



**Hello!**

Winter chills it seems is a price we are all willing to pay as our dams creep above the 50% mark. Double the capacity of last year this time. Clanwilliam dam rose from 10 to 90% in a week. The little town of Witsand gets a solar powered desalination plan which will take care of all its water needs. Great news all round and a solemn reminder of how bad things can be in this world of climate change and unpredictable weather. Lesson learnt I say as a Capetonian still using 50 liters a day.

As I write this there is much anticipation for the Mandela Lecture to be delivered by Barrack Obama today. The lecture will focus on igniting "active citizenship" in his memory. It reminds me of the stern message we received from Trevor Manuel in February "organize don't agonise" which was amplified by Cheryl last month when she said that Senior Citizens and the youth are the most important people in any society. She called on us to give the youth a "sense of hope", to reset the moral compass in this country by calling out things like racism and corruption, getting involved in mentorship, playing a role in CPF's and SGB's and by voting! Quite a challenge and I left the meeting not just inspired by her but with many questions about the role I should be playing? What can I do? Where can I put up my hand and say "Tuma Mina"

Let's reflect this Mandela Month!

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**Public Meetings and Monthly talks.**

June is youth Month and we changed gear from having a young person to providing a platform to a "youthful" Cheryl Carolus who fly down from Johannesburg to present her talk on the challenges young people face. She took us back to the days of the struggle and the role young people played and left us with quite a few issues and challenges to ponder on as we travel the road to pulling back our country from the brink. The view that this will take 10 years was a somber one and somewhat of a wake up call. It was great to see so many people from other U3A's attending and her colleagues and comrades of old turn up for her talk.

July is Mandela Month and, in keeping with our tradition we will invite 3 of our members to share their life journey with us. Three people, three very different life journeys, and we get to meet with them at Athlone U3A. We are not saying who they are other than they have been activists in medicine, music and wine and the diva amongst them will delight us with some music at the end. We will also be handing over goodies for newborns to the Zoe Project, who do sterling work at the Grassy Park and Mannenberg Maternity units. I want to acknowledge outsiders i.e. Patti Lange, Charmaine and Una Mc Cleod and Sandra Abrahams for their amazing donations. Each of them has donated in excess of 30 teddies, beanies, blankets etc. Thank you in advance of your donations too!!

August will see us hosting Anthea Houston who will deal with the Social Housing issue, September is the turn of Dianne Case award winning local author who will talk to us on a Project she did with woman Prisoners in writing their stories ( we are extending woman's month) and then Blum Khan, financial guru and local boy, will end the year for us. And then we will party at our year end function!

**Outings and opportunities**

The unexpected invite to the Zeitz Museum lead to a group of almost 30 of us spending a delightful morning at the Museum with an amazing guide. The building is up for an international award, not surprising once you have visited. It is open for free visits on a Wednesday from 10:00 to 13:30. Believe me you cannot take in all the exhibits in one visit! This is a world class museum and we will try to organize another group visit.

We also have been allocated 80 complimentary tickets for the Table Mountain Cable car. We will be splitting the visit into 2 or 3 groups and save it for September.

RLABS have unfortunately informed us that Computer training will have to be delayed to September 4th and the application forms, curriculum information etc. will be available at the workshop on the 7<sup>th</sup> August. Please sign up with Denise.

In line with the "Cheryl challenge" and the Mandela Legacy of Active Citizenship I am sure that MOST of you will sign up for the Intergenerational Workshop we are participating in with RLabs on AUGUST 7<sup>TH</sup> from 11:00 to 14:00.