



"[John and Salome] had only good things to say about the people they met, the reunions with old friends, and the hospitality extended by everyone."

–Lois Rimbo, treasurer of Friends of Mwangaza, of the team's October U.S. safari

A **big thank you** goes to all who provided meals, offered hospitality in their homes, gave time and space for events, and attended the presentations. We couldn't have done it without you!

John and Salome, back home in Arusha on October 22 with Management Team member Nemayan King'ori.

Are you ready to receive Mwangaza newsletter by e-mail? We are moving toward the digital frontier in the near future: getting news to you faster and saving money, so that more gifts can directly influence the education of our Tanzanian partners! **Please send your e-mail address to sarahgioe@yahoo.com to stay in touch.**



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Mwangaza Education for Partnership

An American safari

Reflections on John and Salome's amazing journey across our country

By Sarah Gioe

Hospitality abounded as John Kavishe and Salome Lally spread the word about Mwangaza this past October in church basements and sanctuaries, at worship services and forums, over breakfasts, lunches, and dinners, throughout ELCA conference rooms and synod offices.

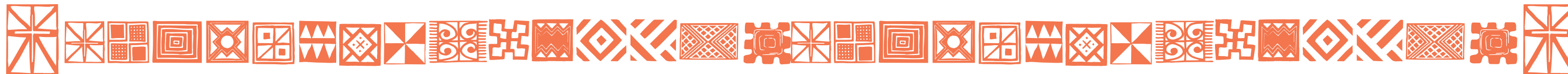
For the first time in a decade, John and Salome, the program directors on the ground in Arusha, were able to come to the United States and meet their supporters (you!) while learning more about American schools and congregations. John had visited the U.S. once before in 2004; Salome had never traveled outside of Tanzania.

It was a whirlwind tour, as the pair gave presentations about Mwangaza in Joliet, Chicago, and DeKalb, Illinois; Milwaukee and Madison, Wisconsin; St. Paul, Rochester, and Northfield, Minnesota; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and New York, New York. Friends of Mwangaza board members and gracious supporters volunteered to host, feed, and accompany them throughout their five-synod journey.

Our visitors shared the message of Mwangaza with hundreds of Americans. "The finest hour was when [John and Salome] gave their personal testimonials about their lives as teachers before and after experiencing Mwangaza," says Jim Unglaube, Friends of Mwangaza board chair. "Those statements clearly touched the hearts of listeners. Their own descriptions of the three Mwangaza programs stirred their audiences, and their responses to questions were thoughtful and informative."



From top: John and Salome in DeKalb with longtime volunteers Mike and Sharon Wadle; Pastor Peter Holmer introduces Salome during worship at St. John Lutheran Church in Joliet, IL; volunteer teachers reunite over dinner in St. Paul, MN.



An American safari, continued

Amidst the presentations to church groups, John and Salome had some special opportunities. Their time in Chicago was carefully timed around the meeting of the ELCA Conference of Bishops. John and Salome were able to have an audience with the bishops of nearly every companion synod that has a partner diocese in Tanzania. At the churchwide offices, good connections were made over lunch with Global Mission staff members.

In the Twin Cities, a Mwangaza presentation drew approximately 50 participants, including 13 volunteers from each of the teacher exchanges in 1996, 1998, 2001, and 2004. Former Friends of Mwangaza board chair Mary Jo Huelle prepared a light lunch of Tanzanian bites: finger bananas, samosas, queen cakes, ground nuts, and chai with cane sugar to honor the many morning chais enjoyed by Mwangaza volunteers. At another stop in Joliet, an impromptu concert began as former volunteers sang hymns together in Swahili.

In Philadelphia, John and Salome had the opportunity to spend a full day at a public middle- and high school with board member David Neale. "They addressed my classes, who were extremely inquisitive about the lessons taught in the Binti Mama program," says David. "The best part about the time with [John and Salome] was listening to all of their questions. They were so interested in how things work in our educational system—even at my son's daycare—that I could see the wheels turning as they tried to soak up as much information as they could."

Cultural highlights for our guests included sightseeing such as Millennium Park and the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, as well as taking in the Statue of Liberty, Fifth Avenue, Times Square, and a Broadway show in Manhattan. Outside of the cities, seeing the Mississippi River, the fall colors, and expansive Midwest farmland was a treat. John and Salome enjoyed visiting colleges (Carthage College, St. Olaf College, Arcadia University) in addition to seeing a technology magnet school in St. Paul and an English school serving adult immigrants in Minneapolis. "There

was an almost daily barrage of new things to digest," says Jim Unglaube.

"At each venue, we learned so much and met new supporters who are inspired with our vision," says Mwangaza founder Shoonie Hartwig. "It was remarkable."



From top: John and Salome in Philadelphia; Shoonie and Salome on the campus of St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN; Salome and John with Pastor Elise Brown at Advent Lutheran Church in New York, whose Mission Fund gave a \$20,000 grant in 2013.

Gaining new insights during summer seminar

By David Neale

In the summer of 2014, teams of four teachers from eight schools throughout Tanzania attended a seminar at the Mwangaza Centre.

There was a large contingent of mentors and volunteers there to assist with the seminar. Mike and Sharon Wadle were there for the tenth (and final) time to coordinate the volunteer activities and assist John and Salome. Michael Moshi, a science teacher from Kimandolu; Fredy Joseph, an English teacher from Ngateu; Boniface Assey, a history teacher from Nronga; and Emmanuel Saning'o, a math teacher from Enaboishu, all served as mentors for the second consecutive year.

Because each participating school was asked to send four teachers, we tried to do the same thing with the volunteers. Joining Mwangaza from the U.S. was a group from my high school, J.R. Masterman, in Philadelphia: Amy Cohen (history), Chris Taranta (math), Steven Vaughn-Lewis (science), and me (English). This is my third year volunteering at a Mwangaza seminar, and my friends were all making their first trip to Tanzania.

The week began with an introduction of people and of expectations. Two-thirds of the participants had attended a seminar the previous year, so there was a lot of knowledge in the seminar room. Most teachers are comfortable with sheltered instruction, but the Tanzanian facilitators and American volunteers reviewed and reinforced the materials from the Mwangaza Sheltered Instruction Resource Book.

As is the expectation of Mwangaza seminars, teachers from multiple regions, tribes, and religions all found common ground as they came together to learn techniques to improve their teaching and provide more opportunities for their students. Because so many teachers were returning, they



were able to share stories of success with teachers who were new to the program.

The Tanzanian teachers weren't the only ones who gained new insights into their teaching strategies. My American co-workers were amazed by the spirit and energy of the people at Mwangaza. The staff and management team repeatedly showed off their Tanzanian hospitality. While the work was exhausting, we American teachers finished the week with more understanding of how to work with students who aren't native English speakers, and we also learned from the example of watching our Tanzanian counterparts create remarkable plans with limited resources. Steven, the science teacher from our group, has already purchased a return ticket for the seminar in 2015, and the rest of us are finding ways to incorporate what we learned in Tanzania into our lessons back in Philadelphia.

Volunteer call!

Mwangaza invites volunteer secondary school teachers to join us during seminars in June/ July 2015. Contact volunteer coordinator David Neale at neale_home@yahoo.com.