GHANA UNION, GOTHENBURG

Newsletter

Issue 5
Sept, 2018

Gothia Cup Mingle with the Ghanaian teams

In this year's Gothia cup, About 1700 teams from 80 countries participated in the tournament. Among them were eight teams from Ghana from four different football clubs, one more than last year.

The teams were Right to Dream, Lizzy Football Club, Legon Hill and SKF Ghana. This year was the first appearance for some of the teams. In all, Ghana won 3 gold medals and 1 bronze medal.

After the last game played by Right to Dream, the Ghana Union together with the youth wing of the union organised a mingle at Slottsskogen for all the teams and the Ghanaian community. The event was fun and successful. There was an after party later in the evening for the players and the youth wing.

Autumn Read

A New York Times Notable Book Shortlisted for the 2017 Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction One of the Best Books of the Year: NPR, The Wall Street Journal, The Economist, Chicago Tribune, BuzzFeed, Entertainment Weekly, The New York Post, Southern Living, The Skimm

A 2017 BEA Buzz Panel Selection

A Belletrist Book-of-the-Month

Ever since they first met and fell in love at university, Yejide and Akin have agreed: polygamy is not for them. But four years into their marriage—after consulting fertility doctors and healers and trying strange teas and unlikely cures—Yejide is still not pregnant. She assumes she still has time—until her in-laws arrive on her doorstep with a young woman they introduce as Akin's second wife. Furious, shocked, and livid with jealousy, Yejide knows the only way to save her marriage is to get pregnant. Which, finally, she does—but at a cost far greater than she could have dared to imagine. (Book description copied from Amazon.com) One can buy this book on Adlibris.com/se

Written by Herta Boakye-Yiadom Dahl

What's Cooking

Ghana meat pies are very popular. I don't think a function will be complete if meat pie isn't served. Even more popularly, meat pies are bagged and sold in traffic by street vendors as an accompaniment to frozen Yoghurt.

For filling

1tablespoon sunflower oil. 300g minced meat. 1 medium onion. 1/2 teaspoon tomato puree. 2 teaspoon all purpose seasoning. 1 small maggi (stock) cube. Salt to taste1 large carrot and green pepper chopped in little cubes. Cont'd P. 3

Time with Said Mosa

CEO Wedding Square and Alhabesha (Ethiopian Restaurant)

Why did you come to Sweden?
I moved to Sweden around 1989 with my family due to the war in Ethiopia.

What influenced your line of business?
Back in Ethiopia I had a boutique. My father had a business too in clothing and was a tailor by profession. I took after him and trained as a tailor. When I arrived in Sweden I took a two-year design course in Borås. So I have big interest in clothing and therefore graduated from sewing them to selling them.

What kind of clothes are available at your shop?
I have party and evening gowns as well as wedding gowns, shoes, suits and shirts for grooms. I also have rental services available.

When did you start operations at the restaurant and what do you have on the menu?
We started about 3 years ago and we serve Ethiopian food, coffee and smoothies. One can also book the restaurant for weddings and birthdays. It is also possible to book us to serve food and decorate at a location of choice.

Why should a potential customer choose your restaurant over another?
We have very good and healthy food, excellent service, honest with our customers. It is actually a home away from from home.

What nationalities can you say you have the highest patronage from?
My client base I would say is international. People from all nationalities and different walks of life visit both the bridal shop and the restaurant.

What advice do you have for foreign owned startups in Sweden?
One must be skilled in the field one is venturing into in order to have self confidence.

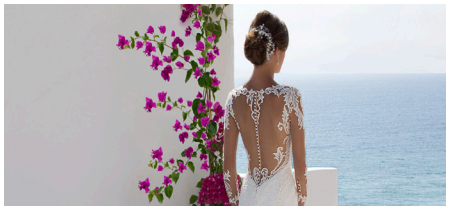
Why should any one buy from you?
We have excellent customer service, beautiful and modern designs, quality fabrics as well as moderate prices.

Why did you close your other bridal shop at SKF?
I had the same clients coming to both shops. As a businessman I decided to switch to another field with my location in SKF and that gave birth to Alhabesha Restaurant.

One must be consistent and have a goal, you dont open today, close tomorrow and re-open the next week. It sends bad signals to clients. It takes time before one can break even and start making profits so one needs to be patient as well. Also one needs to update his knowledge in the field to be up to date. Avoid starting a business with a loan. The Swedish society is new for us foreigners so it takes time to settle into the business world because of langauge, contacts etc. so you can become very frustrated if the business is not going as planned and you have a debt to pay as well.

Alhabesha:
http://www.alhabesha.se/
Wedding Square
http://www.weddingsquare.se/

Written by Ruhia Mahama



UP-COMING EVENTS

WINTER GAMES

DETAILS OF THE EVENT WILL BE PUBLISHED SOON

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Ruhia Mahama - Ghana union treasurer

How did you end up in Sweden?
I came to Sweden in 2010 to study a master's degree in global studies at the university of Gothenburg.

What are your impressions of Sweden?
Well, in my opinion, the health care system is great, and I have been on the receiving end of this. Number two, this country gives people an opportunity no matter how old you are, to still pursue your dreams – by going back to school. And three …can't think of three right now. This could come to me later.

What could Sweden work on doing better?
Sweden should be more open with people and tell them the truth even if it hurts. They do not always tell it like it is … rather they skid around or sugar coat the truth and when something happens the receiving party can become surprised. Number two, Sweden needs to be more welcoming – because sometimes they are seen as their cold weather. Number three, it is elections this year – all the parties are right now trying to get votes and so information about various parties are seen in various languages. My question is why do they not make it possible to also give more freedom to the English language, especially regarding jobs? Create more English-speaking jobs for the many internationals who have decided to make Sweden their home.

Ghana Union – How did you get to hear about it? How did you get involved?
I have known Gilbert Mensah since coming to Sweden. So, it was he, who got in touch with me and asked me to come to a meeting, that was focused on building a new union. This was in 2015. It was at this meeting that they were getting ready for election and it was here that someone also nominated me. And I accepted! So, the next meeting, I prepared a manifesto to help push me into my current position.

Can you give one example of what you have done in the past that reflects your passion and engagement in the Union?
I like being involved in groups and teams. In secondary school, I was part of a junior achievement club. With Ghana union, I am in charge of the finances. I dispense money from the union to people, but I also need to know what the money is going to be used for. Before I dispense money, I discuss this with members of the board. The person who receives the money is responsible for the monies received and must give me an account in the form of receipts, which clearly defines where and what the money has been used for. I also help with applications for funding, together with the president.
Another task I have in my role is to make sure people pay their dues. This is not so easy, I mean getting people to pay their dues and parting with their hard-earned cash, but this is part of my role and something I sometimes find challenging.

Anything else you find challenging?
Yes! Collecting receipts from recipients who have accepted and acknowledged that they have received money from the Union. It seems that every year receipts are missing. However, together with the auditor, we have decided to have everyone sign for the money received. This way, they have the responsibility to give back or scan the receipt back to me. At the end of the year, I stand before the general assembly and inform the members what the monies went to during the year.

Do you think you are using your degree?
No, I am not using my global studies in Sweden. Rather, it feels like I am using my bachelor's degree in Sociology.

Hopes and dreams for the Ghana Union?
I hope the Union grows to a point that it is trusted by the kommun (municipality). So, when we go to kommun, they trust us and don't question us all the time.
I hope we get to a stage that we have more activities in the Union. So, members look forward to the activities that are planned by the Union and their members.
I want the Union to grow to an extent that the Union does not go around chasing people to become members, rather people come to the Union and want to be members in the union. Everyone is proud to be part of the Union, proud to be Ghanaian and also proud of the accomplishments and credibility of the Union.

Written by Herta Boakye-Yiadom Dahl

Photo: Ruhia Mahama

What's Cooking - Ghana Meat Pie

For pastry
400g (3 1/3 cups) self-raising flour.255g (1 cup plus 1 tablespoon) margarine or butter, cold pinch of salt. 60ml (1/4 cup) cold water.1 egg, whisked

Instructions - Filling
Add a little oil to a large frying pan and heat up. Add the minced meat and onions and cook on medium heat until it browns, stirring in between. Mix in tomato puree and cook for 2 minutes. Stir into minced meat with all purpose spice, maggi (stock) cube and salt. Remove from heat and leave to cool, and then stir in chopped carrot and green pepper.

Instructions - Pastry
Sift flour and salt into a large mixing bowl. Add margarine/butter to the flour. Rub in using your fingertips till the mixture resembles little flecks of breadcrumbs. Have 1/4 cup of ice-cold water on hand to create the dough. Slowly pour in the water a little at a time while mixing with hands. The dough will come together nicely. Turn the dough onto a lightly floured work surface and knead very lightly.

To assemble
Pre-heat oven to 180 degrees Celsius. Line a baking tray with greaseproof paper. Roll out the dough on a lightly floured work surface. Rolling should be carried out in short, sharp strokes, with light, even pressure in a forward movement only. Turn the pastry as you roll. Cut circles in the dough and place a tablespoon cup of mincemeat in the centre of the circle. Fold dough over making it into a semi-circle. Take a pastry brush and dip in water and moisten edges of dough circle then pinch sides together with a fork. Use a fork and poke holes on the top of the meat pies. Place pies on baking tray. Brush the tops of meat pies with egg white. The egg white gives a beautiful clear shine and a golden color to the baked pie. Arrange on a baking tray. Bake for 15-20 minutes.
Raise the baking tray up on level to brown the tops.

Written by Ruhia Mahama

What is the Data Protection Ordinance (GDPR)?

The EU has adopted a regulation to replace the Personal Data Act from 25 May 2018. The regulation is called the GDPR. The regulation has been adopted because society is becoming more and more digital, and the use of personal data needs to be strengthened further. As an individual, you should feel confident that you have control over the management of your personal data with companies / organizations.
As an individual, you must agree that your personal information is handled, stored, used, and who uses them.

GDPR speaks of personal data. A personal statement is:
Everything that DIRECTLY or INDIRECT can identify a living person
For example, a DIRECT personal statement may be: Name, Social Security, Address, Photography.

An INDIRECT personal statement may be: Information like adding them can identify a person: Initials, Email Address, IP Address, Address, Shoe Number, Residential Area,

Example:
Directly - Anna Andersson born 1962, Gårdavägen 2
Indirectly - A.A, Blonde, Farm Road 2
GDPR also speaks of specific or sensitive personal data:

- Sexual orientation / Sexual life
- Race or ethnic origin
- Political affiliation
- Union affiliation
- Religious or philosophical conviction
- Treatment of Genetic Data (DNA)
- Biometric data (Fingerprint reader, eye scan)

After May 25, 2018, a person handling personal data must have the consent of the person who is registered.

As an individual you have the right to:
- Access their personal data, what has been registered
- Get incorrect personal information corrected
- Get their personal data deleted

- Oppose the use of personal data for direct marketing
- Know what the data should be used for
- Know how long we intend to save the data

Written by Herta Boakye-Yiadom Dahl

Are you interested in joining the newsletter team?

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