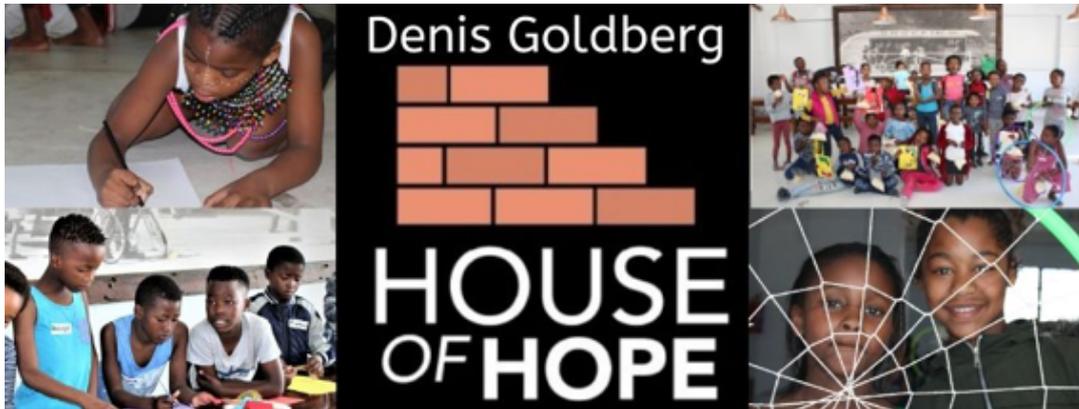


NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2019



DREAMCATCHERS, BIRDWATCHERS AND HAIR ARTISTS

While we wait to have our own Denis Goldberg House of Hope building in which to organise more regular activities, we continue to organise holiday programmes during each school holiday.

Life is harsh in areas such as Imizamo Yethu and Hangberg, and many parents face a daily struggle to provide the basics for their children. Through our holiday programmes, we aim to provide something extra – activities in which the children learn, are exposed to new ideas and experiences, and – most important of all – in which they have fun together in a safe environment. Each holiday we design a structured programme for which children register. Having the same children attend each day means that they get to know each other over the course of the programme, and one activity can build on another.

For the September holiday, our theme was Heritage, with the second day of the four-day programme coinciding with Heritage Day.

The programme offered to the 10-14 year olds from Hangberg and Imizamo Yethu was jam-packed. It included the dreamcatchers, birdwatchers and hair artists featured in the title of this article, alongside other activities.

On the Monday we provided each of our holiday programme attendees with a hula hoop, string, sea-shells, other decorations, and paper feathers on which they wrote where they were from, their favourite food and anything else they wanted to add. The children used these to make dreamcatchers which they took home when finished on the second day.

The hair artists featured in the “hair-itage” activity on the Wednesday. On that day, each child was given a coloured sheet of paper with an outline of a face in profile, and was asked to decorate it using wool, string and other materials, focussing in particular on the hair. Boys and girls participated equally enthusiastically in creating their different chosen styles.

As always, there was also song and dance in the holiday programme. On the Tuesday afternoon, the children were divided into groups, each of which created a dance routine, using their voices, bodies and empty cooldrink cans to create the rhythm and sound to which they danced. Children who are part of the Amoyo project contributed their special expertise for this activity.

On the Wednesday afternoon, we were joined by a team from the Cape Cultural Collective. The team organised the children – and facilitators – into a choir which, with great gusto, learnt three songs, some of them in three-part harmony. The natural musical talent on display was astounding, and we hope to continue the relationship with the Cape Cultural Collective.



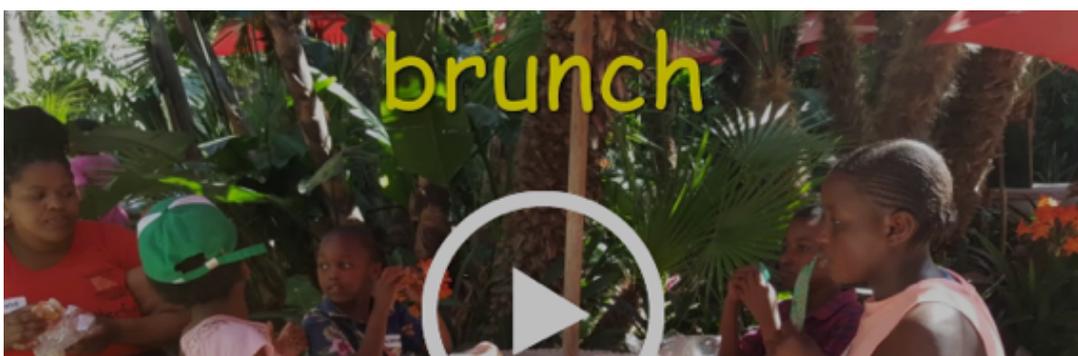


The birdwatching activity consisted of an outing to the renowned World of Birds, Africa's largest bird park, where Ray Lazarus and Ian Macun, experienced bird watchers, took the children on a tour and gave them a brief introduction to the marvels of the avian kingdom. Despite living in Hout Bay, very few of the children had previously visited the park.

A total of 31 children participated in a thoroughly well-planned and excitingly diverse holiday programme.

Special thanks are due to Rene Fahrenfort and Lana Julius, who were the lead facilitators for much of the programme; to Mansoor Jaffer and his team from the Cape Cultural Collective; to bird experts, Ray and Ian; and to Noma Matiwane and Kaylee Farmer who – as previously – assisted our own team in ensuring that everyone had a good time.

Thanks to Snoekies for the use of their hall on the Monday and Wednesday, as well as the usual delicious fish and chips, with the added delight of a Sinful ice-cream cone for each child on the Wednesday. Thanks to Harvest Project for allowing us to use their premises on the Tuesday, when Snoekies hall was packed with the extra crowds who flock there on public holidays and weekends.





World of Birds outing

OUR FIRST BOOK-SHARING COURSE

In April, Lavinia Staddon, our programme assistant, attended the 4-day Mikhulu Trust course on facilitation of book-sharing. Over eight weeks in September and October, Lavinia successfully implemented the programme with a group of parents (and their children) recruited through the local Hout Bay ECD forum.

The weekly sessions were held on Saturday mornings. Each week the parents were introduced to a new (mainly wordless) picture book, a new set of techniques, and how to adapt each technique for the developmental stage of their own child. Parents were given a book to take home and a take-home card summarising the techniques covered, and encouraged to book-share for 10 minutes every day with their child.

Book-sharing is essentially about parents engaging children actively with a book, following the child's interests, having fun together and supporting the child's thinking and curiosity. This type of interaction contributes to a wide range of developmental opportunities for young children. For example, pointing and naming facilitates the development of the child's language; explaining more about the things a child is interested in develops their understanding; and talking with the child about feelings, intentions and perspectives builds important socio-emotional skills. More generally, by promoting interaction and conversation about what the child sees, the child's brain is stimulated more than if they simply listen without engaging with the story.

The Mikhulu approach teaches parents how to achieve these benefits in a way that is fun and enjoyable for both parent and child. It also helps parents recognise the different developmental steps that their child has taken or needs to take.

The course ended with a celebratory eighth session in which the mothers and children enjoyed cupcakes and balloons and the mothers were presented with

certificates of attendance. In addition, Mikhulu gave those who had attended regularly two books to keep. All the mothers said that they would miss the weekly sessions and the friendships they had formed. They agreed that they would like to get together on a monthly basis to maintain the friendships and sharing.

The Hout Bay library kindly allowed us to use their space for seven of the eight sessions, while the Hout Bay Methodist Church let us use their hall on the remaining Saturday. Special thanks are due to Margaret Manore of Imizamo Yethu, who entertained the children while the mothers learnt the new techniques, and to Tanya Blacher for donating a bag of toys which kept the children entertained. Finally, none of this would have been possible without the support of Mikhulu Trust – and in particular to Puseletso Mofokeng, who met with Lavinia prior to the programme, and attended the first and last sessions.

We will be running further book-sharing programmes in 2020. If you have a child between the ages of 12 months and five years and are interested in participating, please contact Lavinia on dglftrust@gmail.com or 061-8855430.



Book-sharing programme

The Third World in World War II exhibition

Sunday 6 October saw the opening of the Third World in World War II (3www2) exhibition at its newest venue – the Old Granary building in District Six. The building now houses the [Desmond and Leah Tutu Foundation](#). We are

delighted and proud that we have this first collaboration with them in their new building.

The exhibition was developed by Recherche International in Germany. It is based on years of research that highlighted the contribution, sacrifice and suffering borne by people of colonised nations outside of Europe.

Denis Goldberg asked that the exhibition be translated into English after seeing it in Germany. He also contributed to a special focus on South Africa. He felt strongly that South Africans must not forget that about a third of the approximately 300 000 South Africans who served as soldiers in World War II, about a third were black. These soldiers fought and died to defeat the racism of Nazi Germany. Yet just three years after the end of the war, they saw their own oppression increase with the election victory of the National Party in 1948.

The exhibition tells stories that are seldom found in history books in South Africa and elsewhere. Even Prof Bill Nasson, a South African expert on the topic, said that he had learnt new things from the exhibition.

The exhibition will be on display at the Old Granary until the end of the year. Entrance is free. The exhibition can be easily linked to the school syllabus, for example for Grade 11 learners and for higher grades of primary school. Teachers who want to organise a structured outing, can find student workbooks and teacher guides on the exhibition web-site, www.3www2.de, at the English tab.

We hope that parents, teachers and others will take themselves and children to learn about the “Forgotten Liberators”.



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Stichwort: Denis Goldberg Stiftung

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