



friends of **African**  
**Village** libraries

**Inside**

- News and views.....p. 2
- Volunteers and programs.....p. 3
- Photo of the month.....p. 4
- We need your help!.....p. 4

**Fundraising priorities**

- \$5,000 to hire a coordinator for the Uganda Community Libraries Association (UgCLA)
- \$10,000 to build up an endowment to support FAVL libraries
- \$10,000 to deliver more reading programs in all libraries

**FAVL facts**

- FAVL manages ten libraries in four countries; two more libraries are being developed in Burkina Faso
- In 2007, FAVL libraries received more than 85,000 visits and more than 10,000 books were checked out

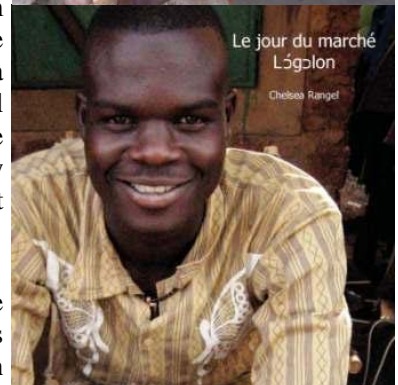
Friends of African Village Libraries is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.  
*West Africa Director*  
 Michael Kevane, Associate Professor of Economics, Santa Clara University  
*East Africa Director*  
 Kate Parry, Professor of English, Hunter College, City University of New York

# FAVL and Santa Clara Rotary : local language books for village libraries

Thanks to a generous grant from the Santa Clara Rotary Club, the creativity of FAVL volunteer Chelsea Rangel (a student at the University of Montana who spent more than two months in Burkina Faso), and technical assistance from Santa Clara University students Kathryn Ranney and Amy Reggio, FAVL was able to pilot a model for producing “micro-books” to help inspire reading and local cultural capabilities in rural villages in Africa. Chelsea’s books are portraits of local life: how to make *dolo*, a brewed sorghum beer made by women; a day in the village market; and how to make *coura-coura*, a peanut fritter. In French and Dioula, the local language of southwestern Burkina Faso, these books are perfect for new readers, especially adult women who learn Dioula in adult literacy classes.

The micro-books idea was inspired by the work of Kathy Knowles and Osu Children's Library Fund (OCLF). Kathy has been producing books for several years, and helped FAVL publish some of her books in Dioula. OCLF also helped with our summer reading program. One third of the 4th grade students in the five villages where FAVL runs libraries in Burkina Faso received “personal” books that were theirs to keep. Two of the books that we distributed were produced by OCLF: *Fati and the Honey Tree* and *Sosu's Call*. These are the kinds of books fully adapted to the intended audience, and they will be read hundreds of times.

FAVL is working with Rotary in the United States and Ouagadougou to produce a stream of micro-books that will be distributed to local libraries. Read more inside about our partnership in a study abroad experience that will make producing micro-books a central component to student’s understanding of civic engagement, on a global level!



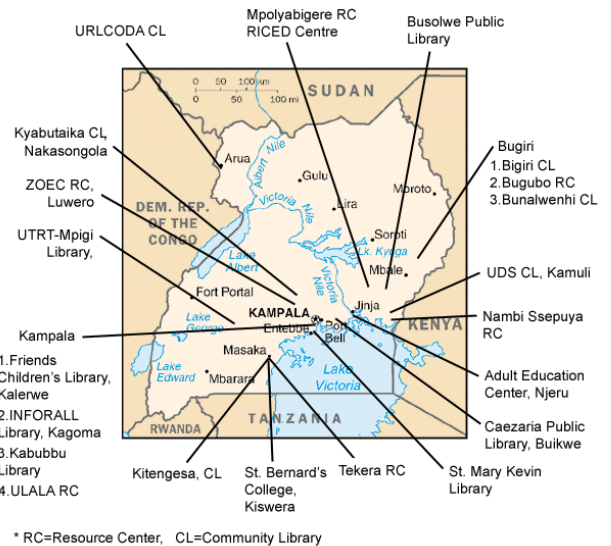
## News and views

### *Kitengesa Community Library uses a new eGranary*

The Kitengesa Community Library in Uganda is the proud possessor of an eGranary – that is, a hard disk with literally millions of texts on it, mostly taken from the Internet, and with software so that you can search the texts. We installed it early this year, but in the first few months it wasn't being used very much – only by the librarians and a couple of the library scholars. Now, however, we have a Canadian volunteer working at the library, and her particular task (and research project) is to teach people how to use the eGranary and record its use. The result, to quote her: "E-granary has created mild chaos in the library. Order in the court! Big crowds have started to cause a lot of disturbance..." All this strengthens the case for getting our new computer centre up and running... The roof of our new building is now nearly finished, and our new reading program *20 Challenge* is under way. Library members can sign up for the Challenge at the beginning of a month, and if they read twenty books by the end of it, they get a certificate and a small prize (a volunteer at a nearby project donated pens for this purpose). Since the Challenge readers must talk about every book they read with one of the librarians, it was decided to keep the number of participants down to twenty in any one month; then the next month another twenty get a chance.

### *Uganda Community Library Association (UgCLA)*

Our partner library support organization in Uganda awarded grants of US \$1,000 each to six community libraries for projects aimed at improving literacy practices within their communities. The six successful libraries are: Njeru Adult Education Centre; Inforall Community Library; Kabubbu Community Library; Nambi Sseppuuya Community Resource Centre; Uganda Development Services Community Library; and URLCODA Community Library. The grants were awarded with support from the United States Embassy. On a different note, UgCLA recently concluded a two-day workshop on Initiating Community Libraries held at Shine Hotel in Kansanga. The workshop aimed to train individuals—who are eager to give back to their communities through establishing a local library—to serve the local populace by equipping them with the skills and knowledge to do so. Handouts of the workshop material will be made available online. UgCLA also produced a map of known community libraries in Uganda, at right and available on the UgCLA website, [www.ugcla.org](http://www.ugcla.org).



### *Swedish mystery novelist Henning Mankell is a fierce African-oriented anti-illiteracy activist!*

From an online interview with UNESCO: "Let me now talk about illiteracy. It is a disgrace for the whole world that we in the year 2008 have yet to eradicate illiteracy on our planet. Still millions of children are forced to enter life without knowing how to read and write. The fact that we deny so many children these elementary tools means that we render them defenseless on so many issues related to AIDS. How can we expect a young person who lacks the ability to understand written information, who is unable to grasp the essence of vital knowledge, to protect herself or himself from becoming infected? Of course people talk, of course there is radio. There are also theatrical groups who travel the country to inform people. But the fact remains that we live in a world where the ability to read is necessary to acquire information."

### *FAVL will co-manage study abroad/immersion program in Burkina Faso*

The Santa Clara University Fall Semester Study Abroad/Immersion in Burkina Faso is a study abroad program for undergraduate intermediate or advanced French speakers interested in combining academic work on the literature and development challenges of West Africa with immersion and community-based learning experiences in public libraries in small rural towns and villages. Students spend the first six weeks of the program in Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso; the second six weeks in a rural village in southwestern Burkina Faso; a week in Dogon country on the Burkina-Mali border; and a final two weeks back in Ouagadougou. Details at: [www.scu.edu/burkinafaso](http://www.scu.edu/burkinafaso)

**SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY**  
**BURKINA FASO**  
Reading West Africa Program

*Program Highlights*  
Read novels of French West Africa  
Intern in a village community library helping children read  
Create and publish two books of photographs about village life in Burkina Faso  
Engage with development challenges of Burkina Faso, one of world's poorest countries  
Immerse yourself in French for four months  
Visit the famous Dogon cliff homes in Mali

**CONTACT**  
Dr. Michael Kavens  
Department of Economics  
[mikavens@scu.edu](mailto:mikavens@scu.edu)  
408.554.6888

[www.scu.edu/burkinafaso](http://www.scu.edu/burkinafaso)

## Volunteers in FAVL libraries

*Student volunteers are an important way for librarians to learn new ways of interacting with children. When they return, volunteers spread the word about the importance of providing opportunities for children and adults to improve their reading skills.*

*From Peace Corps volunteer Meghan Coughlin...*

*Just received the library report for Niankorodougou for the month of October. The number of library visits and books borrowed has continued to go up with the opening of the school year.*

*In the report, village librarian Moussa wrote that he is "tormented" every*

*day by the need for more reading space for library visitors.*

*I am currently working on getting an outside covered area built for this purpose. This past week we held an official library opening with community leaders and officials.*



Meghan is an inspiration for how much one committed volunteer can do. More details at her blog: [all4nianko.wordpress.org](http://all4nianko.wordpress.org).

*FAVL friend Lola Galla writes:*

*I had a pretty successful visit to St. John's School in Ottsville, Pennsylvania, this past Monday. I was invited by the principal to be a guest speaker to meet with students K through 8th grades about my visit to Chalula Community Library in Tanzania because the school is*

*planning on having a fundraiser for Chalula in the coming year. The students were well prepared and greeted me with maps of land forms and interesting facts about Tanzania which they displayed in the classrooms. One door even had written "KARIBU", meaning*

*"Welcome" in Swahili. I brought some items from my trip like kangas, jewelry, coffee, etc. and shared some of my photographs. I taught some Swahili greetings and animals names.*



You can buy some of Lola's photos with proceeds going to FAVL at her store: [www.lolaoppd.etsy.com](http://www.lolaoppd.etsy.com) Andrew Martric and Lola spent time in Chalula library in the summer helping the librarians and local committee improve library functionality. They wrote up a great plan for prioritizing future library work. FAVL director Kate Parry also visited the library. So Chalula got the "friends treatment" that exemplifies what FAVL is about— a network of

like-minded people willing to spend time (and money) helping with the daily realities of running a community library in an African village, not as an abstract or distant involvement, but as a real person-to-person experience.

## Update: Gowrie-Kunkua library in Ghana

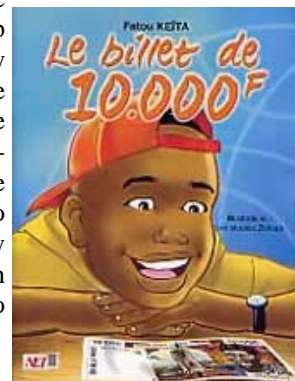


Susan Stonecypher honored students and her former colleagues and friends in the Volusia County school system by giving a founding donation for the Gowrie-Kunkua Community Library in Ghana, FAVL's third in the area. The library opened

in March, and FAVL director Michael Kevane visited in July. A video of the meeting with community members, shot by Darius Asanga, Sumbrungu librarian, is available on the FAVL blog-site. Everything seems to be going very well. After the visit, more work was done on the building, and it is almost finished. Thanks to a donation of books and book bags from Osu Children's Library Fund, the library was able to encourage some of the most avid readers! Jennifer, the village librarian, was able to visit Accra and participate in a workshop, along with other FAVL librarians, as part of our partnership with Osu Children's Library Fund.

## Summer reading program in Burkina Faso

FAVL director Leslie Gray visited one of the five summer reading camps organized by FAVL in summer 2008. Here are her observations: Arriving in Sara to see the reading camps, the first thing I noticed was children jumping and singing, not reading. It dawned on me that this experience for the kids was much more than academic; it was social and fun, just like summer camp in the United States. The children did art projects, theater, and calisthenics. They ate two nutritious meals a day and received a special t-shirt, which is a big thing in Burkina Faso. At the end of each day, children would take home a book (the one pictured was a favorite) to read at night. What an incredible opportunity for village children. Certainly this is the only camp they will ever attend. The reading coaches thought that many of the children had progressed significantly. Kids became much more vocal in giving opinions as they practiced discussing books. Campers also became very attached to the libraries. In Béréba after the camp ended many of the children were very sad and cried. The librarians have noticed that children frequent the library much more than they did before. Parents have approached the librarians and said that they want to have the camps again and would pay for them. Overall, the camps were an enormous success. We have to try to do this again next year!



## Isn't this what kids should be doing in summer?

Photographer David Pace from Santa Clara University, who visited Burkina Faso for several weeks in August 2008, captured this shot that shows what a summer reading camp in a rural village is all about. At FAVL we especially love the village-made "stick chairs" that the young man is sitting on.



We need your help to offer reading camps in all the village libraries we support!

**Friends of African Village Libraries**  
**P.O. Box 90533**  
**San Jose, CA 95109-3533**