

Fall 2016

AFRIPEACE CONNECTION



NEWSLETTER

A Message from the President

It is my pleasure to thank our partners and donors for their continued support of the Afripeace Foundation. In 2016, we focused on careful deliberation and revision of our Bylaws; this also includes conflict of interest provisions and new efforts at board development. The Bylaws still reinforce the main mission of Afripeace: *“to promote US–Africa relations through peace education, conflict resolution, and cross–cultural exchanges,”* as a nonprofit organization, with the following key objectives.

1. Develop innovative programs that promote peace, education, and cross–cultural exchanges between African–US youth and professionals
2. Organize peace and community development–oriented visits to Africa

3. Promote educational linkages/collaborations between African-US secondary/high schools
4. Build a Constituency of Peace Ambassadors and Partners in US and Africa
5. Contribute to Peace Leadership Development and culture of peace initiatives.
6. Support allied organizations and partners in promoting peace, nonviolence and justice in Africa and her Diaspora.

Micaela's reflection below is a testimony to the real experience of the Afripeace mission of learning and acting to make a positive impact. I wish the same enlightening for future participants in our youth peace program.

I use this opportunity to welcome our new board members: Tamba Keifa, Nehesu Nag-Negus El, Sandra Quallo, and Carl Nuza. I thank each of them for their common interest in Afripeace and look forward to their contributions of talent, time, and/or treasure toward the further growth and development of Afripeace.

I also thank all who supported the 2nd Afripeace Benefit Dinner and Auction in October 2016, and look forward to your continued support in 2017 and beyond.

We are hopeful for the 3rd Explore Peace & Conflict Resolution in Nigeria in July 2017, and a successful recruitment for the Summer 2018 Youth Peace & Cultural Education Program in Ghana. As part of the development of the youth

peace program, we hope to host 2 youth participants from Africa (possibly Rwanda and Nigeria) in 2017, for exchanges with their peers and schools in the Sacramento area.

As always, your support is highly appreciated!

Peace,



Ernest Uwazie, Ph.D.

President/ Founder

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A CHANCE TO

Micaela

Six years ago I traveled to Rwanda for the first time with the Afripeace organization. I had just finished my freshman year of high school and had never been out of the country before, but I'd always wanted to visit Rwanda because of the special relationship my school has with our sister school in Rwanda. One of the amazing aspects of traveling with Afripeace was the fact that our trip wasn't just a month of travel and then it was over. My entire freshman year my fellow Afripeace students and I learned about the history of Rwanda while also fundraising for the trip. We read books and had discussions about Rwanda so we could be prepared, informed, and respectful

while traveling through an unfamiliar country. We came up with the fundraising on our own as a team and tried to educate our friends and personal communities about the history of Rwanda.

When we first got to Rwanda I remember feeling so excited and also nervous, not knowing exactly what to expect. I was so grateful to be experiencing this new place with my group leaders and fellow students who were feeling the same emotions I was. What was so startling was how welcomed I felt, something I hadn't necessarily expected because of the stereotypes that go along with being American visitors.

However, Afripeace prepared us to contradict those ugly stereotypes and to represent our home positively. We traveled the country for a month, staying in towns a week at a time and helping with service projects that were pre-planned. I was so grateful being able to visit my sister school and help put concrete floors in their classrooms and glass in the windows. In one town we worked with a local NGO that provides a home and rehabilitation center for homeless children. It was an amazing experience working with the children and creating relationships with them. On our lunch breaks we would play soccer together and even though we didn't speak the same language we still taught each other games and laughed with each other.

Afripeace allowed us to visit with high officials in the Rwandan government who taught us about the difficult history of the country, including the 1994 genocide. It was humbling visiting memorial sites where we read the stories of the victims and learned the importance of remembering the genocide in hopes that the horrors of it would prevent future atrocities.

We met with victims of the genocide who told us their stories and how they survived. I remember feeling so ashamed of the terrible ordeal they had to face and grateful to be able to hear their stories. These were some of the hardest times during the trip, and also the most rewarding.



Traveling through a foreign country isn't always easy and fun. There were times when I was uncomfortable and homesick. Having to communicate with people who didn't understand me was sometimes frustrating and being the minority was a new and **nerve-racking experience**.

However, these times helped me grow the most as a person. I think it's very important to step outside your comfort zone and feel what it's like to have trouble communicating with the people around you. It makes you realize how large and diverse our world is, and force you out of the bubble in which we sometimes find ourselves.

This is especially important for Americans as the subject of immigration and assimilation is so prevalent in our society today. I feel as though I gained so much more empathy for immigrants and anyone who is still struggling to fit in to society. The work I did with Afripeace allowed me to speak with so many people in my community who had never heard of Rwanda and enlighten them on the amazing people and friends I had made there.

Because of my trip I returned to Rwanda for a second time on my own, to teach music. I've traveled to many different countries since I was a freshman in high school, and hope to continue to learn of new cultures and teach those stories to the people in

my community. I am now a sophomore at Occidental College where I have taken many fascinating classes on diplomacy and world affairs, and even shared my experiences traveling in Africa. I'm thinking of majoring in history and hopefully continuing to teach in any capacity I can. Afripeace helped me discover the work I find extremely rewarding and important in my life and for that I am forever grateful.

The Memorial Library and Holocaust Educators Network

in collaboration with Afripeace Foundation

***"Crossing Lines"* Summer Satellite Seminar**

June 22 – 26, 2015

Facilitators:

Pam Bodnar, Chico Unified School District

Gail Desler, Elk Grove School District

This one-week seminar provided teachers with the content background needed to create safe spaces for exploring sensitive topics within the classroom, such as bullying, exclusion, and state-sanctioned forced removal and genocide. Through the lens of the Holocaust and the more recent "Secret War in Laos," participants examined the impact of "bystanders" and the power of "upstanders" to change the history of their communities and the world.

Goals of the seminar:

- ❖ Join like-minded colleagues to explore strategies for promoting resilience and social justice utilizing powerful primary and secondary sources
- ❖ Work with Holocaust survivors, Secret War witnesses, Japanese-American internees
- ❖ Collaborate on developing Common Core aligned lessons and activities
- ❖ Explore technology tools for taking student writing and voices beyond the walls of the classroom
- ❖ Receive primary source books and videos by local authors/presenters

Our amazing educators will promote peace, justice and social activism in their classrooms throughout California and beyond!



PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

2017 AFRIPEACE BENEFIT DINNER & AUCTION

October 21, 2017 | Edwards Plaza at Sacramento Country Day School | 6-9 p.m.

Please join us on Saturday, October 21 for an evening of wine, music, and Ethiopian cuisine with special guest **Mathilde Mukantabana, Rwandan Ambassador to the United States**. This year's dinner will take place at Sacramento Country Day School's Edwards Plaza. All proceeds will benefit our initiatives in peace education and cross-cultural engagement. Tickets will be available for purchase online at www.afripeace.org. Sign up for our mailing list to stay up-to-date with details regarding this event and more!

2018 YOUTH PEACE & CULTURAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

July 7-28, 2018 | Ghana, West Africa | Application deadline: September 1, 2017

Applications are now open for our 7th Youth Peace & Cultural Education Program. Open to 10-12th grade high school students, the program aims to promote youth leadership through global education and peace exchanges between American and African youth. Please visit **www.afripeace.org** for more information including program details, eligibility requirements, and testimonials & photos from previous trips.

AFRIPEACE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ernest Uwazie | 916-743-8373

We are looking to recruit prospects with interest or experience in event planning, social media, fundraising, and program development/marketing. To submit an application or find out more, please contact us at **afripeace@gmail.com**.

EXPLORE PEACE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN NIGERIA:

SUMMER 2017: JULY 15, 2017-July 28, 2017

Collaborating Partners: Center for African Peace & Conflict Resolution (CAPCR) and California Lawyers for the Arts (CLA)

Travel and learn about alternative dispute resolution, peacemaking, arts and culture in contemporary Nigeria with emphasis on peace making and conflict resolution by attending the 5th International PanAfrican Peace Conference on Restorative and Community Justice in Abuja.

Program Leader: Dr. Ernest Uwazie, Executive Director, Center for African Peace and Conflict Resolution, & Professor of Criminal Justice, California State University- Sacramento; Founder, Afripeace Foundation.

Trip registration: Ms. Sandra Quallo, Quallo World Travel (qualloworldtravel@gmail.com).

Your experience will include:

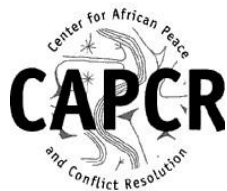
- ❖ Personalized interactions with government, nongovernmental, education, faith, youth, community leaders in Lagos, Ibadan, Owerri, and Abuja on peacebuilding, legal system, gangs & gun violence, etc.
- ❖ Visits to significant historical and cultural sites in Lagos and Abuja.
- ❖ Experience African village life/hospitality and indigenous dispute resolution by a chief.
- ❖ Observe the Multidoor Courthouse and Citizen mediation sessions.
- ❖ Experience school/youth peer mediation and peace clubs
- ❖ Exchanges with scholars and practitioners on peace education and restorative justice.
- ❖ Visit orphanage
- ❖ Visit and exchanges at the US embassy
- ❖ Relaxation at the Lagos Barbeach
- ❖ Exchanges with leaders and activists of the #BringBackOurGirls campaign.
- ❖ African Drumming—African Art—African Music—Museums—Markets—Shopping.

Cost: \$3,850 pp/ single or dbl. Occupancy—separate beds, or choice of Queen/King size bed.

What is included?

Thirteen nights' hotel accommodation including daily breakfasts ~Welcome dinners in Lagos, Owerri, Chief's (village) Palace, & Abuja Entrance fee to Peace Conference including two luncheons~ Entrance to two museums~ All local arrangements including transportation by air (Lagos-Owerri-Abuja) and local bus travels, plus tour guides~ Tips for bus driver & guide Program related coordination and administrative costs. **What you are responsible for:**

- ❖ R/T Transportation to Nigeria, Visa, Passport, Required vaccinations, Travel Insurance, Other meals and personal expenses.



More details: www.afripeace.org

Photos from last year's benefit dinner and auction



















AfriPeace Board of Directors

Ernest Uwazie, *President* | Pam Bodnar, *Vice President* |
Tamba Keifa, *Secretary*

Charlene Harris | Elena Bennett | Julius Austin | Nehesu
Nag-Negus El | Carl Nuza | Onyema Nkwocha | Sandra Quallo