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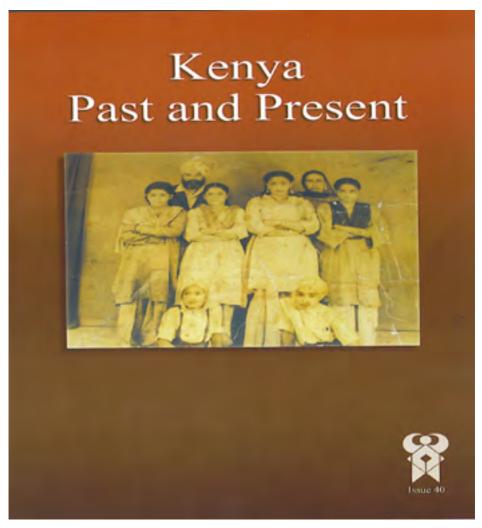
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## KENYA PAST & PRESENT

#### Issue 40 Now Available



**KENYA PAST AND PRESENT ISSUE 40 IS NOW AVAILABLE!** 

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## MUSEUMS OF KENYA

# The Nyeri Museum

A little known Jewel

he Nyeri Native Law Courts Museum is a little-known jewel tucked in the heart of Kikuyuland opposite the D.O.'s office in Nyeri near the Ruring'u stadium and the Mau Mau flag site where the first flag was raised before the advent of the Mau Mau uprising.



Built in 1924, the British colonial Native Law Courts hosted the customary system of justice previously administered by clan elders in the villages. The customary system addressed all forms of crimes and disagreement including murder, impregnation, land cases, theft, assault, and debt. Fines were determined and imposed by the elders depending on the situation. They could be a simple as a handshake between the differing parties, the payment of a certain number

#### MUSEUMS OF KENYA

of cows, sheep or goats in compensation or the penalty of death by being rolled down a steep hill in a beehive.

The customary system was found to be adequate by its users and continued to exist during the colonial period when the British government decided to centralize such cases in a common place or center.

To achieve a smooth transition with few objections from local residents, it was decided that some of the eminent elders who had previously been dealing with customary law would be selected by their area chiefs to continue working at the court. This new system took root well and continued under the guidance of British authorities like the district officers; later the system was left to the locals to run with some supervision by the colonial government.

The building is a good example of classical colonial Kenyan architecture. Although it is made of concrete, this material is interspersed with wooden blocks running right through. The main hall is characterized by sitting areas built into the structure. There are also clear demarcations indicating the different levels of authority in any seating arrangement: the judge (or main elder) in the middle seat which is raised above the others; four assistants with two on either side of the judge, whose seats were also raised slightly above the rest. There are 30 seats in all.

But because of Nyeri's altitude and often chilly weather, the hard concrete seats proved to be more like a punishment for the Wazees, who had cushions made for comfort. In the end, they opted for more modern wooden chairs. One of these chairs can be seen in the History of Kenya gallery at the Nairobi National Museum.

Next to the main hall are two rooms, one of which was used as a cell for holding the suspects until their cases were determined; the other one served as an office.

Entry is currently free. So, what are you waiting for? Come pay us a visit and learn more about Kenyan history.

For more information contact: Curator Betty Karanja melbekaranja@yahoo.com

SATURDAY, JUNE 29 2013, 9.30AM

# **Indian Vegetarian Cookery Demo**



Come and join a live Indian Vegeterian cooking demo by Saryoo Shah and learn how to prepare delectable indian dishes. Lunch is Included.

#### Venue

Saryoo Shah House, at Kihingo House No. 11, before International School.

Please note: Admission of the demo by Reservations Only. Book with KMS
Office

#### **Charges:**

KMS members - Adults -Ksh 3,000 Non members - Adults - Ksh 3,500

**Note:** There are only 30 spaces for this trip, so please sign up & make the payments as soon as possible.

Contact info@kenyamuseumsociety.org, for bookings.

SATURDAY, JUNE 01 2013, 10.00AM - 12.00PM

# **Puppet Making**

Children's Day Outing



#### Nairobi National Museums

Puppetry is dynamic, innovative and creative art that bridges between theatre arts, culture, teach life skills and community development in Kenya, Africa and the world.

Sign up your child for some fun & learning half day activity!

Age 5 - 14 years

Cost: KMS member kid - Ksh 800

Non member kid - Ksh 900

Contact:  $0724\ 255\ 299$ , 2339158 or info@kenyamuseumsociety.org

# National network of visual artists

Formed in collaboration with National Museums of Kenya

The National Museums of Kenya has helped in forming the first national network of visual artists in Kenya. Although artists have in the past attempted to pull together, trying to establish a collective movement that they could use to articulate issues affecting them as a discipline, none of those initiatives lasted long enough to achieve their long term goals – and the government was blamed for not giving enough attention to the arts.

In a surprising turn of events, in May 2012 the Non State Actors Support Programme (NSA – NET), the Ministry of Justice, National Cohesion and Constitutional Affairs with financing from the European Union through the 9th European Development Fund (9th EDF) organized a programme that would provide an opportunity for visual artists to finally be able to discuss and endorse the formation of a visual artists network. This was done in collaboration with the National Museums of Kenya (NMK) and in consultation with visual artists. The team organized anart exhibition dubbed "Power of unity: creating a vital voice for artists to influence good governance". The exhibition served to officially launch the visual artists' network and provide an opportunity for artists to show case their work.



Artist Mary Ogembo explains to International Students

#### NEWS FROM NMK



Artist Hassan Athman of Mombasa region with the Nairobi PC Njoroge Ndirangu during
the exhibition

The number of artworks that the exhibition which ran at the Nairobi Gallery, National Museums of Kenya from 22nd May to 22nd July 2012 produced from different regions of Kenya, was enough to support the view that a visual artists' network is necessary and beneficial in promoting the role of visual art in addressing issues of concern in the Kenyan society.

Visual art, just like other forms of artistic expressions, is able to communicate to people from diverse socio-economic and cultural backgrounds and can therefore be a vital tool for artists to influence good governance

The exhibition was the strategy used to mobilize visual artists nationally and set up regional links. The network now officially known as Network of Visual Artists in Kenya (NKVA) will be holding exhibitions in Nairobi, Mombasa and Kisumu during the following dates; NKVA Nairobi 21May – 4 June at Nairobi National Museum, NKVA Mombasa 17 May – 7 June and NKVA Kisumu 25 May – 8 June. Activities in other regions will be announced in due course.

# National Museums of Kenya calls for collection of abandoned art works

The Nairobi Museum is currently working to improve and enlarge its storage space for art works in the museum. Much of the existing space is taken up by art works whose owners did not collected after an exhibition. Over 500 uncollected art works have been listed. Some of the artworks have been in the museum for over a decade. The museum is calling for artists to collect their art work by 30 June 2013 failure to which the artwork will be declared property of the National Museums of Kenya.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Soko Soko Craft Market 2013

Same Great Venue: New Muthaiga shopping Mall, Thigiri Ridge Road Saturday 18 & Sunday 19 May, 9.30 AM to 6 PM on both days Entrance: Ksh 350/= Adults & Children under 12 FREE Please visit the Kenya Museum Society booth for a wonderful selection of children's books, novels and other unique souvenior items. You can also renew your membership or sign up your friends and visitors for the KMS membership.

We are looking forward to seeing you there!











#### The National Museums of Kenya invites you to: Lake Turkana Festival 2013

24 – 26 May, Loiyangalani.
Bookings are on going now.
Contact Sharon Kyungu – skyungu@museums.or.ke
www.laketurkanafestival.com

#### WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN SWAHILI?

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- Communicating with your staff and colleagues.
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Communicating when you travel out of Nairobi.

• Your work.

If you would like to move beyond jambo, habari yako? and mzuri sana, this may be the class for you. I have been taking lessons since September and have found Oloo to be knowledgeable, easy to work with, and patient. Oloo provides class materials and individual lessons at your place and periodically gets his students together for conversation and food. Jane

We offer Beginners, Intermediate & Advanced course

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## SAFARI REPORT

MARCH 29 - 1 APRIL - EASTER SAFARI



# ITS ALL ABOUT JOY!

The Joy Adamson Safari

by Pamela Howard-Reguindin, with contributions and photos from Kunaal Shah

he joy of exploring Samburu, Buffalo Springs and Shaba national reserves and the (wild) life of illustrator, author, conservationist, animal lover Joy Adamson were the main attractions for the four-day KMS holiday weekend trip this past March.

As usual, Narinder did a fantastic job of coordinating over 40 travelers in two mini-vans and 10 private vehicles over much improved roads to the growing metropolis of Nanyuki for a coffee break at the new Dorman's, then a quick pass through Isiolo and on to our final destination the lovely Sarova Shaba Game Lodge.

## SAFARI REPORT

Leaving the tarmac for a few clicks on rough road, one immediately understands why Shaba is a very special spot in Kenya worthy of conservation: the rocky, volcanic earth landscape, Mount Shaba standing afar at 1,525 meters, abrupt hills dissected by the muddy Uaso Nyiro River and vast fields of savannah grasses are most impressive.

After a buffet luncheon and settling into the Lodge's chalet-makuti style rooms, a large part of the group decided to work off the lunch and explore by foot the winding river and flora of the area under a bright, but not sizzling, sun. Dinner that night was a Swahili theme near the pool with lots of local entertainers and one "all the way from Mombasa"—Chakacha, who's dance and gyrations were very enthusiastic to say the least!



Saturday was spent exploring Buffalo Springs in the morn and Samburu in the afternoon. Animal sightings included all of the Samburu Big Five: pin-striped Grevy's zebra crossings over the road, large and small reticulated giraffes, several Somali ostriches, gerenuk (on all fours, not standing up) and beisa oryx, in addition to the omnipresent gazelles and warthogs. Although some travelers saw ellies and lions, our minivan explorers did not have such good luck. Birds were numerous and those who knew spotted vultures, bee-eaters, hornbills, superb starlings, crested plovers, crowned cranes, secretary birds, cory bustards, guinea fowl, vulturines and more.

## SAFARI REPORT

To make it a true safari, as we were wrapping up the afternoon tour of Samburu one of our vehicles got very stuck in a deep mud bog. Fortunately, the savvy "Safari Sam" or, actually the knowledgeable Knut, brought along a good, strong cable for towing and was out of the muck in a matter of minutes.



The next day, Sunday, many folks laid low at the Lodge to enjoy the pool, massages, time to read and relax. Several of us departed to explore Shaba and a not-so-nearby crater. I was part of the latter group. After a leisurely breakfast, we headed to Joy's Camp with armed guards to check it out and saw the plaque at the place where she was brutally murdered in 1980.

It was a very long drive to the crater with many interesting sights along the way—beautiful fields of savannah grass punctuated by termite mounds, a huge herd of several hundred well-fed camels with many baby camels (which I had never before seen and made up for no ellies or lions the day before), three-storey nest-townhouses dangling from acacias, very aggressive mira'a vendors as we passed through a village just outside the reserve boundary and a flat tire for the adventurous Knut mentioned above!

At long last we arrived at the crater which we had intended to climb down but it was too late in the day to attempt it. The view into the crater was stunningly verdant with about a dozen small wicker dwellings built into the upper walls. Quite a sight! We had to rush back to the Lodge to return before dark, but we didn't quite make it. Although I missed Narinder's evening lecture about the (wild) life of Joy Adamson during which she mentioned Joy's three marriages, travels, instant fame from Born Free books, how she learned to paint and more, I'm sure it was most entertaining and informative as her others have been.

Monday we reluctantly left the cozy accommodations of the Sarova and headed back to Nairobi, with a brief stop at Green Hills Lodge in Nyeri for lunch. I'm always so impressed with the wide variety of nationalities on these trips! This time we had Kenya, Switzerland, Germany, India, Scotland, Belgium, the Philippines, Korea, China, the U.S., Ireland, Canada and England all represented and perhaps a few others I missed. Once again, Narinder did a smashing job of it and I look forward to hearing about her next safari.

TUESDAY 04 JUNE 2013

# **Bones of Turkana**

## Unravelling the Mystries of Human Evolution

Bones of Turkana follows the story of famed paleoanthropologist Richard Leakey and his wife Meave, daughter Louise and their colleagues, as they work in the arid northern regions of Kenya's Turkana Basin to unravel the mysteries of human evolution.

This National Geographic Special, featuring music by Paul Simon and the Kenya Boys Choir, follows Leakey and his team traversing 4 million years of hominid history in search



of the characteristics that make us uniquely human, focusing on significant fossil discoveries made in the arid Northern Region of Kenya's Turkana Basin (the Cradle of Human Life)

#### A National Geographic Special

Presented by the Kenya Museum Society & Muthaiga Country Club

Venue: Karen Country Club

Cost: Ksh 1700 - Movie + Dinner

KSh 900 - Movie Only

Mpesa No: 400800 Account No: 6571570019

Proceeds will fund projects at the National Museum of Kenya

SUNDAY, 26 MAY 2013

## Ndoto za Elibidi

Award-winning Movie - "The Dreams of Elibidi"



A man from Western Province has a dream: to come to Nairobi to find a worthy life. After the initial culture shock he settles in the Mathare slums. Before he can say dream, love rewards him with four daughters. It's a story of acceptance and love, with the main theme on HIV/ AIDS, told in a fun way that reflects life in the ghetto.

**VENUE:** Louis leakey auditorium

Nairobi national museum

**DONATION:** ksh 400 kms member

Ksh 500 non member

Ksh 200 citizen and student

MPESA NO: 400800

A/C NO 6571570019

**Refreshment:** 2.15 Pm Film starts: 3.00Pm

Please call for reservations: 0724255299, 2339158

# KMS SHOP



THE KMS SHOP STOCKS A WIDE RANGE OF BOOKS ABOUT KENYA AND EAST AFRICA, ITS WILDLIFE, HISTORY,

LITERATURE AND CULTURE.

YOU WILL ALSO FIND NOVELS, CHILDREN'S BOOKS, JEWELLERY,

BAGS, SANDALS, KANGAS, WOOD CARVINGS, SOAPSTONE AND

OTHER UNIQUE SOUVENIOR ITEMS.

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#### BIRD WALKS



#### MORNING BIRD WALKS

Every Wednesday morning at 8:45. These three- to 3.5-hour walks are organized by Nature Kenya. Participants meet at the upper Museum carpark off Kipande Road. Members who have books or binoculars they no longer use are urged to donate them to Nature Kenya.

Cost: Ksh 200 per person; free to KMS members

Email: office@naturekenya.org

#### **SUNDAY BIRD WATCH OUTING**

Every third Sunday of each month. Meet in the upper staff carpark off Kipande Road at 9:00 a.m. Bring binoculars, water and a picnic lunch.

Email: office@naturekenya.org

Contact Nature Kenya for more information about birdwalks: 020-353-7568 // 0739-200-216 // 0750-149-200 // 0751-624-312

#### REQUEST FOR SECOND HAND BOOKS DONATION

THE KENYA MUSEUM SOCIETY WELCOMES YOUR DONATION OF BOOKS, DVDS, CHILDREN'S GAMES AND MAGAZINES TOWARDS THE 2013 SALE.

PLEASE DROP YOUR DONATION AT KMS OFFICE, OPEN MON-FRI FROM 9 AM - 5 PM. YOU CAN ALSO DROP YOUR DONATION AT KMS SHOP LOCATED INSIDE THE NAIROBI NATIONAL MUSEUM, OPEN MON TO SUN FROM 9.30 AM - 5 PM

## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



# What you get as a KMS member

**Did you know as a KMS member you are entitled to** free entry to all National and regional Museums, prehistoric sites and monuments around Kenya. The National Museums of Kenya is the custodian of Kenya's natural and cultural heritage that manages three World Heritage Sites, twenty two museums and over two hundred sites and monuments across the country.

The three World Heritage Sites are Fort Jesus, Lamu and Kaya Forests all located in the Coast region.

The sites and monuments open to the public include Gedi Ruins, Hyrax Hill, Jumba la Mtwana, Kariandusi, Koobi Fora, Mnarani, Olorgesailie, Rusinga Island, Songhor, Takwa-Manda Island and Thimlich Ohinga, Tom Mboya Mausoleum, Kanam Prehistoric Site and Simbi Nyaima in Kisumu.

#### Other benefits include:

- >> Birds walks, tree walks, reduced rates for day and weekend outings, evening lectures and other programs for members
- >> Monthly newsletter *Tracker* to keep you abreast of KMS and Museum activities
  - >> Email updates on KMS, NMK and other societies' activities
  - >> Annual magazine Kenya Past and Present
  - >> 5% discount at the Nairobi National Museum shop run by KMS
  - >> Free borrowing privileges at KMS library
  - >> Free reading privileges at Nature Kenya/NMK library

Please note: When using your KMS membership to gain entry to NMK Museums & Site and Monuments, you must also provide other identification. Corporate members using membership cards should provide their organization job identification. KMS membership is not transferable.

## **KMS Membership Registration Form**

Please use BLOCK letters

Mr./Ms/Mrs/Dr/ Family Name					
First Name		Spouse_			
Names of children (under 18)					
P.O. Box	_ Code		City		
Tel: Home	Office				
Mobile	Email	l			
am a NEW/RENEWING member (please circle one)					

I prefer to receive the Tracker by EMAIL/POST (please circle one)

Membership category	Amount	Included
Single resident	KSH 1,500	One membership card
Family resident	Ksh 2,000	Including children < 18 Yrs
Students (Kenyan Resident)	Ksh 300	One membership card
Up Country (New Category)	Ksh 1,200	Óne membership card
Non Resident	USD 50	One card
Visitors (valid for one month only)	Ksh 800	One membership card
Corporate membership (Kenya)	Ksh 15,000	Eight membership cards

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PO BOX 40658 - 00100 NAIROBI KENYA
TEL 3743808 / 2339158 (DIRECT)
TEL 3742131 / 132 / 133 / 134 EXT 2311
MOBILE 0724 255299

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