GHANA UNION, GOTHENBURG

Newsletter

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Ghana's Independence Celebration (GH@61)

The Merriam Webster dictionary describes Independence Day, as "a civil holiday for the celebration of the anniversary of the beginnings of national". On the 6 March 1957, Ghana under the leadership of her first president Kwame Nkrumah, gained independence from British rule. Ghana holds a special place in pan-African history and is the first country to get independence.

Ghana continues to be viewed and celebrated as not only the founder of but also as a good example of African democracy and development.
Five interesting facts about Ghana include the following:
1. Ghana means "Warrior King" in the Soninke language.
2. Ghana produces the second most cocoa beans in the world.
3. Elmina Castle, on the coast, is the oldest European building in Sub-Saharan Africa.
4. English is the official language in Ghana, but Ghanaians speak over 40 languages throughout its 10 regions
5. Ghana was named the Gold Coast by the Europeans, and became a British colony with the same name until it became the independent nation of Ghana in 1957.
Ghanaians and friends in Gothenburg celebrated Independence Day on the 17 March 2018 (St. Patrick's Day) and some of the highlights during this event included the following:
- A Ghanaian Traditional Drumming performed by Papa Theodore Awuletey, while Ms. Akosua Acheampong and Mr Charles Addo gave a dance performance to match the drumming.
- A Ghanaian Poem titled Ghana's most precious was read by Angeline Adom, the lovely daughter of the unions assistant treasurer Gifty Adom.
- A West African traditional drumming and dance performance by Julien and the Zondede group, where Julien, from Togo also performed by playing traditional drumming and dance.

Summer Read

Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah's inspiring true Filstory—which was turned into a film, Emmanuel's Gift, narrated by Oprah Winfrey—is nothing short of remarkable. Born in Ghana, West Africa, with one deformed leg, he was dismissed by most people—but not by his mother, who taught him to reach for his dreams.
As a boy, Emmanuel hopped to school more than two miles each way, learned to play soccer, left home at age thirteen to provide for his family, and, eventually, became a cyclist. He rode an astonishing four hundred miles across Ghana in 2001, spreading his powerful message: disability is not inability.
Today, Emmanuel continues to work on behalf of the disabled. Thompson's lyrical prose and Qualls's bold collage illustrations offer a powerful celebration of triumphing over adversity. Includes an author's note with more information about Emmanuel's charity (Book description copied from Amazon.com) One can buy this book on
Adlibris.com/se or Bokus.com.
Written by Herta Boakye-Yiadom Dahl

Ghana@61 Cont'd

- A Hip hop break dance and performance by Patrick and the Hip hop association was also present. Patrick is a Ghanaian who is gifted in break dancing and has started a group here in Gothenburg called the hip pop association.
- A act of childrens drumming and storytelling was also introduced by Akosual Acheampong and assisted by Papa Theodore Awuletey And last but not least ....
- A raffle where people won amazing prices was executed by the lovely Daphne Sandberg. All in all, this year's celebration was amazing and an evening worth remembering.
Written by Herta Boakye-Yiadom Dahl

Destination Ghana: Accra Marriott Hotel

With over 500 hotels and resorts in 59 countries and territories around the world, Marriott Hotels, part of Marriott international is evolving travel through every aspect of the guest's stay, enabling the next generation to travel brilliantly.

Marriott leads the hospitality industry with innovations, including the Greatroom lobby and Mobile Guest Services that elevates style, design and technology boldly transforming itself for travellers to blend work and play.

Marriott Hotels on Monday April 30, 2018 announced its debut in West Africa, with a grand opening of Accra Marriott Hotel. The Accra Marriott Hotel adds to the city's maturing hospitality industry, inspiring guests with more forward-thinking experiences.

Accra is the heartbeat of Ghana, a city bustling with energy. It is also a commercial and communications centre with great shopping and excellent nightlife which makes it an interesting travel destination both for business and for leisure. Opposite Kotoka International Airport, Accra Marriott Hotel is located in the heart of Airport City, a burgeoning urban development within Accra, 7.5km outside of Accra's city center, within easy access from major corporate businesses and government entities.

It provides sophisticated spaces and experiences that keep the mind balanced and inspired. It is equipped with 208 rooms, 3 enticing dining venues, and 800 square meters of meeting space, a pool and a fully equipped fitness centre. It also offers state-of-the-art business facilities and recommended to business and leisure travellers looking forward to the "wow experience" from their travels making it the ideal "Gateway to West Africa" whether on business or on leisure.

Written by Ruhia Mahama

UP-COMING EVENTS

1. **YOUTH GRADUATION PARTY**
   9TH June, 2018
   Kortedala Forum
2. **SCANDINAVIAN YOUTH FORUM**
   29th June - 1st July, 2018
3. **GOTHIA CUP MINGLE**
   15th - 21st July, 2018
4. **GLIOS CUP**
   27th - 28th July, 2018

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Interview with Mark Quansah

Who is Mark?

I am just a simple Ghanaian citizen. I am born in Sekondi-Takoradi in 1973 and around the 1980s my family moved to Accra. The first two years in Accra, I lived around Kaneshie area and after that lived in Maamobi and then in 1987 my family moved once more to Dansoman. It was here that I would like to say my love for music bloomed. Yes, I call myself a musician. I became a musician at the age of 14, when I started playing the drums in a band, I later on went to private music school where I learnt how to play other instruments and it there that my gifts expanded from learning to play different music instruments to finally becoming a song writer and a singer. I inherited this gift from my grandmother. She was a singer, a choir leader, like my mother but at the same time, my mom thought I could not make a career out of music so I studied wood work or carpentry to appease her and my family, as a Christian mother she wanted me to play at the church, but I continued to pursue my passion, music beyond the church. All in all, my life has been quite an interesting journey.

Why did you become actively involved with the Ghana union?

Well, this was nothing new for me – actually, even while I lived in Ghana, I have always worked with associations and non-governmental organizations. In 2000 - 2005 I worked with the Musician Union of Ghana (Musiga) in the reggae department. I also founded an NGO called Ababa foundation. And this foundation was there to inform, campaign, build new strategies to reach the people on the ground and support these people regarding health issues, especially referring to certain sickness like tuberculosis or HIV. There is so much stigma surrounding tuberculosis and HIV so a lot of information, support and education was needed and therefore I created this foundation. So, in saying this, I have actually always been involved in one or another union, organization or association. Hence, it was not difficult for me to attach myself to the Ghana union. Actually, I came to realize that after being in Sweden for some time that a majority of mixed children, who would approach me after I had performed in a concert of a town, and of course I mentioned that I was from Ghana, the children would get very excited because they too had at least one parent from Ghana as well, and seemed so interested in learning about Ghana, the history and culture of their parent(s). All in all, I enjoy helping people. I saw a need and I wanted to help. So, this was, if I may say this, the beginning of trying to revive the Ghana union with the help of Kojo Ansah-Pewudie, the former President of the Ghana union.

What are you most proud of regarding the Ghana Union Association?

I am proud that we are able to keep the organization steady and current. The Swedish municipality have begun to recognize who we are. We are starting to get some funding from the municipality which is a good sign. I am proud of the approach of the current president. The way he handles the local arena, the relationship he is trying to build with the Swedish municipality and encourage the Ghanaian community to get involved more. I am very proud of the president and the drive he has for the organization, plus the direction he is trying to take the association in.

What would you like to change?

The attitude of some of the Ghanaians living here in Gothenburg towards the organization. They are not involved much, nor do they attend meetings, or events so if this could change, this would be great.

How do you think your roll will influence and bring change?

Because the union is based on a constitution, this is a difficult issue. One can propose an idea for the organization to be successful but one cannot do anything without the executive agreeing to or backing up the idea. For me this can be challenging. One can have a concept but the board will have their own approach so I do what I can, but I am available and able bodied if needed.

Written by Herta Boakye-Yiadom Dahl

Photo: Mark Quansah

Excepts from Ghana @ 61 Celebrations

Photo: Kasade team

Kasade Film Production

Kasade is a movie production group established April 2017 by a group of youth headed by Simon Boahen. Based on the potential and enthusiasm Simon saw in the youth, this is how the group started, plus from Simon already has previous experience in film making.

The group has recorded 12 films, with 8 of these on YouTube:
Under pressure, Travel and See, What goes around comes around, Weed smokers, Gold digger Allo blind man 1&2, Ma tricky wo. These films can be found on YouTube. Simply write Kasade films in the search bar. Kasade films are written, directed, produced by Simon. The purpose of these films is to give advice to the viewers. The targeted viewers are mainly Ghanaians, but these films can be viewed by anyone who enjoys good entertainment. The Films are in Twi but in the future Swedish and English are also going to be used. The acting group is open for anyone interested in film. We hope to get sponsors from our fellow Ghanaians and friends living here in Gothenburg and around the country.
Written by Wisdom Anthonio

Shito (Ghana Pepper Sauce)

What's Cooking

In our kitchen today is shito. Shito is the word for pepper in Ga, a Ghanaian language originating from Accra, the capital of Ghana. In Ghana, shito is used with a variety of dishes including kenkey, fried yam, steamed rice andwaakye (rice and beans). Its uses have even been adapted to that of a localketchup,hot sauce orchilli oil. It is not uncommon to find shito being eaten withwhite bread,spring rolls, steamed and vegetable rice in most Chinese restaurants across Ghana.

Ingredients

2 tbsp. Powdered chilli pepper,4 tbsp. dry shrimp or herring powder,2 tbsp. tomato paste, 500ml vegetable oil,1 big onion,4-5 garlic cloves ,2 inch size fresh ginger, all-purpose seasoning to taste. The vegans are not left out as they can simply swap shrimp/herring powder with dried soya grits.

Method

Blend onion, ginger and garlic into a smooth texture. Add oil to pan on medium heat, add your mixture of ginger, onion and garlic to hot oil and occasionally stir for about 2mins or until it turns brownish. Next add tomato paste and stir for about 4 mins. Add your seasoning and chilli powder to taste .Next add your shrimp powder, herring powder or soya grits depending on your preference .Stir to combine the flavours. Leave to cook for about 20mins and keep stirring occasionally to avoid burning the sauce. A special caution to those preferring soya grits is to be careful not to try to achieve the usual brownish black colour of shito since it would be overcooked and taste bitter in the case of soya. Transfer into a glass jar and cover, once opened can be stored in the fridge for up to 2 months.
- Ruhia Mahama