

AMY BIEHL FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

VOLUME VIII, NUMBER I

JANUARY 2004

HAPPY NEW YEAR

DEAR FRIENDS,

OUR "HOLIDAY" NEWSLETTER IS A BIT LATE. HOWEVER, ON BEHALF OF THE BIEHL FAMILY, THE AMY BIEHL FOUNDATION, AND THE STAFF OF THE AMY BIEHL FOUNDATION TRUST, WE SEND OUR BEST WISHES AND PROFOUND GRATITUDE FOR YOUR GRACIOUS SUPPORT. WE HAVE BEEN VERY BUSY CONTINUING AMY'S WORK THROUGHOUT SOUTH AFRICA AND HERE AT HOME. WE FOUND OURSELVES FORTUNATE TO BE SURROUNDED BY FAMILY AND FRIENDS DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON. IT IS OUR HOPE THAT ALL OF YOU ENJOYED SUCH WARMTH. THE HOLIDAYS ARE OFTEN A DIFFICULT TIME FOR US PERSONALLY. WE REFLECT ON THE LOSS OF AMY, PETER AND OTHER LOVED ONES. YET OUR FAMILY HAS BEEN BLESSED BY TWO VERY DEAR ADDITIONS. MOLLY AND TIM ARE NOW THE PROUD

PARENTS OF THREE WONDERFUL CHILDREN! REMY MARGARET CORBIN WAS BORN ON THE 16TH OF SEPTEMBER; SHE IS HEALTHY AND HAPPY AND BRINGS GREAT JOY TO OUR FAMILY. AS SOME OF YOU ALREADY KNOW, I AM ENGAGED TO DENISE WHITE. SHE FITS RIGHT IN (WHETHER SHE LIKES IT OR NOT) WITH THE ENTIRE GROUP. WE WILL BE MARRIED ON JULY 29, 2004.

AS THE AMY BIEHL FOUNDATION SETS ITS SIGHTS ON THE UPCOMING CHALLENGES OF 2004 WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO GET STRONG SUPPORT FROM ALL OUR FRIENDS AS, TOGETHER, WE CONTINUE TO SPREAD AMY'S MAGIC.

WARMEST REGARDS,
ZACH BIEHL



Linda Biehl's Calendar

"Linda's Calendar" represents a brief glimpse into the wide range of activities the Amy Biehl Foundation and Trust are asked to participate in and/or initiate. Many people and relationships are integral to all the events mentioned but it is impossible to go into detail without becoming cumbersome. Thank you to all of you who have made these activities possible and to those who have written about these events in greater detail.

May-

The Santa Fe High School (Santa Fe, New Mexico) sponsored the "Peace Ambassador's Ball". Addie Davis chaired this event featuring Stuart Udall and Linda Biehl as speakers. Linda was joined at the May 3rd event by Kim Biehl, Molly Biehl Corbin and three grand children: Zander Corbin, Will Corbin, and Elizabeth Hoffmark. Lucky Bopape, from Guguletu, South Africa, came to provide a voice for the youth of South Africa as well as to provide musical entertainment. Kim Biehl's piece goes into greater detail about this amazing event.

Linda was also joined in Santa Fe by Maureen Harrington of People Magazine. Maureen later traveled to South Africa as she wrote an article that appeared in the July 23rd issue of People.

While in Cape Town in May Linda worked on another German documentary about the ABFT and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

The end of May, ABFT was honored with a visit from a Congressional Delegation from the US, sponsored by Hon Amo Houghton and Hon John Lewis, along with The Faith and Politics Institute, headed by Doug Tanner. About 50 members in all shared an afternoon with the staff and participants of the ABFT programs. It was a great opportunity for them to see reconciliation in action.

June-

In June Linda spent a wonderful few days at the Global Philanthropy Forum on the Stanford Campus. It was sponsored by the Northern California World

Affairs Council. This event deserves its own newsletter but instead the next few lines will be used to thank Jane Wales and staff for the invitation for Linda to speak and mingle with high energy fantastic people concerned about our world. Linda was further thrilled to be a guest at the Hewlett Packard ranch. Synergos invited her to participate in a dynamic set of dialogues and gave Linda a chance to share the story of the Amy Biehl Foundation. Again names are difficult but a special thanks to Peggy Delaney, the Gimone Family, and Susan and Ron Briggs.

Graduations are always special for Linda and on June 13th Nomaphelo (Penny) Hlabula graduated from Rolling Hills Prep in California. Linda can not begin to thank Peter McCormack and the school for providing the scholarship (the 3rd one to a South African) and the Karns family for hosting Penny during the school year. Additionally, it should be noted that Penny is one of our original Girl Guides from our first after school program in Guguletu. Penny joined that program in 1998. Watching her evolvment has been a joy for all of us at the ABFT. This seems to be a concrete example of how our programs are helping to develop successful young people from difficult backgrounds. Congratulations Penny!

The last few weeks in June Linda spent in Cape Town. Carte Blanche (The South African Version of 60 Minutes) filmed a documentary that aired in August.

July-

Linda's July highlight was the Character Counts Conference in St. Louis. Once again the Kendall family contributed to the organization of this event. Easy Nofemela and Ntobeko Peni flew in from Cape Town to participate with Linda in discussions relating to restorative justice approaches to conflict. The Kendall's played host and organized a Mayoral Breakfast and a neighborhood conference. Please contact Larry Kendall for details at GETTOITLK@aol.com.

August-

Linda spent the end of July and the most of August in Cape Town. She did many media events leading up to the Hugh Masekela concert (the 10th anniversary celebration). Please read Leyla Haidarian's piece in this edition. On the 25th, Linda hosted a small but personal

gathering at the Crypt Restaurant at St. George's Cathedral to share a special time with many of Amy's friends and Foundation staff and supporters.

September-

Linda enjoyed attending the Family Literacy Foundation Board Meeting. Our Youth Reading Role Model program is based on the work done by this wonderful San Diego Foundation. With the help of Molly Biehl Corbin (who once worked for the Family Literacy Foundation) in adapting these strategies for South African youth, this program has been reaching thousands of students in South African primary school students. Molly is now busy reading to her third child, Remy Margaret Corbin, born on the September 16th. Linda left the board meeting on the 15th and made it to the Corbin's new home in Mandeville, Louisiana, to meet Remy and her brothers just hours after her birth. Congratulations Molly, Tim, Zander and Will!!!

Linda ended September in Seattle. Constance Rice, Director of the Desmond Tutu Peace Center invited her to present the Desmond Tutu Emerging Leaders awards. Ron Slye and Lori Markowitz share some information in this Newsletter about this event. Several Stanford Alums joined Linda at the City Club Lunch and Lori organized a great fundraiser. Terry and Caroline Murphy participated in most of the Seattle events. Seattle has become much like St. Louis, as a special Amy Biehl Foundation "hub". Linda was able to visit her wonderful friends at the University of Washington. Linda and all of us with the ABF and ABFT send our love to Jim Cowles, a great world visionary that is gravely ill.

October-

Peter Yarrow from Peter, Paul and Marry and daughter Bethany were awarded the first annual Peter Biehl Peace Award. Linda, Zach and Denise were invited to the beautiful home of Dave and Laurie March for a Sunday evening of music and discussion. On Monday, Linda and Mr. Yarrow visited with students from Corona Del Mar High School. Special thanks to the March Family for the use of their home, as well as our dear friends from Corona Del Mar: Denise Weiland, Lucy Steinberg, Cyndie Borcoman, Gwen Haas, Traci Widder, Robyn Moss, and Debra

Leitner. The ABF is very fortunate to have this group of dynamic women interested in our cause.

Linda returned to Cape Town on October 15th.

Linda was honored to attend the 70th birthday party for Leah Tutu in Soweto, South Africa. Being with Archbishop Desmond Tutu and his wife always brings a sense of peace to Linda.

The rest of the month was highlighted by various program graduations.

Linda returned from Cape Town on October 31st.

November-

Linda traveled to Washington, DC on the 5th. She joined by Larry Kendall who brought a couple of young women from the Carver House in St. Louis. They were there to attend a youth conference hosted by the Department of Health and Human Services. On her return Linda stopped in New Orleans to help celebrate Will's 2nd birthday.

Linda was invited to share her experiences at Sage Hill High School in Newport Beach on the 17th and 18th. Thank you to Ellen Gordon for coordinating Linda's Monday night public speech and Tuesday school assembly.

On the 18th Linda, Zach and Denise drove into Los Angeles for event the ABF helped sponsor with Artists for a New South Africa. The event was to showcase the work and film done by renowned HIV/AIDS activist Zackie Achmat. It was an inspiring evening.

Thanksgiving-with family and friends.

December-

Linda wrapped up the year in Cape Town with many events. The holiday season became a little brighter with the commitment of USAID for their continual support.

The office shut down for the holidays.



ABF NEWS

THANKS TO THE ASSISTANCE OF DAVE SNOWDEN AND HIS COMPANY, THE ABF WEBSITE HAS BEEN UPDATED AND REDESIGNED. WE WILL BE MORE ACTIVE WITH MONTHLY NEWS AND REPORTS. DAVE, A LONG-TIME FAMILY FRIEND, HAS REALLY SPARKED NEW ENERGY INTO THE SITE. A SPECIAL THANKS TO STEVE SCHWARZ FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT OF THE WEBSITE, ALONG WITH HIS CONTINUAL FRIENDSHIP. CHECK IT OUT!!!

FOR THE 2ND TIME THE ABFT HAS PROVEN TO BE A REAL RELATIONSHIP BUILDER. ASHLEIGH MURPHY AND CHRISTO DE VILLIERS ANNOUNCED THEIR ENGAGEMENT OVER CHRISTMAS. WE ARE SO THRILLED WITH THE NEWS AND LOVE BOTH OF THEM GREATLY. THEY FOLLOW THE PATH SET BY FORMER PROGRAM MANAGER TREVOR MURPHY, WHO MET AND MARRIED SARAH BAIGRIE OF CAPE TOWN, WHILE THEY WORKED TOGETHER AT THE ABFT.

Our Trip to New Mexico

By Kim Biehl

On May 3rd, the Santa Fe High School chapter of the National Honor Society hosted a fundraiser for the Amy Biehl Foundation. It was called the "Peace Ambassadors Ball." I jumped at the chance to attend. My memories of Amy and Santa Fe are vivid. We spent our time there in a constant state of competition but at the same time, proud and respectful of each other's accomplishments. Amy was a member of the national Honor Society and I felt that this was an event she would love.

Molly and I, with our children in tow, made the journey to Albuquerque. There we joined my mom and Lucky Bopape who came from South Africa with his drum. It was quite a comical site as we all piled into a rented minivan (three car seats, a drum, two strollers, all of our luggage and a pregnant sister!). Lucky entertained our kids with his soft South African voice. They were enthralled.

We spent the first day of our trip in Albuquerque. We were all anxious to visit the Amy Biehl High School. We were treated to an exciting assembly filled with music and a special song written just for Amy. The young lady who wrote the song performed it with

her father accompanying her on the guitar. It was a beautiful and very moving tribute. After the assembly, we visited a music class. Lucky jammed with the students and was able to give a few lessons in African drumming. It was so much fun to see the interaction between the two cultures.

The next day we made the drive, in our jammed packed minivan, to Santa Fe. We stayed at the Fort Marcy suites (thank you to Susan Curtis for the tip!). We certainly enjoyed ourselves visiting some of our old stomping grounds, including the Shed for lunch. Mom and Lucky were invited to speak to a history class at Santa Fe High. I went with them and was amazed at the way the school had changed. But it was also easy to picture Amy waiting for me at the gate to the parking lot to pass off the car keys. The students were impressive and truly enjoyed having Lucky in class.

The Ball itself was lovely. Hosted at the La Fonda Hotel and organized by Addie Davis, it was a gathering of fascinating group of people. We saw some old friends, including Amy's old band teacher, Snyder and made some new ones. There were some very eloquent speeches including one by Stuart Udall and another by my mom. Lucky played his drum like I had never heard him play before. It was easy to feel Amy's spirit in that room.

It was a wonderful experience.



The Desmond Tutu Emerging Leaders

By Ron Slye

On September 25, 2003 the second class of Desmond Tutu Emerging Leaders were honored in Seattle, Washington. Eighteen young people of middle school age were selected from a pool of over 30 applicants by a group of prominent judges. Each of those selected represented, through his or her words and actions, the values and ethics that animate the life of Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

The major honor of being chosen as a Tutu Emerging Leader is the opportunity to meet and participate in a discussion with a prominent peace maker. Peace makers are chosen for their dedication and

contribution to peace, justice and reconciliation. The first of Tutu Emerging Leaders in 2002 met with Archbishop Tutu. The class of 2003 met with Linda Biehl. As part of Linda's visit, we published a series of public service ads in the local newspaper that told the story of Linda, Peter, Amy and the Amy Biehl Foundation. In addition, we created a packet of information on Linda and the Foundation that was distributed to all the local schools.

The meeting between Linda and the Young Emerging Leaders took place at the John Stanford International School- a public school with an internationally diverse student body and curriculum that emphasizes the diversity and richness of the world's cultures.

Linda conducted a discussion with the Young Emerging Leaders, and then addressed an assembly of students from the Stanford School. Linda was introduced to the assembly by Mayor Greg Nickels of Seattle. The students attending the assembly ranged in age from 8 to 13. The students sang for Linda, listened to her remarks, and then asked questions. A young fifth grader asked a question on a topic that was familiar to Linda, but phrased the question in a way she had never heard before. The questioner asked how the people who killed Amy earned her forgiveness. The question illustrated that while we have a lot to teach the youth of today, they too have the ability to show us new ways of looking at the world and our experiences.

The Emerging Leader program was a great success, and we are grateful for Linda's willingness to participate as our peacemaker of the year.



Beyond Words

By Leyla Haidarian

Over 850 guests were counted at our recent 10th anniversary benefit-concert in the Market Hall of the Grand West Casino in Cape Town. The evening began with a mesmerizing welcome from the 'Ubunthu' Marimba Group and continued with an exciting variety of jazz performances by our very own Lucky Bopape and his band.

The guests, who truly represented the full diversity of this nation in color, creed and background, enjoyed a plentiful cocktail dinner and perused the silent auction area while listening to the musical pleasures on stage. The official program began at 7:30. Ahmed Kathrada, one of our special guests said of the evening: "Madiba's birthday should have been like this!" What an honor.

Next to Ahmed Kathrada we were graced by the presence of Kadar Asmal, Yvonne Chaka Chaka and a wealth of opinion leaders from South African society. Most of the guests were invitees of Videovision's Anant Singh, who together with his wife experienced the vibrancy of our Foundation for the first time in this form. The evening seemed to make a lasting impression on him. For many it was the first time to personally witness the efforts of our work. A short video-presentation paid tribute to Amy's life and introduced the Foundation's projects and mission. Video credits of all our supporters for the evening rolled throughout the program. The night was topped off by a performance by the one and only Hugh Masekela. Hugh captured the audience with his unparalleled charm. As Hugh performed our own Zanoxolo Dance Troupe joined in. Hugh was accompanied for one song by our Amy Biehl Choir children as well. His vibes literally shook up the crowd and by 10pm the guests were storming the dance floor.

The last guests left at midnight, still speaking about Linda's amazing presence, energy and the unique all-embracing nature of the evening. Linda Biehl's inspiring words and introduction of her staff was one highlight of the evening. Thank you to our entire staff, they worked so hard to make the event a success.

THANKS TO ALL OUR FRIENDS IN THE U.S.A. FOR THEIR GRACIOUS TICKET DONATIONS. OVER 60 GUESTS WERE ABLE TO ATTEND DUE TO YOUR GENEROSITY.



Our Trip to South Africa

By Rodger and Karin Bivens

On August 16, 2003, we made our first trip to South Africa in honor of Amy Biehl's 10th anniversary and to join in the celebratory Amy Biehl Foundation Trust charity fundraiser to be held on August 22, 2003. This was the first chance for me to meet the great staff of the ABFT, with whom I had been communicating over the last year, as I performed financial tasks for the Amy Biehl Foundation U.S., and to see first-hand the variety of programs/projects in which the Trust is involved.

Our arrival in Cape Town was on a cold winter day, but as we made our landing approach, the city looked beautiful... and a little reminiscent of the San Francisco bay area. Karin and I arrived at the local B&B where we were staying and immediately felt at ease as we met the gracious owner and staff. The next day we were hard at work meeting the ABFT staff (sitting in on a staff meeting where we had to perform a skit along with everyone else) and beginning to visit programs and projects.

Over the next few days, we viewed more than half a dozen programs that ABFT is operating. These programs ranged from youth education and tutoring in arts, reading, and sports to health and first aid. We were struck by how "grass roots" the programs were, effectively impacting people on a very direct level.

Perhaps the highlight was our visit to Pollsmoor Prison (where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned for another eight years after he was released from his seventeen year imprisonment on Robben Island). At the prison we participated in a graduation ceremony for those prisoners and guards that had just successfully completed a first aid course taught by ABFT representatives. There was singing by the prison choir, a commencement address, and presentation of graduation certificates. Completion of this course meant so much to the prisoners, giving them a sense of achievement and preparation for the future.

The fundraiser evening was a fantastic party, a coming together of people from different cultures and a true celebration of the legacy of Amy's life. Hugh Masekela, the internationally renowned jazz

musician, was the keynote entertainer and gave a magnificent performance, which bound the audience and had everyone dancing. Equally impressive were the performances by the young musicians, dancers, and singers connected with the programs of ABFT.

Our trip left us with a feeling that we must return to experience more of South Africa as soon as we can, as well as continuing to provide whatever support we can to further the great works of the Amy Biehl Foundation and the Amy Biehl Foundation Trust.



A Special Place in My Heart

By Lori Markowitz

The Amy Biehl Foundation holds a special place in my heart; I am honored and thrilled to take part in such a wonderful organization. It all began with Professor Jim Clowes, a remarkable man who knew I was eager to understand the Truth and Reconciliation process in my own work with Israelis and Palestinians. Jim is one of the most magnanimous and inspiring human beings, he introduced me to two additionally remarkable people, Linda and Peter Biehl. We became fast friends and my partnership with the ABFT commenced.

I decided to join Linda in August for the 10th anniversary concert with Hugh Masekela and spent time visiting all the many ABFT programs. I met the wonderful ABFT staff. I owe a special thanks to Victor and Vanessa West who spent countless hours taking care of me, their loyalty to the Foundation is invaluable.

My children, Josh (10) and Jessica (8) initiated a project at the Middle East Peace Camp they attended during the summer, a peace card which was signed by both Arab and Jewish children dedicated to the children in a township. I made sure to deliver it as soon as I arrived in Cape Town. My family has had the pleasure of hosting Linda in our home during her visits to Seattle, Josh and Jessica call her Makulu and can't wait for her to come back again! My husband Stephen who is South African is so pleased to be reunited with his country again.

This was a trip of a life time; I experienced first hand the worthy work of the Foundation. Every day was

an exciting adventure, first aid graduation ceremony, singing and reading with the children in the after school programs, celebrating with Easy on the day of his engagement and much more. I am so thankful for these memorable experiences.

Upon my return, I decided to host a fundraiser for the Foundation. This was hosted by Yaffa Maritz, a true heroine of peace. Yaffa and I work closely together on Middle East Peace efforts, Linda has inspired us so in our own efforts to build bridges between the Arab and Jewish communities. Linda was present along with some special ABF guests Caroline and Terry Murphy. The evening was a great success.

Additionally, Josh and Jessica wanted to continue taking part in a supportive role for the Foundation, they decided to speak with their teachers and established a pen pal program with the townships. Montlake Elementary School in Seattle has now made some new friends in South Africa; the Montlake children have pledged to raise money for school supplies sometime in January as well.

The Amy Biehl Foundation has become an integral part of my life, no lectures or books could ever teach me about reconciliation and forgiveness like my experiences with the ABF. I realize how critical the Foundation actually is for the new South Africa and to serve as a role model for all people. Thank you for including me in your world, I only hope I can enlighten and contribute to world peace as eloquently and caringly as you do.



OUR LAST PIECE WAS WRITTEN BY LUCKY BOPAPE, WE FELT TO APPROPRIATE TO PRINT IT AS IS. ENGLISH IS NOT THE ONLY LANGUAGE LUCKY SPEAKS, THUS, THERE MAY BE SOME GRAMMATICAL ERRORS, BUT HE SURE EXPRESSES HIS WONDERFUL SPIRIT.

My Trip to the States

By Lucky Bopape

I first went to California, where Linda and Zach stay; I reached there in the afternoon. I had to sleep, because I had problems with the different time, I felt very sleepy, but I got use to it. I stayed there a few days; we went to some nice restaurants and malls, before my preparations to travel to New Mexico.

While in California I saw former interns Crystal Gonzales and Jamie Sweet. Crystal showed me around, and we even had some drumming sessions with her roommates.

Linda and I then took a plane to New Mexico. We were joined by Linda's family, Molly, Kim and Linda's grand children (3 little ones) and visited the Amy Biehl High School. We received a very warm welcome; the students were interested in who I was and where I came from. It was very different than the schools in my township. The school also taught about general issues in their community. As I recall, the issue that day was 'how woman are viewed in the society', I spoke about how the African women are viewed by our society. It was a very interesting issue for me as I looked at how hard African women work to provide their family to provide food and security with a very small income or sometimes with no work. The feeling or question that stayed in my mind was how different women in the States are treated compared to South Africa.

We were then called to the main event, where they had a jazz band which played the famous song La Bamba. Linda gave a speech about the Foundation and I performed 2 African songs on my drum. We spoke and performed at Santa Fe High school as well. I enjoyed the questions asked by the students, but I was amazed that many of them thought I lived in a jungle full of animals like in old movies. They were surprised that we have technology; it seemed as if so many people knew nothing about South Africa.

We went to Santa Fe, where the main fundraising event took place. People spoke about Mandela and his leadership. We then made our speeches, people listened closely and some promised many things.

I also learned that the Indians in New Mexico practice almost the same culture as African People, (very interesting to me).

My wish is that some day Gugulethu becomes a peaceful place like California in terms of crime and also economically (not fun).

I went back to California where Zach and Denise took me to Disneyland and I had lots of fun!!!



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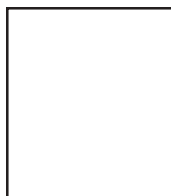


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