



LUPANE WOMEN'S CENTRE

"For Women -By Women"

isakhiwo ngesabomani

Ingcebethu. Basketry and Design Training II

Second course September 2014

Visit Lupane Womens' Centre September 2014

Diary, notes, reflections and expectations.

Ane and Eva arrived Joeburg

They visited Togu'na and spoke to Lara Tatley about the new products. Lara suggested that the products include lighting – Togu'na itself will do the electrical fittings as it does with “fish traps” from Zambia and the Tonga isangwas. Togu'na is mostly a wholesale business selling in bulk but also accent pieces to decorators of lodges. Frances has shown LWC products to her before but she felt that because the business is wholesale they were too expensive and also didn't go with the rest of her products. She is also looking for baskets as wall pieces – many painted isangwas used as wall decoration.

Kim Sacks Gallery.

This beautiful gallery stocks high-end pieces from all over Africa and is a good possible outlet for LWC as she sells to retail buyers rather than wholesale – but her customers expect exceptional and high quality pieces. She will meet with Frances on Monday 8 September to see what might be good for her from LWC.

Budgets meeting

Eva and Ane and Frances looked at the budgets (again) to assess what things looked like now that Rotary was out of the picture. They will share these budgets with Hildegard so that she can see what is available. All three also drew up schedules of volunteered time and contributions to the project. Foot note to the budgets...when they returned from dinner Eva found an email from Rotary in Denmark to say that it will give \$4000 to Ingebethukurv! This is great, as it will make a big contribution to travel expenses in April 2015!

In Lupane

Eva and Ane spent 10 working days in the centre with 12 women in each group.

Alongside these 2 groups were 3 other groups working on Ndebele baskets, Nambia and Tonga Baskets and sisal mats.

The fact that so many different weaves were going on and so many women gathered was very stimulating for everybody.

During this period of time, there was a break due to Lupane Womens' Centre 10th anniversary with the presence of LED. A large, very well prepared function with honorariums, master of ceremony, important talks, dances and Tandi's fabulous cakes.

The courses

The Burkina weave on wooden bases:

In Eva's group with the Burkina weave the women had started doing their homework on wooden bases given to them in May. During the workshop most of the women succeeded in making 2 or 3 baskets and the rhythm of the weave improved. There was definitely progress but also a need for more perfection.

The women agreed on helping each other in future with quality control and approving shapes and rhythm of the weave.

We worked on 3 different borders: A root tied on, a rolled border, and a set of core pieces of illala tied on to the basket.

By the end of the workshop each woman in the group agreed to make a set number of baskets that should be ready by April 15th 2015.

Sogu and Lizzie agreed to try to weave some larger, artistic baskets, the rest of the group to stay at sizes according to the bases.

The list of numbers to be made :

Sugo 5, Sihle 5, Milta 5, Slivia 10, Sola 10, Dombi 6, Togo 5, Charlotte 8, Magali 7, Lizzie 5 (3 big ones and 2 smaller), Salivy 5, Satuga 6.

We got hold of 90 pieces of wood sanded on one side which are supposed to be divided between the women. This hopefully happened just after we left. They we paid by Eva – in the future the cost of making these bases must be added to the price of the baskets. (aprox. 20 cents pr piece).

As for finding interesting bases for the artistic baskets, I suggest a collaborative between Godwill Ruona in Vic falls and LWC . Godwill spends a lot of time in the bush, has legal access to stuff and a brilliant eye. Christine Halsted at NDAU in Vic Falls at Elephant Walk has shown interest in the artistic baskets and can facilitate the finding of interesting bases beteew Godwill and LWC.

I believe Khaya comes to Vic falls once in a while and could hand them on to Sogu and Lizzie?

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Godwillruona @gmail.com

Christie Halsted:

christie@ndaucollection.com

Eva has provided Khaya with photos for the application for HIFA.

Laced baskets and sisal baskets.

In Ane´s group with the laced baskets and the sisal baskets, most of the women had done a fair amount of baskets. Their skills were improved, eg. they could all make a border this time. We spent some time discussing which mould, we should weave on. These baskets are supposed to be breadbaskets, and it is important they all have the same size and shape. The white moulds we originally brought do not have the correct shape, so we agreed to two different sizes: 22 cm and 30 cm in diameter. Ane bought all the Ndebele baskets in the shop in the right size for the women to weave on. We got 12 small and big ones. The rest is in order and Khaya will see to, that the women get these when they are made.

We did not do the dying this time. It is important we try that in April. The problem with the dying is, that the dyed baskets have to be rinsed much more in water, so they will keep their colour and not mix with the colour next to it. It is all about access to water!!

We also decided to put a root on top of all the baskets for the finishing touch, and the women did that just fine.

The women promised each to weave between 2 and 10 baskets as homework before mid April.

How valuable these baskets are – the pricing – I am a little unsure.... Hopefully the women will be quicker to make them in due time, presently it takes between 1,5 to 2 days to weave one. I think, it should not take more than 1 to 1,5 day. Let us see.

There might be a great potential in using the lacing technique for lamps. I will try and do some designs on that for the April workshop. Ane has send pics for HIFA from Denmark

Dates for April/May: Ane and Eva leave Denmark on 15th April – arrive Lupane 20th April with Frances by car. Spend week in Lupane weaving and preparing for HIFA. Travel on Sunday 26th to Harare – set up on Monday 27th and exhibit 28th and 29th.

Intentions for April 2015

Ane and Eva stress the fact that the homework must be done prior to our arrival.

We also stress the fact that following materials must be at hand: Illala, sisal, roots, wooden bases, dyes.

Last time Frances required the dyes – who will take responsibility for April???

We will work with the same groups and prepare a presentation for HIFA, both a display for ordering and for sales of the baskets made, hoping to get a decent stock made. Eva and Ane will prepare some posters describing this particular project alongside the MAC books describing the project.

Eva and Ane will have prepared Mac-books and films covering the LWC anniversary

and the documentation of the September 2014 course.

Little sun project –

Eva notes that these solar lamps could give weavers an additional 5 to 10 hours of light more a day.

Eva will look into the possibility of getting 100 lamps for free from Denmark to sell at the centre and such create a money bank to gain more lamps and start a business. She has taken contact with a foundation in Denmark willing to contribute getting the project of selling the lamps moving.

She has a meeting with the foundation on 12 Oct 2014 and will come back after the meeting in Denmark to clear facts and procedure.

Eva has put Khaya in touch with Alexandra Frank in Lusaka to pursue the matter and get more lamps later directly from Zambia. Alexandra Frank af.bestfootforward@gmail.com

Visit to Denmark in September 2015

Dates : last 2 weeks of September

Hopefully this visit can be combined with a visit to LED in Lichtenstein.

Money Business

Private funding covered the costs of travel expenses for Ane and Eva and partly accommodation at Lupane. LWC covered the costs for housing the weavers and partly the accommodation for Ane and Eva.

Ane and Eva worked voluntarily and paid for Opinel knives for each of the women involved in our groups and the Ndebele baskets to be used for moulds .

Eva and Ane has received part of the contribution from CKU and handed over US\$ 1930 to Hildegard to cover the costs of passports and visas.

When the participants are selected we will proceed to the ticketing as quickly as possible, to get the best rates.

Hildegard must announce the names so that Eva and Ane can follow up on that issue. Rotary has given us a contribution of US \$ 4000 which will help cover some of the costs in April. Ane has been notified of another US\$ 18.000, but must find out exactly where and how the money can be spent. Eva and Ane will apply for further funding and such hoping for a proper coverage of all costs concerning April and September.

Hildegard will look into how LWC can contribute. The fact that LED proposed a visit in Lichtenstein in connection with the visit in Denmark may influence the price of tickets. Ane and for exchange.

September 2015

We have all agreed to 7 participants including Hildegaard and Khaya from Lupane and Frances. Hildegaard will sort out with the women who will come.

Eva and Ane will try to find free dinners in Århus and Copenhagen and give away baskets from Lupane in return.

To avoid stomach issues we suggest the women each bring some melie meal and make sure we get a good starter every day.

Eva and Ane will try to get hold of warm clothes and foot wear. Once the group is assigned, please send us the shoe sizes.

The final planning of the content of the visit will follow, but we have discussed the possibility having a workshop for Danish weavers, where the Lupane women should have prepared samples for the participants to work on.

The women must also bring baskets for presents for sale and for exchange.

Conclusion

We thoroughly enjoyed our visit!

Everything went as planned, we were heartedly met by Hildegaard and Khaya in Bulawejo airport.

The weavers were ready and dedicated. They worked long hours and achieved a lot more confidence in the different weaving techniques.

We took film and photos and look forward to present new documentation of the course in September 2014, which we will bring in April.

We enjoyed driving round with Pieter and Elisabeth Attinger from LED to LWC members and see all the new assets from LWC, such as keyhole gardens, tomato – growing, poultry stock, goat keeping. We are impressed!

We are proud of the women having devoted themselves to the new techniques. We believe in the project even more now and look forward to our next gathering in April where Frances will be with us again!

September 2014-09-26

Ane Lyngsgaard and Eva Seidenfaden





Lots of different basketry techniques were going on at LWC in September:



Ndebele baskets, Tonga baskets, Nambia baskets, sisal mat weaving, burkina weave, laced baskets, and twined sisal baskets



The focus in Eva's group was on Burkina weave on wooden bases



We aimed to improve the rhythm of the weave as well as perfection of the borders.



Ane focused on laced baskets and twined sisal baskets with dye.



Borders were also here an important issue.



The position of hand, the rhythm of the weave, the quality control.



The spacing, the twisting, the pattern and the shaping and finally the glueing.









Remember:
Similar sizes in the laced baskets are important.
The washing out of exceeding color
Sanding the surface of the wooden bases.
Tying on the roots firmly on the borders.
Making sure the baskets can stand .





Ndebelebaskets finished and ready for sales.





Visit to KEYHOLE gardens.



Enjoying the daily prayer, dance, information and allocation of daily tasks.



Celebrating the 10 years of LWC



Some of the hardworking members of the LWC staff.



To aim for....



Hopefully we shall provide more original, outstanding, sculptural, baskets for lodges , institutions, organizations and collectors in the future!





Ingecebethu

basketry & design training II
at

Lupane Womens'Centre with Eva Seidenfaden & Ane Lyngsgaard