



PRETORIA

Website: www.u3a.org.za

Email: u3apretoria@gmail.com

2 October 2017

Dear Member,

GENERAL MEETING

The 4th and last General Meeting of U3A Pretoria for 2017 will take place at

09:15 for 10:00 on Thursday 26 October at the
BROOKLYN METHODIST CHURCH, 209 MURRAY ST

Security guards will be on duty throughout the meeting.
The official business of the meeting, which will be held in the church
will be followed by a performance by the

SERENDIPITY STRING QUARTET

We are most appreciative that this delightful group of musicians has agreed to return to U3A to entertain our members with a new programme.

PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW AT MEETINGS IN THE METHODIST CHURCH

Doors will open at 09.00 for existing members to pay their 2017 subscription of R100. **New** members please fill in one of the forms available at the tables and then pay the **half-year subscription of R50**. Members are welcome to bring guests at a cost of **R30** each, to be paid at the registration tables.

N.B. Please do not pay your 2018 subscription at the October meeting as it complicates our 2017 year-end accounting procedures.

MEETING VENUE AND CHURCH SEATING

We are aware that some members find the pews uncomfortable. As there are only a limited number of cushions available at the church you are welcome to bring your own. The Brooklyn Methodist Church is very conveniently situated for our meetings but the actual church presents problems in terms of black-out for visual presentations. The hall is ideal for that purpose but can only seat about 220 people and can be hot in summer so we are still looking for a larger hall [**with blinds or other black-out**] in a central location with adequate parking. We ask all members to offer their suggestions for a suitable change of venue.

SECURITY

Our guards can patrol only Murray Street where any suspicious activity can still be seen at a distance. Please park as close as possible to adjacent cars so we can fit more cars into Murray Street in sight of the car guards.

PAYMENT METHODS

If possible, please pay **electronically by internet banking** (i.e. Electronic Funds Transfer, EFT), or by **direct deposit at a Nedbank branch** as this reduces the security risk posed by cash collected at the general meetings. The U3A account details are as follows:

- **BANK: NEDBANK**
- **BRANCH: HATFIELD**
- **BRANCH CODE: 160245**
- **ACCOUNT NAME: U3A PRETORIA**
- **ACCOUNT NO: 1602376972**

Please remember that all EFT payments and direct deposits must clearly state **YOUR name** as the **PAYER** to avoid misunderstandings. Please read the payment webpage or form carefully. If possible, depending on the space available, please also state what the payment is for under "Beneficiary's Reference" or "Payee's Reference", as the case may be: e.g. 2017 subs, JPO etc. Otherwise send a separate email to U3A to explain the payment as we sometimes receive deposits without any identification! Payment may be made at the quarterly meetings by cheque (**made payable to U3A Pretoria**) or in cash.

PROPOSED ADDITIONAL MEETING - SIM CARD FRAUD

We frequently hear horror stories of people being victims of SIM card fraud. A special, additional, meeting has been proposed for members who would like to know more about their risks, rights and recourse in this area. If you would like to attend such a meeting, please send an email to u3apretoria@gmail.com with the subject SIM FRAUD and you will be sent further details once these become available. Depending on the amount of interest shown, a meeting will possibly be scheduled either during November, or else early in 2018.

DATABASE UPDATE

We still have a number of members who have not yet paid their subscriptions for 2017. Please send an email to U3A if you are unsure of your current membership status. Note that only fully paid-up members may participate in U3A activities. Anyone who has still not paid membership fees after the October meeting will be taken off the mailing list.

NAME BADGES

Please remember to wear a name badge **at all U3A functions including excursions**. It can be of any design and does not have to be a U3A badge. As from 2018 we will be issuing free name badges to new members only. These can be ordered at the table just inside the church.

TEA AND SIGNING UP FOR ACTIVITIES

After the talk tea will be served in one of the halls where you can also add your name to course or interest/study group lists and meet course leaders. PLEASE BRING A DIARY or make use of one of the special slips on the tables to record your chosen activities as it is a fundamental principle of U3A that once you have requested to be part of an activity **this represents a firm commitment**. Many courses have long waiting lists so your failure to cancel in good time means another member is deprived of the opportunity to join that group. We cannot ask course leaders to be constantly telephoning members to remind them of dates of presentations, or to cater for participants who withdraw at the last minute for avoidable reasons.

COURSES AND STUDY / INTEREST GROUPS

Only registered U3A members may participate in courses, study and interest groups other than in exceptional circumstances where a guest fee of R30 per session will be charged from January 2018.

Please note that we will be increasing course fees to R20 per session in 2018. [R15 for tea, R5 U3A admin levy.] For the past 10 or more years our presenters have received R5 pp towards the cost of teas which does not even cover the cost of shop-bought biscuits. Interest and study groups will still be free to determine their own payment structure.

As we have had no offers to coordinate a Film Club we will re-introduce The Friday Film for the rest of this year. [New releases premiere at Brooklyn Nouveau on Fridays.] A suitable film will be selected for the group to view together, and members will be emailed critical reviews in advance which they are asked to read. An informal discussion can take place during lunch for those who wish to stay afterwards. The dates chosen will depend on the films on offer. If you wish to be placed on the information mailing list for this activity please send a return email to U3A with the subject The Friday Film.

As usual, U3A invites course leaders and interest group co-ordinators to a breakfast in November to thank them for offering their expertise to enrich members, as this is very much what U3A is actually about. This year the breakfast will take place on Tuesday 14 November at 9.30. Everyone concerned will be phoned and invited personally, but we ask you to save the date in the meantime.

If you are prepared to help in any way or can suggest topics for new study or interest groups please contact **Jenny Janisch** at davenjen@mweb.co.za, 012 460 8270 or 082 923 7982.

EMAIL AND CORRESPONDENCE

If you do not have an email address, could you please ask a member who does have one to contact you with interim information.

Although we do not allow the circulation, via our newsletters or email list or at meetings, of advertising material, information or requests not directly related to U3A activities, we will under certain circumstances promote cultural or educational events that are of benefit to our members, for instance the Brooklyn Theatre and Tuesday Forum programmes.

As from the start of 2018 you will receive ONE document with important general information e.g. banking details, course etiquette, committee contact details etc. We suggest you print and file a copy of this document

for easy reference. The information will also be available on our website and FaceBook page, and be given to new members. The quarterly newsletter will then focus on current events only.

EXCURSIONS

Please remember to state your name AND specify which excursion you are referring to when you pay bus fare by EFT or by direct deposit. **Please note that you are committed to the payment of the bus fare of R130 per person, plus R10 per car for the car guard, or to find a replacement unless you cancel BEFORE the payment date specified for the excursion.** Refunds are not possible as U3A subsidises most journeys from general funds, and the size **and cost** of the bus, booked in advance, is dependent on the number of participants. Refunding members also creates a considerable additional work load for our Treasurer.

JPO Concert Rehearsal at the Linder Auditorium. We have just received the JPO programme for October and November. The Wednesday concert rehearsals will be on **25 October, and 1, 8 and 15 November**. U3A is prepared to hire a bus for one or more of these excursions, providing that there are enough participants to cover the cost of the hire charge.

If you would like further information including details of the programme to be played on each date please send a return email with the subject **JPO**. It may also be possible to travel to the Linder in smaller groups using shared transport.

Excursions arranged for the rest of the year include the **Green/ Red Bus tour**. A list with details will be on display at the October meeting. The date will be finalised once we have an idea of how many members wish to participate in the November JPO programme.

LONGER EXCURSIONS

After a most enjoyable visit to see the Magoebaskloof azaleas in September, the one remaining Travel Club trip for 2017 is Hogsback and Hinterland, 17-27 October. The official deadline has passed but if you are interested please write urgently to hilarie@telkomsa.net.

DVDs

Two new DVDs have been added to our library: Joanna Lumley's series on **India** which has just been on DStv, and the BAFTA award-winning **Pompeii – The Last Day**. We lend DVDs to members at every meeting for a deposit of R50 per series, which is refundable only if the DVDs are returned no later than the next general meeting.

WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK

Our website is presently maintained, very kindly, by a Cape Town U3A member, with the basic, standard *look and feel* applicable to many of the local U3As. We would like to customise this to better suit our specific requirements. We call on any members with web-design skills, or an interest to expand their creativity and become involved in this area, to contact us at u3apretoria@gmail.com.

The quarterly newsletter, course lists and a registration form are available on our website and on our FaceBook Group page. Members are encouraged to use these resources and also to forward photographs or other suitable material related to U3A activities to us.

PROPOSED DATE OF THE FIRST GENERAL MEETING FOR 2018: Thursday 22 February