others helping to rebuild Sierra Leone. If you know of an individual or group that is helping Sierra Leone, please share their stories with us. This quarter, our feature is about the man behind the *Sierra Leone Web* - Peter Andersen (<mailto:andersen@sierra-leone.org>). In this publication, we have also included web links to other volunteer groups that are providing assistance to Sierra Leone.

Peter Andersen is a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer who served in Sierra Leone between 1979 and 1982. His love for Sierra Leone awoke a commitment to tell the story of Sierra Leone to a world community that is quickly reachable via the Internet. Unassuming and practical, Peter describes himself as "just a guy with a Pentium 90 computer." Thanks to Peter and his Pentium 90 computer – now a Pentium III, people searching for reliable, and objective reporting on Sierra Leone have come to accept <http://www.sierra-leone.org> as the first source for Sierra Leone news.

The late eighties and most of the nineties were years of upheaval and tragedy in Sierra Leone. However, mainstream media did not always cover news and events in Sierra Leone. Even the small number of articles on Sierra Leone which made it on the newswires died an electronic death. They were never published. In fact, even when the first online services were rolled out in 1994, some of the wire service reports on Sierra Leone were limited to paying subscribers and not accessible by the general public.

Believing that it was important to tell the Sierra Leone story, Peter created the website, <http://www.sierra-leone.org>, - arguably the first Internet website to provide news and information on a single country – Sierra Leone! <http://www.sierra-leone.org> also provides press releases, texts of relevant government documents, transcripts of speeches, links to other Sierra Leone news sources, as well as images of Sierra Leone and its people.

Peter launched the Sierra Leone Web in late February 1996, just in time to meet the great demand for Sierra Leone news when the AFRC coup of May 1997 happened. Suddenly there was a scramble to find immediate information on Sierra Leone, as the events were fluid and rapidly affecting thousands of lives. During this time, Peter spent near sleepless nights juggling his time between his job-for-pay and meeting his commitment to a world community that now depends on his reporting on <http://www.sierra-leone.org>

Today, with some outside funding, Peter still uses his personal financial resources and spends countless hours without compensation to continue telling the world about Sierra Leone on <http://www.sierra-leone.org>. He has made trips back to Sierra Leone to stay current on the country and its people; and has cultivated a vast network of sources in and out of Sierra Leone to complement his uncompromising style of journalism.

As one of its own, Friends of Sierra Leone salutes Peter Andersen, for a job well done!

The following are web links to other groups that you may consider as additional ways to support Sierra Leone.

1. **Operation Classroom:** <http://gbgm-umc.org/nwo/98jf/classroo.html>
2. **African Youth Movement** - <http://www.africanartville.org/index.htm> For more information contact - Abu Hassan Kamara (Askia) - <mailto:askia@hotmail.com>
3. **Sierra Leone Relief:** <http://www.sierraleonerelief.com>
4. **Habitat for Humanity:** <http://www.habitat.org>

## Recent Publications on Sierra Leone and Information Links

**Human Rights Watch** issued a report on January 16, 2003: *Sierra Leone: Sexual Violence Widespread in War*. The Human Rights Watch report, which is based on hundreds of interviews with victims, witnesses and officials, details crimes of sexual violence committed primarily by soldiers of various rebel forces – the RUF, the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC), and the West Side Boys. The report also examines sexual violence by government forces and militias, as well as international peacekeepers. Here is the web address: <http://www.hrw.org/press/2003/01/sl0116.htm>

The **Freetown newspaper, *Awoko***, has a web site with articles on Sierra Leone's local and national news and information on Sierra Leone. The web address: <http://www.awoko.com/>.

Check out the web site: <http://free.freespeech.org/isierra-leone/cuisine/> to find **recipes for dozens of Sierra Leonean dishes**. It's a real find, and there's more than just recipes on this site. Please note the spelling (i.e., isierra) or you'll have trouble finding it.

**Blood Diamonds: Tracing the Deadly Path of the World's Most Precious Stones**, a book by Greg Campbell. See review in the last FOSL Newsletter. Here is an abridged note from the publisher: Blood Diamonds is the gripping tale of how diamond smuggling works, how the rebel war has effectively destroyed Sierra Leone and its people, and how the policies of the diamond industry – institutionalized in the 1880s by the De Beers cartel – have allowed it to happen. Award-winning journalist Greg Campbell traces the deadly trail of these diamonds, many of which are brought to the world market by fanatical enemies, including the Al Qaeda network. These repercussions of diamond smuggling are felt far beyond the borders of the poor and war-ridden country of Sierra Leone, and the consequences of overlooking this African tragedy, as the world has seen, are both shockingly deadly and unquestionably global.

**How de Body?: One Man's Terrifying Journey Through an African War**, a book by Teun Voeten (Translated by Roz Vatter-Buck). Abridged note from the publisher: In 1998, Acclaimed Photo Journalist Teun Voeten headed to Sierra Leone for what he thought would be a standard assignment on the child soldiers there. But the cease-fire ended just as he arrived, and the clash between the military junta and the West African peacekeeping troops forced him to hide in the bush from rebels who were intent on killing him. How de Body? is a dramatic account of the conflict that raged in the country for nearly a decade, and how Voeten nearly became a casualty. The book is also a tribute to the people who never make the headlines: a BBC correspondent who eventually helps Voeten escape; a school principal who risks his life to keep his students and teachers going amid the bullets and raids; and a priest who runs a safe haven for former child soldiers; among others. The book includes stunning black-and-white photos from his multiple trips to the conflict area.

**Remote Corners: A Sierra Leone Memoir**, a memoir by Harry Mitchell. Synopsis: Originally written on a portable typewriter some 40 years ago, this volume (with some recent revisions and updates) is based on Mitchell's experiences from 1954 and 1959 as an administrative officer in Sierra Leone. It is written in a personable, informative, and humane style, describing the author's social and work life, observations of the inhabitants and his fellow colonialists, political changes, and his own personal development brought about by the challenges of life in Sierra Leone. Includes b&w photographs taken by a contemporary of his in the mid-1950s.

**Ambushed: A War Reporter's Year on the Front Lines**, a book by Ian Stewart. From the publisher: Ian Stewart has reported from some of the most dangerous places on earth, but none was more dangerous than Sierra Leone. When armed rebels entered its besieged capital in 1999, Stewart and two of his Associated Press colleagues were ambushed while driving down the street on assignment. One of them was killed instantly, and Stewart was shot in the head. He had a 20 percent chance of surviving. Miraculously, he did. With frankness, Stewart tells the story of his own remarkable recovery as well as the extraordinary risks he and other journalists take to report the news from remote war-ravaged countries. Ambushed is a glimpse inside the often surreal world journalists inhabit as they bear witness to violence and give voice to the unspeakable. Though his stories are sometimes buried deep inside the daily papers, or not published at all, Stewart keeps reporting. What finally stops him is a bullet. With the same determination and courage that served him well as a journalist, he overcomes a brain injury that could have been debilitating.

## Sierra Leone Publications and Information Links (continued)

**The Devil That Danced on the Water: A Daughter's Quest**, by Aminatta Forna. An abridged review from *Publishers Weekly*: Forna saw her father for the last time when she was 10 years old. In this harrowing memoir-cum-detective story, journalist Forna searches for the truth about her father's execution for allegedly attempting a coup upon the government in which he had once been a cabinet minister. Mohamed Forna, a British-educated doctor and activist in what was, in the 1960s, a fledgling democracy extricating itself from British colonialist rule, resigned from what had become a dictatorship rife with corruption and chaos. The consequences of that resignation culminated in eight executions and precipitated the descent into anarchy of Africa's poorest nation. Forna writes with a compelling mix of distance and anguish, intent on explaining her father's death and reclaiming his memory. Reminiscent of Isabelle Allende's *House of the Spirits*, Forna's work is a powerfully and elegantly written mix of complex history, riveting memoir and damning expos. *The World* (NPR radio) broadcast an interview with Ms. Forna on February 4<sup>th</sup>. You can hear it at this link: <http://www.theworld.org/latesteditions/20030204.html>. Ms. Forna will also appear at some bookstores across the country. You can also read a review of this book in the Washington Post at: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A2825-2003Feb13.html>.

### Conference and Art Exhibit Art About the Sierra Leone Civil War

**The conference** will be held at the Play Circle, Memorial Union,  
University of Wisconsin – Madison: February 28 – March 1

**The exhibition** at the Potter Butts Gallery, Memorial Union,  
University of Wisconsin – Madison: March 1 - 30

For more details regarding the conference and the artists, see:  
<http://www.africanartville.org/> and <http://sierraleonetravels.com/>

### Kevin Lowther's article in *American Legacy Magazine*

**American Legacy** magazine's Spring 2003 edition, which will be on the newsstands in early February, will carry a feature article by **Kevin Lowther** (RPCV, Sierra Leone 1963-1965) tracing the roots of the colonization movement, which began sending free blacks from America to Liberia in the early 1800s. What is generally forgotten is that the first shipload of settlers sailed to Sherbro Island in 1820. When this first settlement proved disastrous, the American Colonization Society found an alternative area further down the coast in 1821. It was later to be called Liberia. *American Legacy* is a companion magazine to *American Heritage* and focuses on African-American history and culture.

### SIERRA LEONE IV 1963-5 REUNION.

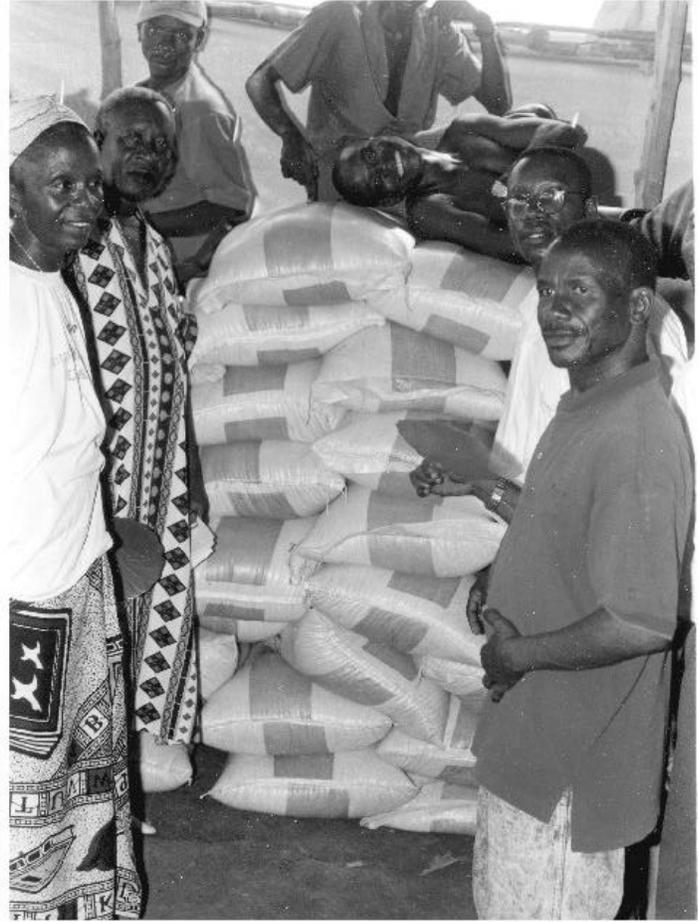
SL-IV (mainly secondary school teachers) plans to hold its fourth reunion (since returning from SL) in Boston the weekend of September 26, 27 and 28, 2003. (This will mark the 40th anniversary of when they finished training at Cornell and flew out of New York City for Sierra Leone.) Although these reunions have been organized and conducted by people in our group, SLRPCVs from the other groups and Sierra Leoneans have always been welcome.

*Fanday continued from page 1*

the elders at the camp to make sure that all residents benefited from the gift. I also expressed the hope that the donation would mark the beginning of a good relationship between them and FoSL.

Receiving the rice on behalf of the Grafton Camp, the Acting Camp Chairman, Hassan Ajami Sesay, commended FoSL for the gesture, and prayed for God's richest blessings for the donors. Mr. Hassan Sesay gave the assurance that the gift would surely reach the intended beneficiaries. The Camp Vice Chairman, Alusine Bangura, in commending FoSL for the donation, also highlighted problems facing the camp residents, including the unavailability of ration cards and the reduction in family sizes. The Camp Chairlady, Kumba Maabay, expressed concern over the action of aid agencies operating in the Camp that sliced the number of camp inmates and dependants from 12,200 to 8,500 and the decision of the World Food Program and the National Commission for Social Action not to honor lost cards.

FoSL received numerous praises from different quarters. Both air and print mediums carried the story for days. I have no reason to doubt that we did the right thing at a very desperate time. Like the Progressive Women Association Learning Center, the camp residents were very impressed and appreciative.



**Aiah Fanday on his visits in Sierra Leone.**

## Una Kushe-O,

As a volunteer organization that squeezes the most from every penny we have, we take advantage of opportunities as they arise to maintain our person to person in-country contacts. Over the last few years, a number of FoSL Board members have traveled to Sierra Leone, for work, volunteer, or family-related purposes. In each case, we were able to renew personal contacts with FoSL's friends and aid recipients, check on prospective new recipients, and make contact with local media to keep FoSL in the news. So far, these trips have been at no cost to FoSL. This allows FoSL to maintain our focus on assisting Sierra Leoneans throughout the country. The Board recently approved funding of five small-grant projects for a total of about \$20,000 in the areas of youth training, HIV/AIDS education and micro-enterprise. These projects will be described in our next Newsletter. It is thanks to the generous contributions of our members and donors that FoSL is (i.e. you are) able to have a positive impact on the lives of many Sierra Leoneans. Even here in the US, we have assisted Sierra Leoneans by continuing our contacts with the Justice Department and our advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill regarding Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Sierra Leoneans living here in the US. Last November, TPS was extended until November 2003 (details can be found on the FoSL web site).

In November, the FoSL Board came together from across the country to discuss our plans for the next two years. Look at the photo below and you will most likely see someone you know (unfortunately, two Board members were unable to attend and are missing from the photo). There are Board members from every era of PC volunteers – from the early 60s to the early 90s – and Sierra Leoneans spanning three generations. This is a great group of dedicated volunteers – we have even managed to keep most former Board members involved in some way or another. **Below, left to right – top row: Billie Day and Eunice Blau; second row: Daphne Sawyerr-Dunn and Judy Figi; Third row: Jim Sheahan, Mark Hager, Etta Toure, Jeff Cochrane, Peggy Murrah, Dave O'Neill, Carl Onken, Aiah Fanday, Mike Diliberti, Linda Slonksnes, Adjai Robinson, Jamie Brown; and in front: Mike O'Neill.** Among other things, we decided to shift our efforts from emergency relief (our focus over the past ten years) and from small grants (our focus over the last two years) to focus on one, two or three long-term projects. Your ideas on this and any other topics are always welcome. We decided to include all Board members in our meetings through telephone conference technology – our meetings since then have been truly national with participants from Alaska to Georgia. And we decided to have our next annual meeting on the West Coast (in Portland, OR – August 1-3) and explore the possibility of holding our 2004 Annual Meeting in Freetown (see note on Page 2). We are looking forward to implementing as many of our and your ideas as possible. With your support, FoSL is set to have a great two years.

Peace and rice, Mike Diliberti, President of FoSL



Friends of Sierra Leone

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Sierra Leone Home Town/Village/Chiefdom/District _____			
Residence in SL: From _____ to _____			
<b>Membership:</b>	New	or Renewal	<b>The Bottom Line :</b>
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Household Membership*	(\$36)		
*two memberships, one newsletter per household			

Thank you for your support! Please return this form with a check payable to Friends of Sierra Leone at the above address.

**FoSL needs your participation. Please circle your areas of interest.**

- Advocacy
- Education
- Membership
- Projects
- Events

Would you be willing to be part of a network to receive information and contact your members of Congress at important times? (please include e-mail address, if available)

Yes

