



FoSL Annual Meeting

Sept. 30

Friends of Sierra Leone will have an in-person annual meeting this year! Please join us at the **Arlington Central Library in Arlington, Virginia on September 30th from 10 until 5**. The Library is located 0.3 miles from the Ballston Metro Station and the Virginia Square Metro Station (Orange and Silver lines). The address is 1015 N Quincy St., Arlington, VA 22201.

We will have a Zoom meeting with **US Ambassador David Reimer** for an update. We hope to have someone from the Sierra Leone Embassy, but President Bio will be in the States at this time and, understandably, they may not be able to accommodate us. Plans also include an update from the Peace Corps to bring us up to date on the new volunteers and plans for the next group. Our board members will update everyone on our various committees as well. That evening there will be a social gathering to meet new friends and reconnect with old friends.

On October 1st we will visit the Smithsonian African Art Museum. If you have never been before, you have missed a treat. If you have been before, quite likely there will be new exhibits. The gift shop at that museum always has quite a selection of clothes, jewelry, art, and other

miscellaneous items that are from African artists and writers.

We will not charge a registration fee, but we do need you to let us know if you plan to attend one or both days. We will have refreshments and handouts and want to ensure that we have enough for everyone, but not more than we need. Please contact Peggy at info@fosalone.org

Projects Report

Jim Hanson, Committee Chair

In Memoriam

It has been 15 years since the untimely passing of our beloved board member,



Daphne Sawyer-Dunn. A scholarship fund was established in her name at the **Paul School for the Blind in Bo**. At the start of each school year, FoSL provides \$250 to the school to assist needy

students with school fees.

This year, the FoSL Board of Directors wanted to mark this 15th year anniversary with a special gift. The Paul School will receive \$1000 from our projects fund, which will provide the students with uniforms and toiletries, as well as fuel for their school bus. Petrol prices have



increased dramatically in Sierra Leone, as they have everywhere. This gift will enable the school to lock in the fuel supply to keep the bus in service.

New Agriculture Initiative

The Friends of Sierra Leone are teaming up with RPCV and FoSL members, Chris and Jeannie Siegler, on an innovative agricultural project in Mamaka Village just outside Mile 91, on the road from Freetown to Bo, in Yoni Chiefdom. The village will donate labor and 150 hectares of land for this 3-year project. A total of 45 farmers, 15 of them young men and 30 women, are enrolled in this program. They will be given loans using the micro-finance model, repaying the loan at 5% interest from the sale of crops and animals, and will receive instruction

in farm finance, managing cash-flow, animal husbandry, and organic farming. Counselling and mentoring will also be provided.

The program is being directed by Ahmed “Muckson” Sesay, who as a young man, was instrumental in bringing the warring parties in Sierra Leone’s civil war together for peace talks. Muckson has since earned a master’s degree and is now a trustee at the Central University of Sierra Leone (ccmtsl.com) in Mile 91. An entrepreneur with experience managing micro-finance projects, he is very excited about the possibilities of this program.

The goal of this project is to bring Sierra Leone out of subsistence farming and make it a profitable venture. Keeping young men employed in the village, while increasing food security in the country is a

win-win for any program.

If you would like to help support this project, send a check made out to the Friends of Sierra Leone and write Mamaka Ag. Project on the memo line. Send it to Chris Siegler, 19475 Conifer Drive, Huson, MT 59846. If you prefer to donate online, just go to the FoSL web page, click on donate, and choose the "other" designation to fill in Mamaka Ag. Project.

New Project Applications

October 31 is the next deadline for [project applications](#). We have updated the application process and are looking forward to many opportunities to aid small communities with their needs. Our thanks to all of you who donate to our projects fund. You make it possible for small communities throughout Sierra Leone to improve their lives and care for their families.

Missing EMail

Over the last several months there was an issue with outgoing and incoming email for FoSL president, Peggy Murrah. She was unable to send notes to everyone who renewed memberships and/or donated money. That issue has been resolved. If you did either and did not receive an email from her, and you would like one, please contact her at info@fosalone.org. Thank you many times over for all renewals and donations!

Announcements

For those who are looking for friends you've lost contact with or who have an announcement others may be interested in, this is your place to post it. Please email your request to Peggy at info@fosalone.org. Announcements regarding marriages, births, new jobs, deaths, or any other item of interest are welcome. Keep in mind newsletters usually come out twice a year.

In Remembrance

Sister Mary Ella Moran

Many FoSL members will recognize Mrs. Moran's name from the documentary *The Language You Cry In*. Mrs. Moran had learned a family specific Mende burial song that provided the connection between family descendants in the United States and Sierra Leone. She was the epitome of a true Southern lady and a joy to be with. During an annual meeting on Sapelo Island, Wilson Moran, her son, took the group to meet her and we had the honor to hear her sing the song. Friends of Sierra Leone extends our deepest sympathies to the Moran family on the loss of their beautiful mother. (see obit next page)

Thank you to all who shared information.





Mary's Obituary

With sadness, the management and staff of Darien Funeral Home announced the transition of Sis. Mary Ella Moran of Harris Neck, who transitioned on Tuesday, May 31, 2022, at her residence.

Sister Mary Ella Dawley Moran was born September 24, 1921, in Harris Neck, Georgia to the late Robert and Amelia Dawley. She was their only child.

At an early age, Sister Moran became a member of First African Baptist Church in Harris Neck, Georgia. She remained a devoted and active member until her health declined. On December 7, 1937, Mary married Roosevelt Moran and to this precious union, twelve children were born. She was a loving and caring wife,

mother, and grandmother. She helped with the rearing of her grandchildren and they always showed their love for her.

Mary was a lifelong resident of Harris Neck and had the honor of celebrating her 100th birthday in September 2021. She often said she wanted to live to be a hundred because ninety-nine and a half won't do. God was listening and allowed her to achieve her goal.

During Sister Mary's lifetime, she discovered that a simple little song her mother taught her would be a catalyst for her to trace her family roots all the way back to Sierra Leone, Africa. We now celebrate Sister Mary's long life and rich heritage. She has transcended her earthly home and now resides in her heavenly home. A wise woman once said, "Pray for long life and pretty feathers will grow".

She was preceded in death by her husband: Roosevelt Moran, Sr.; five children: Rayfield Dawley, Roosevelt Moran, Jr., Amelia Grant, Samuel Lee Moran, and Rosemary Moran. She leaves to cherish her precious memory, seven children, four sons: Wilson Moran, Stanley (Loretta) Moran, Timothy (Miriam) Moran, and David Moran; three daughters: Mable (Syntel) West, Vondell (Dave) Walker, and Linda (Emory) Palmer; also, many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.



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| Relationship to SL (e.g., Sierra Leonean, PC, etc.) _____ | |
| Sierra Leone Home _____ Years _____ to _____ | |
| Membership: \$25 per Individual \$ _____ | |
| Donation to Projects: \$ _____ | |
| FoSL Circle \$1000 and up Supporter \$500 to \$999 Sponsor \$100 to \$499 Friend \$50 - \$99 | |
| Overseas Mail (add \$10) \$ _____ | |
| Total Remitted \$ _____ | |
| Membership dues support operations for Friends of Sierra Leone, including meetings, newsletters, and the website. All other donations support FoSL projects in Sierra Leone. | |
| Dues and other contributions to Friends of Sierra Leone are fully tax-deductible. | |
| Thank you for your support! Please return this form with your check made payable to Friends of Sierra Leone to the address at the right. → | |
| PO Box 15875 Washington, DC 20003-0875 | |

Friends of Sierra Leone
P. O. Box 15875
Washington, DC 20003-0875

FOSaLone.org



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