

# THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE PLETTENBERG BAY

## NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2018

### Greetings to all our Members...

And welcome to the last newsletter of 2018. Early as it may seem, we've come to the end of our U3A year. Through December and January, your committee will be taking a welcome break from programme planning and presenting. Yet we'd like to think that our members will miss the meetings and come back with new enthusiasm in February 2019.

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

I want to remind you that your U3A membership is due for renewal on 1 January 2019. The subscription for 2019 is R180 per member and you may pay this any time after 1 January but before the 31<sup>st</sup> March, either by electronic transfer to the U3A bank account, or in cash at any of our Monday and Wednesday meetings. A membership renewal form for you to complete is attached to this Newsletter.

### NOVEMBER PROGRAMME

And now, what does November have for us? First, on two Mondays we conclude the last of two popular series and then we have a clutch of speakers to enlighten and entertain you.

#### **Monday 5 November The Incredible Human Journey Part 5**

In this, the final episode, Dr Alice Roberts describes theories about how humans traversed from Asia to the Americas, asking how they achieved it during the Ice Age, when the route to North America was blocked by ice walls. She describes the traditional theory that the first Americans arrived through an ice-free corridor towards the end of the Ice Age 13,000 years ago. However, she then visits archaeological sites which show 14,000-year-old human remains, proving that humans must have arrived earlier by a different route. She shows the skull of the Luzia Woman, found in Brazil, which displays Australasian features rather than the East Asian features of modern Native Americans. Dr Alice leaves us with an interesting theory.

If you want to know more, contact Michael Lond (072 838 6949).

#### **Monday 12 November Egypt: Rediscovering a Lost World - Pyramid**

In the first six episodes we followed the story of three archaeological discoveries that enlightened Europe about the mysteries of ancient Egypt. Now in the last film, we will see a re-enactment – but a credible one – of how the pyramids may have been built. This hour-long film is followed by a short documentary on the making of the BBC film series, including amazing computer-generated graphics. For further information, contact Lynette Timme 044 535 9041.

### SPEAKERS

#### **Wednesday 7 November – Dr Mark Brown of Nature's Valley Trust**

Our very own bird man and one of our most popular speakers, Mark Brown will address us on a topic vitally and sadly, important. His talk is entitled **Plastic pollution in Paradise**. He will be presenting the results from several years of research that NVT has been doing, documenting types and sources of litter on our beaches in Plett. He will cover what is being done to reduce the impact this has, not only on the beaches and will tell us how we can all make a difference – a timely reminder as the holiday season will soon be upon us.

### **Wednesday 14: Irmela Kohlsdorf – Driving Dogs**

It is always special when one of our members offers to speak to us about a personal experience. Irmela Kohlsdorf says, “This year I had a most fantastic experience in the Arctic region – a 5-day dog sledding expedition to the east coast of Svalbard/Spitsbergen.” On further enquiry I found that she actually drove the sled herself – and is prepared to tell us all about it, together with her photographs of the adventure. Come and hear her.

### **Monday 19: Matthew Matthee – Money Matters**

Matthew’s topic is finance, something we hear much about – and often worry about as well. But a new view can be different and therefore enlightening. He will give an update on the current South African market, covering among other things the effects of the Zuma years, Brexit, the land question, education and Trump and the trade wars. The item I like best on his list is entitled “Bounce Back”! He will also be available to answer questions after the talk, so bring some brain-teasers and let’s see what answers he can provide.

### **Wednesday 21: David Hall-Green – The Entebbe Raid**

David of course needs no introduction at U3A – in fact, he usually is doing the introductions for our programmes. But how many folk know that David was a tour-guide for Rovos Rail? And has actually been to Entebbe several times? David will speak to us on the incredible Entebbe raid, which took place in June 1976. An Air France plane, flying from Tel Aviv to Paris, touched down in Athens, where it was boarded by a group of terrorists. After take-off they hijacked the plane and demanded the release of fifty-three prisoners belonging to movements related to the PLO. David will be telling us what happened next, including the most amazing ending to the story.

## **AND FINALLY**

### **Monday 26: The Royal Ballet and Ashton**

Earlier in the year we saw the Royal Ballet in several pieces by its founder choreographer, Sir Frederick Ashton. The style that he developed is still the hallmark of the Royal Ballet today. As Mark Monahan says, “Ashton is the wit who loves graveness, the romantic optimist drawn to tragedy, the storyteller who delights in abstraction. He is also the master of seraphic grace who, thanks to the combination of serene poise and formidable attention to detail required by his steps is devilishly difficult to perform. We will see *Marguerite and Armand*, Ashton’s encapsulation of the Dumas *filis* novel *La Dame aux Camélias*, about a Parisian courtesan, beautiful but fatally consumptive, who renounces her lover to save his reputation and then *Divertissements*, a selection of solos and pas de deux created for special occasions.

### **Wednesday 28 God’s Child**

As Christmas approaches, we end our U3A year with an appropriate art work from the series “The Private Life of a Masterpiece”. It is Paul Gauguin’s *God’s Child*. This is a very unusual work – the most remarkable feature of the painting being the way that it presents Mary. Traditionally, decorum prevented Mary from being depicted as if she had really gone through the experience of labour, but Gauguin’s Mary is clearly worn out from the process of giving birth.

### **FILM CLUB Monday 26 November**

*The title will be announced later.* The film will start at **19.00**. Wine will, as usual, be on sale. For further information, contact Brian Hardy on 072 201 7666.

## **REGULARS – Special Interest Group Meetings**

The **Mah Jong group** meets every Friday at 13.00. As always, prospective players are asked to contact Lyndsey Wright. Her phone number is 044 533 3528. Please remember to wear your U3A membership badge when coming to Mah Jong.

The **Italian Conversation Group** meets on Tuesdays, at the home of Brenda Hardy. Her phone number is 076 144 3352.

The **French Conversation Group** meets each Friday morning. For further information, please contact Merle Decot (044 533 5879).

The **Science Group** continues its meetings every fortnight. The November sessions will take place on Thursdays 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, but at the rate they are going they may well continue into December as well. Current discussions will cover house wiring, earth leakage and safety, power consumption of appliances and monthly billing. If you are interested, please contact Henry Timme on 07 88 77 5829.

## **LIBRARIES**

Though there will be no meetings in December and January, we remind you that the U3A has a very good library of **DVDs**, which are available to members. To cover costs, we suggest that members may like to contribute R10 per item. Please contact Ian Hogan on 083 261 5861 for a list and to arrange to borrow them.

In addition, the books that belonged to the no longer operating **U3A non-fiction book club** have now been donated to the FGV library and can be found behind the door on the left.

**Finally, the Committee joins me in wishing all our members a very happy Christmas and holiday season and a happy New Year.**

Lynette Timme  
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