



## “Education, Heritage and Community Building” Bridging Ages Conference, 26-29 August 2014, Ngurunit, Kenya

**We are really grateful to host the Bridging Ages international conference and would like you to share this joyful moment with us.**

You will be staying at Lesamu camp in the middle of Ngurunit and get an opportunity to see and experience Samburu and Rendille cultures. You meet different kinds of people: proud warriors (morans), wise elders, colorfully dressed ladies, skilled craftsmen/women and a lot of children. There are camels, cattle, goats and beautiful birds. We will serve you a variety of tasty and local food. And you will enjoy nice weather and an area with beautiful sceneries, surrounded by mountains, a home to different cultures where people are very friendly and welcoming. It's a life time opportunity.

This is a workshop conference, where meetings, discussions and results are in focus. We want to end up with some concrete solutions on how education and heritage will contribute in building our communities, towards social and economic growth, more of unity and cohesion, but also more of jobs. Education, heritage and community are together, as in the ongoing project on “Mathematics in the Historic Environment”, and you will hear more examples from countries around the world. There will be presentations and creative discussions, a Time Travel on the life of today in a manyatta. The conference ends with a big cultural festival with performances, singing and dancing from the Samburu and Rendille community and representatives from other tribes in northern Kenya. We are expecting 150 people or more for the conference and many, many hundreds for the festival.

Kindly lets us know as soon as possible if you are available to attend the event and any other questions you may have.

*A warm welcome to everyone!*

**Steven Labarakwe, assisted by Jeremy Lengure, Bridging Ages Northern Kenya (BANK)**

# Bridging Ages Conference, Ngurunit, Kenya

## PROGRAM, DRAFT

- 24 August** Delegates leave Nairobi in the afternoon, transport provided for free by the host organization
- 25 August** Arrival in Ngurunit, welcome, settle
- 26 August** **09h00** Opening – Dr Hassan Wario, National Minister of Sport, Culture and the Arts  
Ukur Yatani, Governor of Marsabit County  
Dr Yassin, Director General of National Museums of Kenya  
Joseph Lekuton, MP, Laisamis  
Dances, singing  
Introduction, Bridging Ages Northern Kenya – Steven Labarakwe, Marsabit County Government  
Bridging Ages all over the world and the Time Travel method – Ebbe Westergren, President of Bridging Ages  
Tea  
First session, Heritage, Environment and Community Building  
Several short presentations  
**13h00** Lunch  
First session, second part  
More short presentations  
Workshop and group discussions on the theme of the day  
Conclusions  
**17h00** End
- 27 August** **09h00** Preparation for the Time Travel  
Time Travel at a manyatta, “Stay or Leave”, including traditional crafts and stories  
Evaluation and reflection  
**12h30** Lunch  
Second session, Education and Community Building  
Mathematics in the Historic Environment  
Several short presentations  
Workshop and group discussions on the theme of the day  
Conclusions  
**17h00** End  
Evening: Surprise
- 28 August** **09h00** Third session, Education, Heritage and Conflict Resolution  
Several short presentations  
Workshop and group discussions on the theme of the day  
Conclusions  
Tea  
Solutions, achievements, way forward  
Vote of thanks  
Next Bridging Ages conference  
**13h00** Lunch and Market  
**14h00**, until the evening: Big Cultural Festival with Ngurunit Community and several tribes from northern Kenya: performances, dances, singing etc
- 29 August** A day in Ngurunit  
Possible tours (am and/or pm): Visit a manyatta; Walk the mountains; Camel ride; Visit the blacksmith; Natural swimming pool...  
Evening: Camp fire
- 30 August** Leave Ngurunit early in the morning, arriving in Nairobi in the evening



Beautiful flowers in the desert.



Making fire the traditional way.



Ndura organizes the cooking at the conference.

The 35-40 presenters are from museums, schools, universities, NGOs, natural and cultural organizations, regional and local governments in Kenya, South Africa, USA, Italy, Uganda, Sweden, Latvia, USA, Finland and Turkey. The project "Mathematics in the Historic environment" is presented by Linnaeus University, Kalmar County Museum, Kenyatta University, National Museums of Kenya, BANK and local schools. Check the Bridging Ages website for an update of the program, the presenters, Time Travel scenario, the questions in the group discussions and more.

The program is subject to change.

Conference fee: 5000 Kenyan Shillings (Kenyans), 10 000 KShs (other Africans), 20 000 KShs (non-Africans). Students: free.

Accommodation and food: 20 000 KShs (for all delegates), including five nights in Ngurunit and one night in Isiolo (on the way up to Ngurunit).

The organizers provide transport for free from Nairobi 24 August pm, arriving in Ngurunit 25 August; and from Ngurunit, early in the morning 30 August, arriving in Nairobi the same day at about 7 pm.

Registration will open about 28 April, [www.bridgingages.com](http://www.bridgingages.com)

**Steven Labarakwe**, *Bridging Ages Northern Kenya, BANK*

**Ebbe Westergren**, *Bridging Ages International*



# Forced Removal in South Africa

## KwaZulu-Natal, Mpophomeni 1968

### Exploring situations of (un)freedoms



Cooking and candle-making - two of the Time Travel activities.



Learners from various schools listening to the Time Travel leader. The Time Travel bus is seen in the background.

To explore the experiences of the first inhabitants of Mpophomeni, west of Pietermaritzburg, who had been moved from neighbouring places like Kwa-Joji, Kwa-Zenzele, Cedara and Lions River, a Time Travel back to 1968 happened on 21 February 2014. Participants arrived from seven schools of Mpophomeni and Kwa Haza, a nearby village. A total of ten teachers and 140 school learners in various colourful uniforms descended on the site of the Time Travel under the cover of dark clouds as predicted by the weather bureau. Local Municipality of Umngeni and the two chiefs were each represented in the Time Travel by two participants.

### Issues of today

Many days of meetings to have perfect plans paid off on the morning of 21 February. Changing ways of thinking takes time – it has been nearly eleven months from the first presentation of the Time Travel method to the staging of the first Time Travel. The series of meetings were very important as they included not only the planning of the Time Travel but mainly to address issues related to fears, uncertainties, timidity, debates, discouragements, resignations and lack of confidence.

Activities that enhanced the lessons the Time Travel aimed to teach included cooking chicken legs (amawotwana), maize meal mixed with potatoes (isigwaqana), cabbage, minced meat and marrow bones. All those who had a taste of the Time Travel meal had nothing but praise for it. Some learners tasted for the first time real butter and drank tea brewed with loose leaves rather than the usual tea bags. The use of condensed milk in the tea reminded most of the adult participants the time they used to steal the sweet milk often reserved for their parents only. Other activities were candle-making and using hammer and nails by fixing the clothes line and later having it painted.

### Change of plans - challenges for leaders

The family of Shinduzi offered the use of their home for the Time Travel after the original family renegeed on their promise the night before the event. The truck that was going to be bringing the load was delayed due to another vehicle that was parked too close to it. Along with the drizzle that nearly spoiled the fun, one can learn that however meticulous one can be in preparing to the last detail, there can be unexpected disturbances that call for the change of plans. Despite the challenges, a very informative Time Travel happened.

There were two women story tellers who kept both adults and learners attention with stories from the rural areas from where they were forcefully removed more than forty years back. Students learnt about the cost of food, transport and bride prize (ilobolo).

## Reflections after the Time Travel

While the learners shared how they liked the Time Travel and what they learnt, the women saw it as an opportunity to compare manners and behavior of the learners to theirs, when they moved to Mpopophomeni. It is not easy for one to decide if the evaluation of the whole Time Travel experience degenerated into a space to moralize the learners or if it served a good purpose for the older women and older men to instill good values among the youth. Discussions on moral regeneration, social ills, the value of school education could not be avoided even though they seemed remote from the themes of forced removals, landlessness and lack of democratic spaces. What is certain, however, is that all present learnt valuable lessons around the arrival of the first inhabitants of Mpopophomeni.

**Radikobo Ntsimane**, *the Museum Service of the Department of Arts and Culture in KwaZulu-Natal.*

*In cooperation with:*

The Interim Committee of local school teachers - Bridging Ages Mpopophomeni  
The Zulu Mpopophomeni Township Experience (ZMTE) Museum  
The local Mpopophomeni Township Eco-Museum

## Western Cape, Simon's Town 1967

### Rising out of the ashes like a Phoenix

*"Fly eagle fly; you belong not to the earth, but to the sky..."* – Father Bob Commin

The thoughts, feelings and ultimate anguish of people who were forcibly removed under the Group Areas Act from their beloved Simon's Town close to Cape Town during the Apartheid years were relived in a Time Travel back to 1967 at the St Francis of Assisi Anglican Church.

The role of the church in supporting those who were eventually moved was highlighted as the Phoenix Group, comprised of elderly victims of the inhumane removals, shared their experiences with learners from the nearby Simon's Town High School. Giving life to the school curriculum participants engaged with each other in an attempt to address the challenges faced at the tumultuous times. As a lesson in democracy, social cohesion and nation building the former residents of Simon's Town painted a vivid picture of the trials and tribulations they experienced during their lives.

Of course the Time Travel was really about today and served as a demonstration of how people could stand together in difficult times and support each other while making collective decisions about their own future. It also showed that unjust laws forced upon people must never be tolerated. Democracy and democratic values should be cherished and basic human rights of all people should be protected.

The Simon's Town Museum and High School, Phoenix Group, and the St Francis Church should be commended with the brave initiative to preserve the memories and heritage of a disowned and displaced community. Bridging Ages Western Cape provided support to the participating organisations.

**Louis Marais**, *Bridging Ages Western Cape, South Africa*



Holy Communion is served



Artist and poet Peter Clarke revises old memories



Elena Lucrezia Corner Piscopia, the first graduate woman in the world.

## Italian Time Travel on Women's Day

On Women's Day, March 8<sup>th</sup> 2014, the association Bridging Ages-Venice and the four ladies' clubs of Venice; Inner Wheel, Fidapa, Soroptimist, Zonta International in collaboration with the municipality of Venice, organized a Time Travel to 1678 focused on Elena Lucrezia Corner Piscopia, the first graduate woman in the world. She belonged to one of the most important families of the Republic of Venice and became famous for her intelligence and her education.

Since the Time Travel focused on the role played by the Venetian community in Elena's education and academic career, well-known professors of Ca' Foscari University, students, and many friends were pleased to be involved as protagonists in the ceremony of graduation. After a short presentation of the historical context, visitors at Palazzo Mocenigo (the civic Museum of the Fashion and Costumes) were invited to join and to dress up, in order to take part in the Time Travel. The participation of the Venetian community was really remarkable and all of us had a lot of fun.

### Scenario

*"Today, Saturday June 25, 1678 in Padua, the examination for the award of a Doctorate of Philosophy to Elena Corner Piscopia takes place. At the last minute, the ceremony is transferred from the University to the Cathedral, in the chapel of the Virgin Mary, in order to accommodate the crowd which has gathered for the event. Such an unusual event arouses so much curiosity and interest, because Elena is a woman..."*



For the first time the life of Elena Corner Piscopia was recalled in Venice through a cultural and historical event which gave the participants an opportunity to reflect on education and the right to education for women in the past and in the current society. The history of Venice is also the history of women. The life and achievement of Elena Corner Piscopia is part of the history of European women and the history of women's higher education.



### Reflections

Has this event changed the status of women? How many other women graduated after Elena Corner? How much are we aware about the role played by the Venetian community in Elena's education and academic career? What changed after the fall of the Republic? And today, what is the situation?

A very special event with lots of curious participants at the examination.

**Cécile Franchetti**, *Bridging Ages Venice*



Food creates a good atmosphere.

## Living in two worlds

### Immigrants in Sweden

How can you integrate students in high school with little knowledge in Swedish in projects outside the school? A solution to this dilemma was the cooperation with Kalmar läns museum starting in September 2013.

Our students at Lars Kagg High School in Kalmar, taking part in this project, have newly arrived in Sweden from all parts of the world and need active learning by doing. When staff from the museum introduced us to the project "Living in Two Worlds" we decided to participate.

We quite soon agreed on making a Time Travel to as far back in time as the Stone Age. In order to prepare the students in the best way we visited the museum. We saw Stone Age objects and tried Stone Age clothes. From this visit we brought back lots of words and sentences which we studied at school.

On a sunny day in September one of our classes, at the more advanced level of Swedish, took part in a Time Travel together with staff from the museum and participants from other heritage organizations from various countries. The event took place in Tingby in the outskirts of Kalmar, in where a small Stone Age house is reconstructed. Everyone wore a Stone Age outfit and learnt how to make tools, cook, use instruments and sing. It was lovely to watch their techniques and hear the others cheering at their skills.

Though we were mixed with grown-ups from different countries, we all played our new alter egos, in a skilled and serious manner. We represented two tribes who had never met and were challenged with question as: "Can we trust these newcomers? Do we have we enough food for them? Are their traditions, clothes and songs good enough? Shall we let them stay?" Without realizing our students reflected and talked about their own situation as newcomers to Sweden today and we heard so much wisdom and profound thoughts and reflections this day!

A few weeks later all of our immigrant students at Lars Kagg school were invited to a similar Time Travel open to the public. Here the first class introduced the others and though speaking very little Swedish they all were active in communicating by doing. It was fascinating to watch the shyest student take part in a most self-conscious way thanks to his/her new Stone Age character, and also to watch all the happy faces. Everyone, from student to grown-ups, really liked this!

Back at school we had many interesting discussions and everyone tried to write in Swedish about their new experiences. All of us learnt how many similarities there are between people in different time periods and from different areas of the world.



Can we trust the others?

**Lotta Eberhardsson, Swedish for Immigrants (SFI),  
Lars Kaggskolan, Kalmar**

#### About the project: Living in two worlds.

A hot topic in most countries in the western world today is migration. People are moving to new environments, countries and continents. This affects both communities and individuals. How can we understand the current migration in the light of historic migration periods? How can young refugees and Swedish students gain an understanding of each other's life situations and experiences?

Kalmar County Museum has in recent years worked in several integration projects in conjunction with the Swedish Arts Council, the Regional Council and SFI (Swedish For Immigrants). The museum wants to deepen its work and find ways to reach and support the refugees and immigrants coming to our county. This project is made together with cultural organizations in Ostrobothnia, Finland, and funded by the European Union, Leader Kalmar - Öland

**Promoters:** Linda Liljeberg and Tina Lindström Kalmar County Museum, Sweden



# Bystanders – Does it matter?

*“The world is too dangerous to live in – not because of the people who do evil, but because of the people who stand beside and let them do it.” – Albert Einstein. Physicist and Human Rights Activist*



One group of learners from the Östersjögymnasium (high school) in Kalmar made an exhibition after taking part in the pedagogical program on Bystanders.

The project “Bystanders – Does it matter?” is one of the pedagogical activities at the Kalmar läns museum, Sweden, October 2013 – April 2014. It consists of a travelling exhibition, educational material, teacher training, and a research component. The concept is produced by The Living History Forum (LHF), a Swedish public authority which, using the Holocaust and other crimes against humanity as a starting point, works with issues on tolerance, democracy and human rights. LHF provides Swedish school teachers and pupils in the ages 12 to 19 with an extensive pedagogical material on the Bystander theme. Taking the Holocaust as its point of departure, the aim of the project is to create awareness about the role of the bystander. What does it mean to be a bystander? Why is it that we, as people, do not act but instead remain passive as bystanders? How are we responsible, when we do not intervene in some way?

#### **Comments from participants:**

- *This was an emotionell experience and very interesting*
- *We felt and realized the power of peer pressure*
- *We learnt a lot in an active way*

One might imagine that the ideal would be to take action; that the desire to intervene and change the situation should be the most obvious choice. Yet this is not what most people do and the question is of course why? So far nearly 1500 learners and adults have taken part in the pedagogical program “Bystanders – Does it matter?” at the Kalmar läns museum.

**Helen Eklund, Kalmar läns museum**

#### **The Living History Forum:**

[www.levandehistoria.se](http://www.levandehistoria.se)

[http://www.levandehistoria.se/sites/default/files/material\\_file/skriftserie\\_13\\_looking\\_at\\_the\\_onlookers\\_and\\_bystanders.pdf](http://www.levandehistoria.se/sites/default/files/material_file/skriftserie_13_looking_at_the_onlookers_and_bystanders.pdf)

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