

DUMELA



Newsletter from Botswana Sweden Friendship Association No 3/2013

Dear BOTSFA members!

This issue of Dumela presents a period of celebration for BOTSFA and Friends of Botswana. The success of the September 28–29 get-together in Lyrestad was sheer proof that, with dedicated individuals to the running of the Association's affairs and supportive membership, it is possible to make BOTSFA a vibrant friendship association. I take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to our new members, to thank those who have renewed their membership and to encourage those of you who are still contemplating to join the BOTSFA family to do so. The more the merrier! September also brought Botswana culture to Sweden, as can be seen from the article by Anna-Carin Persson Stenbeck on the visit by jazz artist Nnunu Ramogotsi and four poets. Sten Rylander reminds us of decisions that carry Botswana forward as a democratic nation.



Wishing you a joyous upcoming festive season!

Julia Majaha-Järtby
BOTSFA
Chairperson



PHOTO Ulla Odqvist

**THANK YOU
Lyrestad Participants!**

Per & Julia

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

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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



Together in Lyrestad

Friends of Botswana celebrate 47th independence anniversary

TEXT **Julia Majaha-Järtby** PHOTO **Per Järtby and Ulla Odqvist**

BOTSFA, the association that has kept Batswana and Swedes with Botswana links together, since 1984, held a special event over the weekend of September 28-29 to celebrate Botswana's 47th independence anniversary.

The idea of getting together had been broached on and off by some members of the association but never seemed to find the wings to fly. Finally, Per Järtby and Folke Löfgren, the organizers of the occasional informal get-togethers at Hotel Hellsten, gave it a kick. The first challenge was where the get-together would be held and if it would attract a significant interest. Following a search for a location that would make it attractive for members living between, at least, Gothenburg and Gävle, Lyrestad, along Göta Kanal, became the final choice for the event. A contact with Anders Christiansson, a resident of Sjötorp near Lyrestad, resulted in Norrqvarn Hotel, a renovated mill from 1920, being chosen for the event. It was wonderful to see the Botswana blue, black and white flag fly high outside the hotel throughout the weekend.

To take forward the event, BOTSFA established a planning committee comprising association's members, Per Järtby, Folke Löfgren, Maipelo Mogotsi (representing the Embassy of Botswana) and Anders Christiansson (local contact) and the writer. Based on the interest shown in the attendance of general meetings and informal get-togethers,

the organizers estimated 30-40 people for the event. Close to 130 people indicated interest and 110 turned up for the two-day event, ranging from Swedes who had worked/lived in Botswana from the early 70s to those who were not born at the time. An exceptional number of Batswana graced the occasion, including 7 children. Norrqvarn was fully booked and most rooms in the surrounding hotels and hostels were also taken. Several participants had private accommodation arrangements.

The entire Batswana staff of the Embassy, under the leadership of Ambassador Lameck K. Nthekela, gave the event a special touch. A party of at least 10 participants, »led by« family Eikaas from Norway, blended into the Botswana-Sweden connections.

Saturday September 28 started with participants arriving at Norrqvarn for a kick-start of the program at 3 pm. Participants were challenged to »tipspromenad«/walk-around quiz by teams comprising Swedes and at least one Motswana. Questions were biased towards knowledge of Botswana but were not a giveaway to Batswana participants. Cooperation between Batswana and Swedes was necessary and teams took advantage of the complementarities.

Throughout the afternoon, the organizers showed videos on recent captions from Botswana and had a special corner for a video made for the Swedish International Development



For more pictures visit: <http://www.botsfa.nu/Lyrestad/>

Authority in the 1980:s on Swedes' social and work experiences in Botswana – became an interesting nostalgia corner for those who were part of the videos or for watching family members. Some participants brought books based on their experiences in Botswana for sale.

The evening was treated to a nice buffet by Hotel Norrqvarn, singing by Swedes, dance and song by Batswana and, to crown it all, music by Norway-based Botswana musician Banjo Mosele and his band of two musicians, Domenico Benigno (South Africa) and Jackson Kaujeua (Namibia).

Sunday morning opened with a »Göta Kanal« Hash House Harrier (an extension of Kalahari House Hash Harriers) run/walk by at least 15 early birds. A few runners/walkers joined in later. Soon after breakfast the conference room, decorated with Botswana artifacts and photo exhibitions, was filled with anxious ears to listen to Ambassador Nthekela taking participants on »tour« of Botswana. This was followed by short presentations by an organizer of recent private trip to Botswana, Anders Hjertstrand, and organizers of a trip for a team that would be visiting the country in October, Roger Bergström and Gunnar Settergren. The participants were also informed of work towards publishing a book by some BOTSFA members in commemoration of Botswana's 50th independence anniversary in 2016. Perhaps an occasion for a BOTSFA get-together in Botswana! PULA!!!!





Nnunu in Stockholm

Photo: Mikael Rosén

IN EARLY OCTOBER THIS YEAR, one of Botswana's most popular artists, soul-jazz-afro-singer Nnunu Ramogotsi visited Stockholm together with her manager, Soares Katumbela, who is also jazz presenter at Duma FM as well as DJ »SK«. This visit was connected to Botswana & Sweden Jazz Exchange program that, for the last two years, has brought jazz musicians such as Anna Christoffersson from Sweden to Botswana and Shanti Lo from Botswana to Sweden.

The peak of Nnunu's visit in Stockholm was a concert at Sweden's most prestigious Jazz club, Fasching. There she performed with a full band led by Pablo Donaldo. Nnunu and Pablo met and played together when Pablo visited Gaborone with Anna Christoffersson in January this year.

Nnunu had three performances at Hotel Hellsten and also featured at the Embassy of Botswana's Independence Day celebration held at Musikaliska in Stockholm, together with Banjo Mosele and four poets – Barolong Seboni, Andreattah Drea Chuma, Moroka Moreri and TJ Dema (see profiles at www.botsfa.nu/poets).

Nnunu's visit to Stockholm is a milestone for the music industry in Botswana. It has opened doors for Botswana artists to a highly competitive music life in Sweden. There are advanced plans for Nnunu's comeback to Sweden!

Anna-Carin P Stenbeck

»THE LOST SON OF MOCHUDI« by Gaafele Söderström

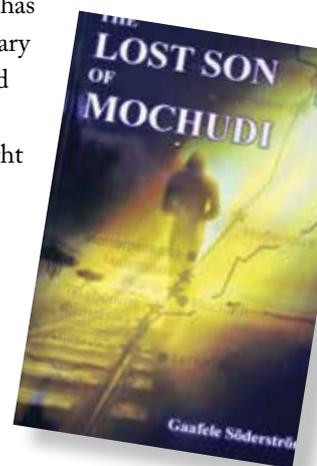
THE NOVEL IS ABOUT A BOY, Tefo, who grows up in Bechuanaland Protectorate, which, in 1966, was renamed Botswana at independence. The novel is based on events during the 50:s in a village near the border with South Africa. Tefo never got to know his mother who died early in his life and he develops a very strong bond with his father.

Tragedy happens when Tefo is travelling with his father from South Africa to Bechuanaland. Tefo's father is mysteriously murdered and Tefo is rescued by an old couple living on a farm. He is well taken care of but his wish is to reach his father's home village, Mochudi. The book carries twists and turns that eventually leads to Tefo's return to South Africa and to an unexpected surprise.

The novel is written in very simple language, in a chronological manner. It is a reference story that those who have lived in Botswana can easily relate to. Gaafele released the book when she was over 60 years old and the story is to a large extent a reflection of her upbringing in Mochudi. She is a trained nurse who has worked in Gaborone, Maun and Lobatse. Gaafele is married to Ulf Söderström who went to Botswana in 1972 as a volunteer and has recently retired as Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Infrastructure, Science and Technology (see Dumela 13-1).

The book costs P140.00 and can be bought through Botswana Book Centre, Books Botswana (at UB) Book World Francistown and the curio shop opposite Maun airport but also direct from the Author. By end of November it is expected to be available on Amazon in English and Swedish.

Anders Christiansson



End of gender discrimination in Botswana

On 3 September 2013 Botswana's highest court came up with a historic landmark ruling. The Court of Appeal, in *Ramantele vs Mmusi and Others*, upheld the right of four sisters to inherit their family homestead, rejecting the argument that under customary law only sons were allowed to inherit it. The decision was unanimous and Justice Lesetedi made the point that any customary law is inherently flexible. »Constitutional values of equality before the law, and the increased leveling of the power

structures with more and more women heading households and participating with men as equals in the public sphere and increasingly in the private sphere, demonstrate that there is no rational and justifiable basis for sticking to the narrow norms of days gone by when such norms go against current value systems«. Indeed a brave and clear decision, hopefully paving the way for similar rulings in many other African countries, which are still discriminating against women on these legal issues.

Sten Rylander

PUBLISHER Julia Majaha-Järtby
Olof Skötkonungs väg 25, 193 32 Sigtuna
TEL +46 (0)73 842 74 22
E-MAIL julia@botsfa.nu

PUBLISHING AGENT Viera Larsson
Visual Communication AB
EDITORS Ulla Odqvist, Sten Rylander, Mats Ögren Wanger
WEBMASTER Per Järtby

MEMBERSHIP INQUIRIES Anders Hjerstrand
Skyttevägen 41, 133 36 Saltsjöbaden
TEL 073-707 60 31
E-MAIL andersHj@botsfa.nu

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