



Liberia Dujar Association-Sweden

Nyhetsbrevet

Nr 4, november 2023

Kära vänner!

Nu går 2023 mot sitt slut och en av årets finaste högtider, julen, nalkas, där barnen förväntar sig julklappar och vuxna ger varandra presenter.



Men så är det inte för alla barn i världen. Medan Liberia fightar med valet och bråkar om vem som kommer bli nästa president, önskar barnen sig att bara att ha mat på sina tallrikar, att äta något för dagen. Är du en av dem som vill dela en bit bröd till barnen?

- För bara 100 kr kan 4 personer i barnets familj få julmat.
- För bara 200 kr kan 8 personer i barnets familj få julmat.

Efter jullovet blir barnen glada att gå tillbaka till skolan, men problemet med skolvärdigheten kvarstår. Och för att barnen ska kunna få sin fullständiga utbildning behöver den stödjas. Med ditt bidrag tillsammans med andra människor som brinner för utbildning och förstår att det är en rättighet kan många barn få möjlighet att gå i skola.

För att underlätta din betalning, swisha redan idag på 9018474. Kom ihåg avsändare.



Lois Hemgren, Generalsekreterare

Ord från ordföranden

Vintern och julen närmar sig och det är snart dags för ett nytt år, som jag hoppas blir bra för oss alla liksom för Liberia Dujars verksamhet.

Vid det senaste årsmötet i oktober avslutades min period som styrelseordförande för Liberia Dujar. Jag skulle därför vilja passa på att tacka för mig – det har varit både ett nöje och en ynnest att få ha samarbetat med styrelsen, med Lois och Per, och med vår utmärkta redovisningsansvariga Lena. Så tack till er! Främst vill jag dock tacka alla medlemmar och alla ni som privat eller genom företag hjälpt till att stötta vår verksamhet tillsammans har vi hjälpt tusentals barn i Liberia att få en bra utbildning och därmed också en bra grund för vuxenlivet. Ni är oundgängliga!

Jag kommer förstås att fortsätta stödja Liberia Dujar och hoppas att organisationen kan fortsätta utvecklas och blomstra. Med denna förhoppning önskar jag er alla en god jul och ett gott nytt år!

Bertil Oskarsson, ordförande

Tack, Bertil!

Bertil Oskarsson har tjänstgjort i styrelsen sedan år 2014 och som ordförande sedan 2018 men önskar nu avgå. Bertil har varit en klippa i styrelsen, och skött ordförandeskapet fullständigt utomordentligt. Vi kommer sakna dig!



Familjen Roström
Enskild partner

Eva Hollström
Enskild partner

Anita Sundin
Enskild partner

Liberia Dujar High School

Denna elev, *David M Seward*, examinerades år 2005 vid LDA:s gymnasieskola och pluggade sedan vidare på universitetet och till och med i Kina. Han avancerade vidare och arbetar nu hos liberianska regeringen nära president George Weah. Vid senaste examenshögtiden vid LD High School den 30 september i år var han gästtalare och höll nedanstående fantastiska tal, som kunde vara en ledstjärna för vem som helst på klotet.



David M Seward

“Good Afternoon, graduates, esteemed faculty, proud parents, and distinguished guests. It is an honor and a privilege to stand before you today as a fellow alumnus of the Liberia Dujar High School, Class of 2005, known as Primus Inter Pares - First Among Equals. I am deeply moved to return to this hallowed institution and share this momentous occasion.

But before we embark on this journey of inspiration and motivation, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the remarkable woman whose vision has guided this school toward excellence. Mrs. Lois B. Hemgren, the founder and president of Liberia Dujar Association in Sweden, your dedication to preparing the future leaders of Liberia and the world is commendable. Your vision shines as a beacon of hope, and your unwavering commitment to education deserves our deepest gratitude.

Defining Your Future

Discover Your Passion: Life is a journey of self-discovery. Find your passion, the driving force that makes you leap out of bed in the morning. It will be your guiding star.

Dreams are the compass of your future. Set audacious goals that stretch your limits, for it's in striving for the extraordinary that we achieve greatness—a commitment to Lifelong Learning.

Embrace Learning: Education is a lifelong adventure. Commit to learning beyond the classroom, for knowledge is the key to unlocking the doors of opportunity.

Now, graduates, you stand on the precipice of a new adventure, a chapter in your lives filled with challenges, triumphs, and endless possibilities. As you prepare to take that leap into the future, I want to share some thoughts with you, ideas that I hope will resonate with you as you embark on your journey toward a better end. Believe in Yourself. The Power of Belief: Self-belief is the engine of your trip. Remember your innate potential and the heights you can reach in moments of doubt. Ethical Compass. In pursuing your dreams, never lose sight of your values. Integrity, honesty, and compassion should be your guiding stars.

1: Know Your Worth

Graduates, remember that you are the architects of your destiny. Your worth is not determined by your circumstances or the obstacles you face. It is defined by your character, determination, and ability to overcome adversity. You are the author of your story, and it's up to you to write it with purpose and conviction.

2: The Power of Education

The education you have received here at Liberia Dujar High School is a powerful tool, a key that can unlock doors of opportunity you may not have even dreamed of. But remember, education is not a one-time event. It is a lifelong journey. Continue to seek knowledge, ask questions, and never stop learning. As the saying goes, "Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world."

3: Resilience in the Face of Adversity

Life will undoubtedly throw challenges your way. There will be moments of doubt, setbacks, and even failures. But it is in those very moments that your true strength is revealed. Be resilient. Persevere. As Winston Churchill once said, "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts."

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4: Empathy and Unity

In a world that often emphasizes divisions and differences, graduates remember the power of empathy and unity. Seek to understand the perspectives of others, even when they differ from yours. Build bridges instead of walls. As Martin Luther King Jr. said, "We may have all come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now."

5: Giving Back

"As you strive for personal success, never forget the importance of giving back to your community and those less fortunate. In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." Your impact on the lives of others can be profound.

6: Believe in the Power of Change

Graduates believe in the power of change. Know that you can shape the world around you. As Robert F. Kennedy once said, "Every society gets the kind of criminal it deserves." Likewise, every society gets the kind of leaders it deserves. Be the leaders who inspire change, work tirelessly for justice, and create a better world for all.

The road ahead may be challenging but also full of opportunities. You, the Class of 2023, have the potential to achieve greatness beyond measure.

Embrace the values instilled in you by this remarkable institution, and let them guide you toward a future filled with purpose, impact, and fulfillment.

7: The World Awaits Your Brilliance

Graduates, the world awaits your brilliance, ingenuity, and compassion. I am confident that you will rise to the occasion and make a difference in the lives of many.

In conclusion, graduates of the 19th class, I have every confidence that each of you is destined for greatness. With unwavering determination and the spirit of 'Primus Inter Pares,' you will not only be equals but leaders, innovators, and change-makers. Your journey begins today, and the world eagerly anticipates the incredible impact you will make. Congratulations, and may your future be filled with boundless success and fulfillment.

Thank you!"

David M Seward

Report on 2022-2023 School Year (by Director General Dennis Toe)

The 2022/2023 school year had a mixture of events. Registration began from September and between that period and the end of October 2022, the number of students enrolled at the school was 801. At the end of the year, the school was left with 769 students.

During the school year under review, a total of 740 students passed while 13 failed with 48 students dropping for various reasons. The school can note that it had a successful year given the number of students that passed.

The school which holds its graduation on the 30th of this month will see 130 students leaving the school with one failing the National Exams.

On November 25, 2022 the school along with the Management Team had a teachers appreciation day. All teachers were appreciated for their tremendous sacrifices made towards the growth of the school and the students. The program was witnessed by the Parents-Teachers Association (PTA) and friends from the community.



Between the 8th-12th of May 2023 the school had its 19th Gala Day celebration. The school received as its guest the founder Mrs. Lois Hemgren and her husband Mr. Per Hemgren. The school had many activities amongst which was the majorette parade which drew a large crowd. The students paraded the major streets of the community climaxing on the campus of the school. See pictures in former Nyhetsbrevet, nr 3-2023.

The school is confronted with many challenges but one of the most difficult is the non-payment of fees by some students in the school. Uncollected fees this year has amounted to a little over \$13,514USD. Some of the students entered with the view that someone will come to their aid. As a result, their bills keep accumulating without payment till the end of the school year. The school takes this opportunity to express thanks and appreciation to some friends from Sweden who were able to assist two students of the school.

The school made progress with improvement in the sanitation and then the science laboratory. The toilets in the school were giving facelift and the laboratory given new equipment to make the students have a better understanding of science related experiments. The school also made tre-

mendous progress in both students and teachers discipline by enforcing the laws of the school for sanity to prevail. The school also got involved with extra curriculum activities with football, basketball, kickball and quizzing.

Democracy also played a part in the activities of the school. Under this prospect, students are allowed to elect their leadership through a democratic process. The students had two campus-based parties that participated in the race for student leadership. The Student Unification Party and the Student Democratic Party. In the election Student Benjamin D, Mark of SUP was victorious over Student Demster Karr of SDP. On March 24, 2023 installation took place for the student leadership.

The school can state that the school year was successful and intends to build on the successes to meet the challenges for a better school year that has already begun.



Dennis Toe, Director General



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Jubileumskonserter

Den 30 september avhölls en konsert i Immanuelskyrkan i Stockholm för att fira LDAs 30-åriga verksamhet. Liberia Dujar Association startades faktiskt redan 1993 av Lois Hemgren, medan landet Liberia led under ett fruktansvärt blodigt inbördeskrig, sedan den tidigare ministern Charles Taylor fått för sig att ta makten i en kupp.



Marco Helles var konferencier



Björn Gäfvert spelade ett mäktigt stycke på kyrkorgeln



Kurt Ahnlund framträdde med gitarr och sång



Immanuel Gospel med sitt kompband och Kurt Ahnlund.



Marco Helles intervjuade generalsekreteraren Lois Hemgren

De svåra förhållandena som uppstod i och med Charles Taylors anfall triggade Lois, boende i Sverige sedan 1983, att försöka hjälpa sitt folk på något vis. Hon började skicka lite av de blygsamma medel hon kunde avvara. Snart insåg hon att detta inte gör någon större skillnad och fick tipset att starta en förening. Så föddes Liberia Dujar Association. Dujar betyder Vakna, på Lois' stamspråk Grebo. Nu 30 år efter starten firade vi alltså med en konsert. Där uppträdde Immanuel Gospelkör, blåsorkestern Immanuel Brass, kyrkans organist Björn Gäfvert och Kurt Ahnlund med sin gitarr och sång, delvis tillsammans med Immanuel Gospel och kompbandet.

Konserten var också avsedd att inbringa pengar, och den slutliga summan stannade på drygt 12 000kr. LDAs ordförande Bertil Oskarsson avtackade alla medverkande.



Immanuel Brass

Liberia Dujar University College

Många av eleverna på LD University College har stora svårigheter att finansiera den facila avgiften för sin utbildning. Här är ytterligare en elev på University College, som sponsras av en svensk familj. Hon berättar själv sin historia:

October 31, 2023

My name is Princess Q.K. Toe. I was born unto the union of Prince Q. Toe, Sr. and Mrs. Viola Oral Charles on October 31, 1996, in Putuken, River Gee County (sydöstra delen av Liberia, red.s anm.). I started my primary education and graduated from kindergarten in 2000. In the same year (2000), my father left the house to an unknown destination. Thereafter, my mom took the responsibility to educate me and my older sister.

In 2006, my mother relocated my father in some part of Barnesville having another wife with him. The conclusion of their discussion was a promise made by him to pay my school fees.

When I got promoted to the 7th grade, my mother got sick and later died. After she was buried, my father took me to live with him. I later enrolled at the Liberia Dujar High School from where I graduated in 2013. I was unable to further my education due to financial problems. In 2020, my father also got sick and died. A man who knew my parents promised to help me with my school fees. He used my body as he pleased and paid only one time.

At this point, I became confused and didn't know what to do. I later got employed at a night club, saved some money, that enabled me to enroll at Liberia Dujar University College in 2021. I got enrolled hoping to obtain a scholarship, but all my search was to no avail. I have been struggling all along, drop out of school one semester, and later return with the assistance of my friend.

While still trusting God for help, I received a call from Rev. Nathan Mahteh, President of Liberia Dujar University College, on late Sunday afternoon, October 29, 2023, that I should write my story because someone was interested in supporting me. For this reason, I am forever grateful to God, Mrs. Hemgren, and whoever God is using to be a blessing to me.

God is great! Today is my birthday and I believe that God has answered my prayer on this day. This is a huge birthday present that I will never forget.

Thank you very much you kind-hearted person. May God richly bless you!

Thankfully yours,

Princess Q.K. Toe



Princess Q.K. Toe



Göran och Linda Häss
som tar emot Princess och redan
har betalat första terminens
skolavgift 2023 för henne.

Liberia Dujar Association
tackar familjen Häss för deras
generösa bidrag.

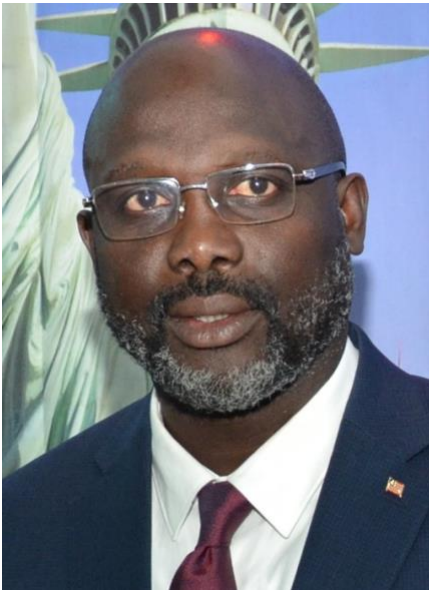
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av dig på info@liberiadujar.org.

Jolanta och Natalia
Tellström

Stefan de Vylder

Göran & Linda
Häss

Liberia väljer president



President George Weah



Challenger Joseph Boakai, former
Vice President under Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

The people of Liberia will on next week Tuesday, November 14, 2023, go to the polls in a runoff election to decide who becomes President for the next six years. The race is between incumbent President George Manneh Weah of the Coalition of Democratic Change and former vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai of the Unity Party. The two of them are in the race after either of them could not obtain the 50+1 percent as required by the constitution of Liberia.

Prior to the expected election next week, on the 10th of October 20 candidates vied for the presidency. It couldn't produce a victor as required by the constitution. The incumbent President Weah obtained the majority votes but was short of the 50% accumulating on 43.84% as compared to former Vice President Boakai's 43.33%.

The elections governing body of Liberia seeing that there was no clear-cut winner announced for the runoff to be held on the 14th of November as dictated by the constitution of Liberia.

Campaign resumed for two weeks ago and both candidates are fighting very hard to woo voters to their party. The decision will be made in the next week.

Though there were some concerns of election violence in the northern city of Foya, Lofa County and parts of the Capital Monrovia, voting went on smoothly all over the country. Many observers are praising the government for providing an enabling environment for the election without international security.

Dennis Toe
Director General

Årsmötet

LDAs årsmöte avhölls den 16 oktober utan att någon behövde ta sig till något mötesrum någonstans. Alla deltagare satt hemma hos sig under mötet. Va? Hur kunde detta ske? Jo, allt vanligare blir det ju med digitala möten. Så även för oss i LDA, då vi använde appen ”Teams” från Microsoft och kopplade upp oss via Internet.

Tågordningen var densamma som tidigare möten enligt stadgarna. Verksamhetsberättelse och räkenskaper gicks igenom. LD High School klarar sig hyfsat ekonomiskt med sina 800 elever. Men University College har bara 135 elever, mindre än vi förväntat oss, delvis beroende på den avskräckande vägen till skolan. Vår blygsamma ekonomi redovisade ett underskott på 39 000 kr. Det är alltså angeläget att vi blir fler medlemmar och att gåvorna ökar samt att elevantalet ökar på University College.

Vår revisor från Finnhammars Revisionsbyrå hade inget att erinra och föreslog ansvarsfrihet för styrelsen, vilket mötet beviljade. Anna Hellerstedt och PO Sporrang fortsätter i styrelsen, medan ordföranden Bertil Oskarsson önskar avgå. Vi hade ingen kandidat till ordförandeposten så för tillfället är vi utan ordförande och söker med ljus och lykta efter någon som kan ersätta Bertil.

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www.insamlingskontroll.se

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