

DUMELA



Newsletter from Botswana Sweden Friendship Association No 2/2014

Dear BOTSFA members!

I spent December 2013 and January 2014 in Botswana, to cut short the cold and dark winter in Sweden. If there was a way of taking away the darkness from the Swedish winters, I would actually prefer to celebrate Christmas in Sweden, but with plenty of snow. Botswana summers are wonderful, as long as it rains.

Last year I made a perfect decision, as there was no white Christmas in Sigtuna, where I live, but there was a very wet Christmas in Gaborone. Nature has a way of balancing things as, eventually, spring came early to Sweden and Botswana is complaining about a COLD winter. I feel much rewarded as I greatly enjoyed the greenness from the rains in Botswana and was welcomed back to Sweden by an early spring and now exceptionally warm hot and sunny summer.

In this Dumela, enjoy the happiness that we derive from friendships. We have no control over the weather, so let's embrace the friendships we have, rain, snow or sunshine! A friendship letter

from Nthabiseng to Edith vibrates with youth. Jimmy Gunnarsson, founder of BOTSFA, takes us back to Botswana's human warmth that has stayed the same, despite the significant change of the country's status from a low to middle income country. The interactions at BOTSFA's AGM and Fun Walk reinforced the strong bonds that have defined BOTSFA as a friendship association over the years. BOTSFA has 120 members, most of who participate in the intermittent Association-organised events.

May the Botswana and Swedes' friendship grow from strength to strength!

Happy Midsummer!

Julia Majaha-Järtby
BOTSFA
Chairperson



Welcome to BOTSFA!

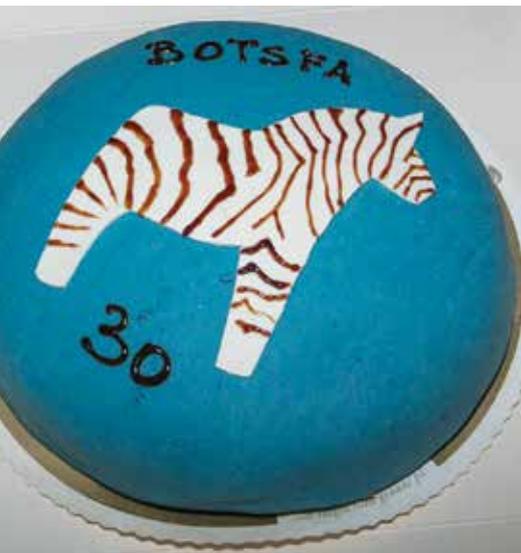
MEMBERSHIP FEES

- Individual: SEK 175
- Family: SEK 300 (incl. children up to 15 years of age)
- Student: SEK 100
- Institution: SEK 500

Plusgiro 85 10 39-8, or Bankgiro 428-6472

For an update of records, please send an e-mail to AndersHj@botsfa.nu with the name(s) and contact details of the renewal or payment for new membership.

visit us on www.botsfa.nu



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2014

TEXT **Julia Majaha-Järtby** PHOTO **Per Järtby**

On March 8, 2014, BOTSFA held its Annual General Meeting at the Housing Association Åkeslund No.1 in Bromma. BOTSFA members Viera and Sixten Larsson had, once again, made it possible for the Association to hold its AGM in the spacious and well equipped venue. To put the cherry on the cake, participants celebrated the Association's 30th anniversary, as BOTSFA was established in 1984.

Fifty five (55) members of BOTSFA and supporters attended the meeting and were treated to a video featuring a play by Bana-ba-Motho Theatre Group in Kanye. Participants also viewed PowerPoint presentations on »Botswana in a Nutshell« based on pictures taken by some BOTSFA members who had been to Botswana at the end of 2013. Special thanks go to Roger and AnneMarie Bergström, Ulla Odqvist, Elisabet Jansson and Julia and Per Järtby for capturing the Botswana moments in various parts of the country.

What would BOTSFA be without the support of the

Embassy of Botswana in Sweden? Ambassador Lameck Nthekela attended with at least a team of 14 staff and friends of the Embassy. BOTSFA is growing from strength to strength and the importance of the role that the Embassy has played from the Association's inception is surely invaluable.

Two longstanding members of the Executive Committee, Anne Murray and Seboleleng Bertilsson, were thanked for their contributions to the Association's work and new members, Lisa Lundgren (living in Borås) and Sten Stenbeck, replaced the two outgoing members. Also recognised for their contributions were the members who had entered the 2013 photo competition with theme »Beautiful Botswana«. The winning photo by Mikael Rosén put a smile on the AGM participants' faces.

As per usual, the meeting ended with a sumptuous dinner and a very good job of washing up and putting the place in order.





Lidingö Fun Walk on May 24

Fifty (50) people turned up for the walk, of which 14 were children. The weather received everyone with open arms – a nice summer day! Thank you Pretty and Victor Phologolo for providing your residence as the meeting and grilling venue!. PHOTO Per Järtby





BOTSFA member Bo Dan Bergman linked Mikaeliskolan in Nyköping with Gabane Community Junior Secondary School, about 20 km from Gaborone, resulting with his daughter, Edith, becoming a pen pal with Nthabiseng.

NAME: Nthabiseng Natasha Mogampane
DATE OF BIRTH: 31st January 1997, GRADE: Form One

Gabane Junior Secondary School
P/Bag 003, Gabane, Botswana

19 April 2011
Mikaeli School, P O Box 515,
S-611 10, Nyköping Sweden



Dear, Pen Pal
Hi, my name is Nthabiseng Natasha Mogampane, I am a girl of fourteen years of old. My home village Gabane which is near the capital city of Botswana Gaborone. It is located in Kweneng District, it is along Gaborone and Kumakwane road.

In my family we are raised by a single mother. My mother had four children and am the third born. She work sat electrical under DBES Department in Gaborone under the Ministry of Science, Infrastructure and Technology. I have one brother and two sisters, my sister is doing second year at Botho College NIIT and my second brother who is doing standard two at Gasiko. We are not rich at home.

I am schooling at Gabane Secondary School doing form one. I was born on the 31 of January 1997. My previous school was Gasiko Primary School and I passed by grade A. Speaking of hobbies, my hobbies are dancing, singing and reading novels and my interests are playing netball and going to church. My favourite subjects are English, Science and Moral Education. My studies are my biggest priorities because I know in my family we don't have much and I want to make our lives more luxurious. My favourite food is rice, meat and salads. My favourite artist are Justin Bieber, Chris Brown and Rihanna. Jarden Smith is my favourite actress. Sunflower and rose are my favourite flowers.

I come from Botswana which is one of small developed country. It is known for its beauty and tourism, There are places where one can see animals and those places are Makgadikgadi Pans, Okavango Deltas and Moremi Game Reserves. Those places are far from our village. My country have stations such as Botswana Television and ebotswana where we can watch news or documentary and soapies. I hope you will write back a letter to me and tell me about yourself.
Your Pen pal Nthabiseng



Mikael Rosén won the photo-competition 2014
– »Beautiful Botswana«. Congratulations!

Dumela welcomes articles about anything to do with the relationship between Botswana and Sweden, including profiles of people you may wish to portray in the newsletter. Please send your article to Dumela editors, ulla.odqvist@gmail.com and sten.stenbeck@gmail.com.

BOTSFA would like to reach out to as many Swedes as possible who have lived or worked in Botswana, their adult children and Batswana living in Sweden. Please

Chobe, Tuesday 23 March 1985

Dear Botswana Friends,

I hope you had a nice annual association party. It is most pleasing to hear that membership of the association has significantly increased. Regrettably, the undersigned could not take part in the festivities this time due to stationing in Lusaka.

But one cannot forget Botswana for that! I am finding myself in a writing moment in Chobe National park, a few kilometres from Kasane. I came here on a ferry from Kazungula on the Zambian-side. Imagine the feeling of passing through customs in Botswana with open and friendly people, reviving happy memories and to hear »Dumela Rra«. And to later sit down and enjoy an ice cold Castle beer. It is strange that a border can mean so much.

I am staying at Chobe Game Lodge which is rather expensive but magnificent. Elephants are grazing about 50 metres from the hotel room together with warthogs. Monkeys are chatting in the trees. It is very hot and unusually green to be Botswana, there has been some good rains this season.

I was on a safari yesterday around sunrise. It is always a great experience to see nature wake up to life and to hear tropical sounds. Chobe is most known for its elephants, one can see herds with thirty something animals. A little further, there are many other antelope-type animals. I unfortunately did not see any lions this time.

The best of all was a trip on a rental motorboat along the Chobe River at sunset. Elephants drank water along the shores of the river, the fish eagle hovered in the air and hippos fought for their territory in the water.

In short, Botswana is best!

Regards,
Jimmy Gunnarsson

Translation from letter in Swedish published in Dumela 2-85

give the address info@botsfa.nu to anyone you consider should be part of the friendship association.

Article II (1) of the Constitution: Membership of the Association shall be open to any person living in Sweden regardless of citizenship, to Swedish citizens living abroad, and to Botswana citizens, who support the objectives of the Association.

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