

**Friends of India Newsletter**  
**Website: ganga633**

Vol. 34 September 2020

president,

George Nepert, editor & treasurer, [gnepert@hotmail.com](mailto:gnepert@hotmail.com) or [ganepert@gmail.com](mailto:ganepert@gmail.com)

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Greetings, as we near the holiday season's of Fall and Winter. I am very thankful for your financial support of Friends of India's five charities. FOI Charity giving was started in 1995. An amazing total now of \$500,367 since 1995... Over a half million dollars over 20 years given to worthy charities by FOI readers. Remember, FOI has no overhead, what is given goes directly to your indicated charity below. See FOI Treasury 2019 Report in this issue.

George Nepert, FOI editor and treasurer

**FOI Donation Form**

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Friends of India is a non profit 501(C)(3) tax deductible

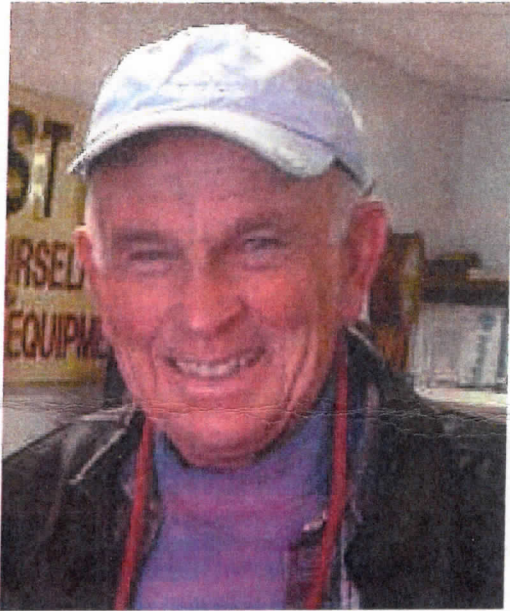
**The Five Charities:**

1. *Sanjeevini Trust* in Karnataka: medical care, ambulance service, AIDS care, self help projects for the very poor in Raichur District. Founded by RPCV Joe Emerson
2. *Father Fleming Foundation* in Odisha: assistance to three Leper Colonies, self help projects. Founded by RPCV'S Gerald Nelson and Tom Brayak.
3. *Pure Water Initiative* in Karnataka: making affordable house drinking water filter units for the needy. Founded by PRCV'S Michael Lipman and Cathy Forsberg.
4. *George's Lucky Dozen* in Tamil Nadu: education sponsorships for deserving poor children and young people. Founded by RPCV George Nepert.
5. *Homes of Hope* in Karnataka: assist very poor orphan girls attending boarding school, ages 6-16. Founded by RPCV Paul Wilkes.

Contribute by check, payable: Friends of India  
Memo: your charity preference  
Address: George Nepert, FOI treas.  
34915 Gordy Road  
Laurel, DE 19956

With a heavy heart, I must mention the passing of John (Jack) B. Slattery on June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020. A month before he celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday but a failing heart and illness took him away from our presence. For many years he was our Friends of India president. Many of the PCV's in south India knew him personally, especially Poultry Development groups India-16,26,33,42,99. Jack, was loved by numerous people abroad and state side. He left an awesome legacy serving humanity his entire career and into retirement years. Jack was India-3 PCV group in 1962. While he was in Gangalvati Karnataka, he published a booklet on "modern Poultry Farming for Profit". He then helped to develop a project for PCV's to assist in a poultry hatchery and breeding program with the government of Kerala and Karnataka states government poultry farms. Hens received by farmers by this effort had increased egg production, making poultry raising a profitable business. He also was involved in intensive village-level food production and introduced a variety of high yielding crops thus improving farmers level of living and welfare of their families. The success of these projects made the volunteers and Jack very pleased with their PCV contribution. This in itself, is a proud legacy of Jack and the many PCV's that made it happen. The Peace Corps , being young and fresh out of college provided Jack direction (and needless to say many of us) and being in India 8 years he worked on his post graduate education, doing Peace Corps programming and training and field work for his dissertation in India on how two sub ethnic groups of farmers in south India made their decisions in adopting new crops. At age 40, Jack worked in USAID with two tours each in Kenya and Niger. Later was a consultant with USAID and private volunteer organizations. Jack said, "without Peace Corps this would never have happened! I loved every bit of it". Good bye to Jack, our friend, mentor, service to the world in many capacities, especially his love and service in the Peace Corps. Jack's first wife, Alice, died in 2008. Jack remarried Cynthia Rogers, who has been a very loving wife for 10 years and sympathy cards can be mailed to Cynthia Rogers, 7816-2 Blue Heron Drive West, Wilmington, NC 28411.

Prepared by George Nepert, treasurer of FOI



**Dr. John Brian "Jack" Slattery (May 22, 1940 – June 21, 2020)** has concluded an eight decade adventure spanning nearly 65 countries around the globe. Notable wit, fearless explorer, fierce competitor on the tennis court but magnanimous everywhere else, he was known for an easy bonhomie that drew people to him and built lifelong friendships.

Born in Boston and adopted as an infant into a working class family in Ashland, Massachusetts, Jack grew up the son of a railroad iron worker and homemaker with three older sisters who remained his drinking and travel companions for decades. His prowess on Ashland High School's gridiron earned him a football scholarship to Brandeis University, which proved especially fortuitous as the scholarship continued even after the football program folded during his first year. Inspired by psychology and anthropology classes taught by Abraham Maslow and Kathleen Gough – and the novel experience of being Catholic at the primarily Jewish university – Jack developed a keen interest in human behavior and different cultures. That drive would ultimately take him around the world, including nearly twenty years living in India, Africa and the South Pacific.

In 1962, Jack married his high school sweetheart, Alice Marie Franchi, at a time when Irish-Italian unions were still a shuntable offense in certain areas of Boston; their partnership would last for more than 45 years. Accepted into the recently formed Peace Corps at just 21 and 19, the newlyweds joined the first group of volunteers sent to India. Months of intensive preparation and outward-bound style training in Puerto Rico paved the way for three years promoting public health, nutrition and agricultural reforms throughout rural southern India and the city of Bangalore. By the end of their tour in India, they had celebrated the birth of their first daughter and Jack had been promoted to permanent Peace Corps staff. Their return from India – a three month automotive Odyssey throughout

the Middle East, the Mediterranean and Europe, one infant daughter in tow and another on the way – ultimately led them to Hawaii, where Jack had been accepted in a graduate program in Anthropology. After completing his coursework, the family returned to India for two more years as Peace Corps staff while he simultaneously conducted research for his dissertation on agricultural decision-making in India.

A subsequent three year assignment as a Peace Corps program and training officer in Western Samoa paved the way for Jack's entry into the professional ranks of the US Agency on International Development (USAID). Over the course of a 25 year career with USAID, he worked on the Africa, Eastern Europe and Middle East desks with multiyear postings in Kenya and Niger. After retiring from USAID in 1994, he continued promoting international development through numerous consulting and volunteer projects. In 2004, Jack and Alice moved to Wilmington, NC, to enjoy an active lifestyle, quickly developing a large community of friends who shared their passion for tennis, yoga and afternoon gin-and-tonics.

Jack received a second lease on life after Alice's sudden death in 2008 when he met Cynthia Rogers, a longtime educator in Wilmington. Jack and Cynthia married in 2010, and spent wonderful years together. In addition to their frequent travels, Jack volunteered his time to numerous projects: coordinating relief for Hurricane Katrina victims; serving as a professional mentor through UNCW's Cameron School of Business Executive Network; president of the Friends of India Peace Corps alumni group; and board member for several non-profits.

Jack leaves behind a wife, Cynthia Rogers; two daughters, Elisa Slattery and Erin Supernor; and four grandchildren, Elisabeth Miller, David Supernor, Michael Supernor, and Zoe Salemsen. His memory will be cherished by many, many more.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Jack's name to a non-profit hospice care organization – a cause close to Jack's heart – such as Lower Cape Fear LifeCare: <https://lifecare.org/>

## The Incredible Journey of "Friends of India" comprised of Returned India PCV's 1962-1975

1986 – 2020 and ongoing

prepared by George Nepert, FOI treasurer

*Friends of India* organized in 1986 with a small group of India Returned Peace Corps Volunteers: Steve Thompson, Katie Fisker, Kay Stone, Suzanne Zapasodi, Sylvia Morrison, Reid Melton and Randy Baxter. The first FOI Newsletter was printed in 1987 by editor Steve Thompson. The Newsletter was sent as a hardcopy via USPS quarterly for many years. In recent years the newsletter has been sent annually in December electronically only via email. The FOI now runs with zero overhead, it's a labor of love for time invested in FOI .

### Brief history of how FOI evolved

List of FOI Presidents: Steve Thompson, Brian Herson, Ed Willett and Jack Slattery.  
Treasurer/Editor George Nepert and Merele Kinsey as data-base for mailing labels for hard copies.

### **Milestones:**

1988, FOI became 501(C)(3) tax exempt status with the IRS.

1989, FOI published its first membership Directory

FOI function early on was to have yearly gatherings to talk about India past & present. Also to re-unite with other India RPVC's. It's last gathering was in 2011.

1995, FOI began to commit to its first charity

1997, FOI began to commit to its second charity (closed in 2014)

1997, FOI began to commit to its third charity (closed in 2002)

2001, Gujarat earthquake relief efforts donation

2004, FOI website started : [ganga633](http://ganga633.com)

2004, Bhavsor, Gujarat, Community Building constructed for the poor

2005, Tsunami Relief Efforts to fishing villages on south India coast

2005, FOI began to commit to its third charity

2007, FOI began to commit to its fourth charity

2008, FOI began to commit to its fifth charity

2010, Haiti earthquake relief efforts donation

2012, FOI began to commit to its sixth charity

## 2019 Friends of India Treasurer's Report and Sponsored Charities Report

FOI donors gave \$41, 759 to its five sponsored charities in 2019. FOI has zero overhead expense. FOI charity giving started in 1995 and has now reached \$500, 367 to charity work.

Charity #1: Sanjeevini Trust. Founded by Joe Emerson, PCV India 38. Located in Sirwar, Karnataka and managed by Mr. Gamitra Jettapa. It provides medical treatment for the poor, free eye and dental clinics, preventive health screenings and education on cancer, heart disease and diabetes, tailoring classes, group marriages for the poor. Runs a free ambulance service to transport the sick and injured. FOI has donated \$34, 403 since 1995.

Charity #2: Father Fleming Foundation. Founded by PCV's Tom Brayak and Gerry Nelson. Located in Bargarth, Odisha. Sponsors three Leper colonies to become self reliant. Operates a revolving loan program, a handicap children's training center, a water well and pump program, commercial fish ponds, and constructs new housing. FOI has donated \$29, 132 since 2005.

Charity #3: South Asia Pure Water Initiative (SAPWII). Founded by Mike Lipman, PCV India 89, and Cathy Forsberg. Located in Kolar, Karnataka and managed by Ramachandra. It makes low cost home bio-sand filter water units and supplies a quarter million people with clean, safe drinking water for the families. FOI has donated \$23, 691 since 2007.

Charity #4: George's Lucky Dozen. Founded by George Nepert, PCV India 26. Located Chennai, Tamil Nadu and managed by Sister Mary Therese of Presentation Convent. It provides educational opportunities for marginalized very poor students. Lucky Dozen has helped nearly 300 in elementary/high school and in college degree studies. All donations go directly for the student educational needs. FOI has donated \$329, 903 since 2008.

Charity #5: Homes of Hope. Founded by Paul Wilkes, PCV India 3. It has several homes throughout India and the newest Home of Hope in Bangalore, Karnataka. It is a boarding school for hundreds of girls, ages 6 to 16, living together and receiving academic opportunities. The girls are from broken homes and unsafe places for young girls, The Selesian Sisters of Don Bosco and lay teachers provide education and life skills. The donations go for school supplies, desks and benches, matriculation fees and uniforms. FOI has donated \$13, 854 since 2012.

### FOI 2019 Report of Donations and Expenditures

Donations: \$41, 759

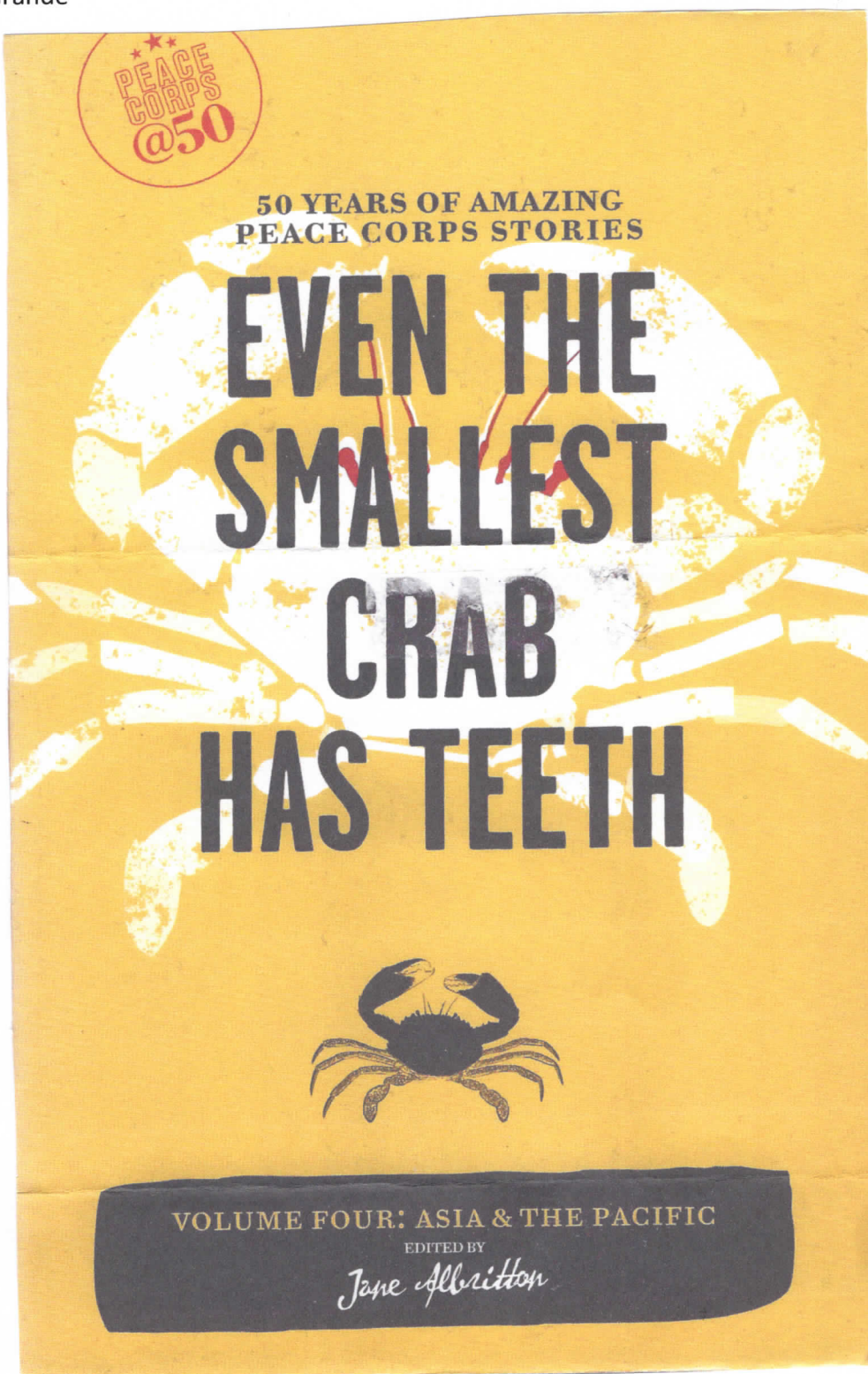
Expenditures: \$41, 699 (#1 charity \$737, #2 charity \$737, #3 charity \$550, #4 charity \$38, 551, #5 charity \$837)

George Nepert, FOI treasurer

Interesting book "Even the Smallest Crab has Teeth"  
By Jane Albritton

Lois (McKennett) Schneider suggested the book for the newsletter. Maybe the India entries could be copied and shared? See entries:

- Pg. 219 Lois Shneider
- Pg. 237 Sandra and Roger La Grande
- Pg. 100 Walter James Murray
- Pg. 131 Howard E. Daniel
- Pg. 176 Jane Albritton
- Pg. 204 Ruth Alliband
- Pg 254 Ron Barbur
- Pg. 281 Peter Ross
- Pg. 361 Jerr Boschee



Bowman County Pioneer  
Bowman, N. D.  
SPECIAL EDITION  
40th Anniversary — 1947  
Thursday, August 28, 1947

## NEWS REVIEW

# Rioting Flares in India; British Get Stern Rule

## INDEPENDENCE:

### *India Riots*

During the two days before fateful India became a land of free men, more than 200 died in a bloody orgy of violence and rioting in the huge northern province of Punjab.

Lahore, the capital, was the center of the disturbance, but fierce fighting also took place throughout the west and east Punjab countryside. Wide sections of Lahore were aflame.

This took place on the eve of India's independence day, just before the Indian constituent assembly sat down to function as a free governing body.

Cause of the rioting, incited, as always, by terrorists, was the bitter disagreement arising out of the partitioning of India into two separate zones—one for Hindus, the other for Moslems.

In New Delhi, the independence day ceremonial program began with two minutes of silence for those who died in the fight for freedom which was finally achieved through amicable negotiations with the British.