



February 2, 2019

Bol and I felt like we were transported back to his homeland of Sudan Saturday night. The North and South Sudanese Student Association hosted the Sudanese Night at The Ohio State University. Sheer joy would best describe the celebration with his fellow Sudanese friends as they delighted in their beautiful culture as seen by the love for their homeland in the smiles, stunning garments, food, songs, and poetry. It was an amazing gift!

As I enjoyed the evening, I thought that this expresses what makes America so special. When we celebrate our diverse cultures all over our country, we come to appreciate how all of them add so much to our understanding of humanity. We must always cherish each other's cultures and appreciate how they enrich our society.



Mustafa Abubakr, President of North and South Sudanese Association, stands with Bol with the flags of Sudan and South Sudan in the background. During the evening we heard about the conflict still going on in those countries. They long for peace and are working to bring awareness to the situation. Our news media shares nothing of this. I heard from a South Sudanese recently who shared how 90% of his family is still in refugee camps. He longs for peace. I shared about this group at Ohio State and how they are demonstrating their unity in working together.

Last spring when Bol was speaking at Hastings Middle School, he met Mustafa and his mother. They came up to talk to Bol afterwards and told him how they were unaware of all the suffering that the Lost Boys had gone through. Their government never told the people. To see them all together seemed like a small miracle to me. We were thrilled to see them at the event and enjoyed recalling the friendship that started many months before.





Bol had a couple of students come up to meet him. They shared that they had heard him speak at their schools. It always nice to reconnect.



The large room was filled with friends, family, students and children. It was like a big family reunion-Sudanese style!



I saw a group of school children and went over to talk with them and their teacher. I discovered that the AZZA Sudanese School is a couple of minutes from my home in Dublin. The school is helping this young generation learn about their culture. It is a challenge for children who were born here and have not had the privilege to experience their homeland. This school is key in helping these children to honor and appreciate their culture.



Habiba Barra
"Dear Child of Immigrant Parents"



These girls draped in their Sudanese flag, gave a passionate reading about all that they cherish about their homeland and their wish for a brighter future for their country.

Poetry, Music & Friends





The Fashion Show

When one thinks of a fashion show you expect to see lovely ladies in gorgeous dresses. What I didn't expect to see were young men in their native garments who 'stole' the show with their enthusiastic 'performances'. I loved these outfits and wish I had a chance to see them up close to appreciate them more. They were beautiful!



Traditional Sudanese Wedding Ceremony

The evening ending with the entrance of many Sudanese dressed in their finest. It was depicting a wedding ceremony. Absolutely amazing!

