A Letter from the Editor

Dear FOG Members,

Another issue, another reason for photos! RPCVs Adrienne Epstein and Cappy Phalen, kindly submitted fresh pictures from their recent visits and service in Guinea. Adrienne completed an internship as part of her MPH program and Cappy was finishing up her response service and attended Hope of Guinea’s science camp in Conakry.

The highly anticipated key for last quarter’s polygot crossword puzzle is ready and available. There is one error but I hope that did not disturb your puzzling!

We also have an exciting job opportunity posted from American Home Builders of West African. See page7 for details.

Our final Focus piece on FGM from Lillian. Stay tuned for our next topic.

Until next quarter!

Cheers,
Hannah Koeppl
FOG Newsletter Editor
Photos from Science Camp hosted in Conakry organized by RPCVs and Hope of Guinea. Photos
Pictures from Adrienne Epstein
RPCV 2012-2014
Cissela
FOG Crossword Puzzle
Fralinklar Suglish- Answer Key

T_1
T_2 A
T_3 P A P I L L O N E N T_4 T A N A M U X U I
I T_5 Y_6 E
B_1 D_2 O R M E Z B I E N

M_9 E E G
ONJ A A R A M A B
N E C C_11 A F E
K U I O_12 Y
O N S E
R E M_13 A N G U E
O R L F
T_14 U

F_15 E D A F E D A B A H
A A O
L C_18 A F E F
A B_19 U R O

Ca Va?
Answer Key

Across
3. "Monarch" insect (French)
4. "Have you slept well"? (Susu)
7. Four across (French)
10. Thank you / Hi (Pular)
11. Coffee (Susu)
13. Tropical tree fruit - orange (Pular)
14. Very personal pronoun (French)
15. 3 across (Malinke)
18. Eleven across (French)
19. Bread (Malinke)

Down
1. Ten (Susu)
2. Tomorrow (Susu)
3. First meal of the day (French)
5. Spicy, hot vegetable (Susu)
6. Water (Susu)
8. Ten across (French)
9. Thirteen across (Malinke)
12. Soft Boiled (French)
14. Negation (Malinke)
15. Speak (Susu)
16. "Ok" (short) (French)
17. Twelve down (Pular)
While many may consider Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) an international issue only, FGM also occurs in the U.S. and is shockingly on the rise. According to a January 2016 study conducted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ (HHS) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), an estimated 513,000 women and girls in the U.S. have undergone or are at risk of being subjected to FGM. This is more than three times higher than an earlier estimate based on 1990 data.

According to the CDC study, the rise “was wholly a result of rapid growth in the number of immigrants from FGM/C-practicing countries living in the United States.” Women and girls most at risk generally live in major urban areas with high immigration populations such as New York, Minneapolis, Los Angeles, Seattle, and Washington, DC.

Recent reports indicate that American girls from these communities are subjected to FGM both in the U.S. and abroad. Medical practitioners in the U.S are believed to be performing FGM, as well as female elders within the communities who are traditional “cutters.” Many girls, however, are unwittingly lead to the procedure when they are on vacation in their parents’ countries of origin.

Legal efforts to address what the United Nations considers a human rights violation have had positive results. In 1996, Congress passed a law making it illegal to perform FGM on anyone under the age of 18 in the U.S. or knowingly transport a girl out of the U.S. for purpose of inflicting FGM. Additionally, as of 2015, 24 states in the U.S. have laws against FGM.

While enacting and enforcing laws are a crucial step to eliminating FGM, community level and culturally sensitive awareness, education and outreach programs are perhaps most critical in eradicating the practice. Fortunately, there are a number of excellent organizations and campaign efforts that are making positive strides in prevention and advocacy in order to protect girls living in the U.S. from FGM.

The Inter-African Committee USA (IAC-USA) has recently taken an innovative approach to addressing “vacation cutting”. During the summer, to further educate children about harmful traditional practices, IAC-USA organizes a summer camp "Vacances Sans Excision" (Summer without FGM), wherein children explore their traditions, cultures, music, and religious practices in an effort to continue the tradition and rite of passage associated with FGM without undergoing the harmful procedure.
Sales and Customer Service

American Homebuilders of West Africa (www.jobomax.com/ahwa) is building American quality homes in Guinea for the diaspora and local population. For the diaspora, we address three main concerns that prevent them from owning their dream home in Guinea:

- Security - we provide a US law based contract to guarantee delivery and we have never defaulted on our obligations to a client.
- Quality - we follow international quality standards in key areas such as concrete and use advanced technology to create a finished product not available anywhere else in Guinea
- Financing - we offer up to 80% financing in US dollars for clients living outside of

We currently sell most of our homes to diaspora living in the US and Europe. Our sales have been growing over the last few months and we now require help in sales and customer service with our diaspora clients. We are seeking someone with the following profile for a part-time contractor (1099) position. Our ideal candidate would:

- Speak French (and ideally one or two local languages - Fulani, Mandingo, Sousou, etc)
- Enjoy interacting with the diaspora community (mostly by phone but in person as well)
- Have the ability to explain our value proposition and move prospective customers through the sales pipe line
- Live near one of our large markets (NYC, DC, Columbus, OH, or Atlanta) - helpful but not necessary
- Contact new and existing clients by telephone
- Explain to people who contact us what the homes are, where they are and the buying process.
- Provide after sales service including helping to set up bank to bank transfers
- Occasional meetings face to face with clients either as part of the sales process or in after sales support

Primary duties:

- Position is an independent consultant/contractor
- Hours are flexible - evenings and weekends are typically the best time to speak to clients
- Compensation is negotiable

Other information:

This is a unique opportunity to engage with the Guinean diaspora community while helping create great jobs in Guinea and participate in solving one of the biggest social challenges in West Africa - housing.
Friends of Guinea is a non-profit organization made up of former Guinea Peace Corps Volunteers, Guineans inside and outside of Guinea, and others interested in promoting the cause of Guinean development in the world at large. We are a country-of-service affiliate of the National Peace Corps Association.

Do you want to contribute a piece to the next newsletter? Contact FOG Communications Assistant Hannah Koeppl at newsletter@friendsofguinea.org