

Volume 1,  
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# GOTABGAA



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Gotabgaa Members,



This is a New Year with new opportunities. We usher in the brand-new year with gratitude. 2016 was a remarkable year. We saw the new team take over the running of this organization. We saw a renewed vigor to make this organization a force to reckon with. I pray that this year will be filled with answered prayers, fulfilled wishes and tremendous growth both in our personal lives and in our community in general.

Gotabgaa is You and me. We should be ambassadors of our great organization and stand United as The Great Kalenjin Nation.

God bless you all.

**We Rise Together!**  
**Sincerely,**

Faith Langat-Korir  
President Gotabgaa International.

# INFORMATION DESK

## **BANK DETAILS:**

- Wells Fargo Bank Account: Routing # 091000019  
Account # 5231843045
- Cash app: \$gotabgaa
- PayPal: register@gotabgaa.org

## What's new?

**'Gotabgaa Family Foundation':** The Gotabgaa International Board of Directors appointed a committee to draft bylaws to be used to establish a Gotabgaa International entity that will cater to the benevolent needs of the Gotabgaa community (inclusive of bereavement and possibly hardship assistance, group insurance coverage etc among other benefits) . We are happy to report that that task was completed and the Board of Directors is in the final stages of reviewing all modalities related to approving and operationalizing it. Further updates will be provided in due course.

**Organization Status:** The processing of Gotabgaa International's 501(c)3 is almost complete. Updates to the membership will be provided in due course.

**GOTABMN Chapter Leaders** – Congratulations to Jeanette Boit-Kania and her team for being elected to lead the vibrant Gotab Minnesota Chapter for the next two years and will oversee the 2017 Gotabgaa Annual conference to be held in June.

Chairperson & Board Member - Jeanette Boit-Kania

Vice Chairperson - Kibet Kurgat

Secretary General - Johana Bett

Ast Sec. General - Zalfa jepngetich

Treasurer - Dismas Kerich

Ast Treasurer - Jimmy Koech

Organizing Secretary - Hellen Cheruiyot

Ast Org Secretary - Lilian Chesumbai

Chapter Rep & Board Member – Frank Murgor

Peter Kosgey - Chairman of the planning committee (Gotabgaa Conference MN 2017)

## Recent Events

(Pictorial images gathered from Gotabgaa Chapter Endeavors)

### Exchange Students from Uasin Gishu in Scottsdale, Arizona.

(courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Ole-Sabay)



**We** encourage relationships between our chapters and our local counties back home. We have several Sister-Cities that have seen exchanges that have benefited our communities back home. We recognize the efforts of those that are building these relationships and hope the partnerships formed will bring economic empowerment to our people back home.

### Women of our Times!

**The** strength of our community lies in the core structure- the Family Unit. Herein, the Mothers play a great role in making sure the family unit is protected. I honor all the women of our community: mothers, sisters, aunts and daughters. We celebrate the role you play in ensuring our Community is fended for.

**Below** is a group of KC ladies on a visit to support one of our sisters who needed some sisterly love. This also gave us a reason to catch up on some fun times. We laughed, cried, hugged and gave each other much needed sisterly advice.



The Love is real...the smiles tell it all!



The Women of Our Times! The Celebration of our culture is still deeply rooted in us.

**Above** is a local women's group dancing their hearts out to the tunes and sweet melodies of our Kalenjin songs. We must preserve this goodness and pass it on to our daughters!

*"Laleiyo! Oiyee wee lagok ap Kalenjin! Laleiyo!! Cheptab Muren!"*

*"Sere Gotab Kalenjin!"*

**When** one of us is in need, we are called upon to step right in. Home away from home, you have a brother and sister in us. We have the love to share and the resources to spare. The lessons from our parents are what keeps us together in our times of need.



**Here** is KCDallas crew represented by our very own Vice President Pastor Jonah Belyon and the vibrant KCDallas Iron lady, Beatrice Ruto. Mrs Janeth Ruto and the great people of Dallas, this is what a community is all about. Thank you for taking good care of our sister.

**MEDICAL MISSIONS** – courtesy of KCKC Chairman Joshua Mutai, Annalyne Mutai and their wonderful children! Kudos !!!





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GOTABGAA STAR ACHIEVER

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INTRODUCING OUR STAR of THE SEASON!!!

MATHEW LAGAT from KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI



### Geography Bee Champ!!

**My name is Mathew Lagat** and I'm 11 years old. I go to Indian Creek elementary and I'm a fifth grader. I work so hard in school to make sure I make good grades and maintain them because it is important for my future career. When I'm not doing my homework, or reading a book, I enjoy doing Khan Academy where I learn computer programming. I love playing soccer and I hope to sign up for a competitive league this spring.

I would like to grow and be an engineer and CEO of my own company. This summer I will start my business online to print T shirts. Thank you, Madam President, (Mama Olivia) for having me participate in your Gotabgaa newsletter. I'm future Gotabgaa.

[companymtplus@gmail.com](mailto:companymtplus@gmail.com)



@ Iowa Tech Summit

**CONGRATULATIONS MATHEW** for being our first **Star of the Season!!**  
Special mention to your Parents: Isaac and Joyce and your Siblings Martin  
(**New Geography Bee Champ**), Max and Madison.

## Ongoing Event

Gotabgaa International is currently engaged in an active membership drive. Paid membership registrations at the chapters and through the national office as of January 25th add up to about 220 members. Thank You for believing in Gotabgaa and for wanting to bring about positive change in Gotabgaa. We thank you for your interest, your active engagement and for your membership. We encourage every member to spread the word and bring new members to join Gotabgaa at the chapter level or through the National Office. When it comes to ideas or new programs that cater to the needs of the Gotabgaa Community, we can do more together and we are stronger together. At the end of the day, *We are One Big Family.*

\*\*\*\*\*END\*\*\*\*\*