**Experiential Visit to Bahurutshe Cultural Lodge**

**Benson Honig**

On Saturday, we had a wonderful visit to the Bahurutshe Cultural Lodge. There, we were met by a group of young singer/dancers from the local region, who enthusiastically shared their dances and music with us. Later, Mrs. Glickman shared much of the traditional cultural ways and values with our group, and provided us with a demonstration of a wedding ceremony (after making sure the young girls in our group were separated, as they are not allowed to witness the ceremony before getting married!). We learned, for example, that the young brides were 'certified' as 'pure' by witnesses, usually older women, and the stained bed mat was presented as evidence. After additional demonstrations and discussions (including a bone throwing ceremony), which indicated whether or not we would be welcome guests (we were!). We also took turns pounding maize, tasted locally brewed sorghum beer, and enjoyed an excellent local menu for lunch. This was followed by more dancing and music. The entire group found this event a surprisingly interesting and non-commercialized experience. It was clear that the participants were truly interested in preserving and sharing their culture with us. For example, there was no curio shop at the village.