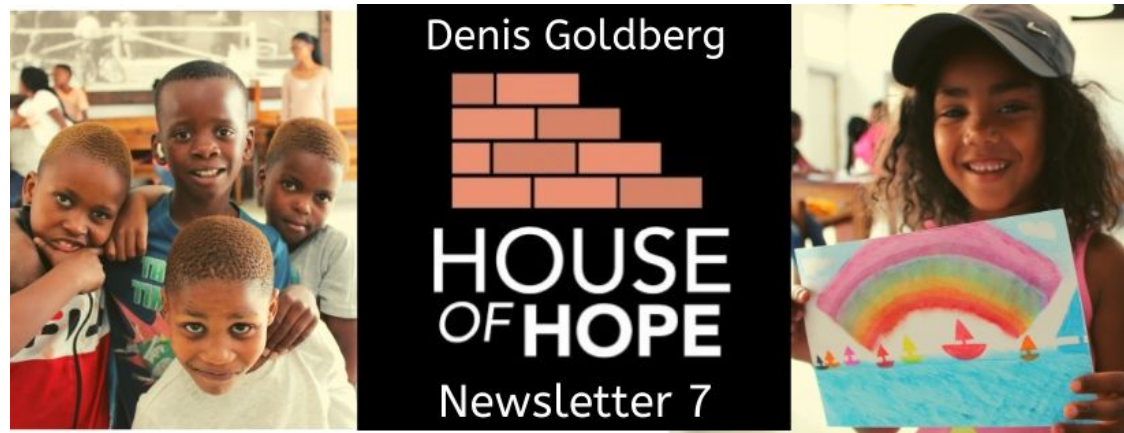


# NEWSLETTER ISSUE 7

March 2020

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## A TENT FILLED WITH MUSIC, SONG, DANCE AND STORY-TELLING

The isiXhosa word “ukufikelela” means to reach out. That is something the Denis Goldberg Legacy Foundation Trust did in a very moving manner with the concert held on the evening of Thursday 13 February.

That night saw the Hout Bay Museum grounds fill up with people meeting, chatting over delicious akhni biryani, and then sitting spell-bound listening, watching and experiencing the magic of our Ukufikelela concert.

The evening was the culmination of months of planning and effort by the extraordinary team which put the concert together. The final week was filled with last-minute

preparations. Each day of that week our choreographer, Jessica Nupen, worked with 15-year old Erita Chen from Hong Kong, and our amazing local Jazzart trainees, Rian Jansen and Abigail Overmeyer. They worked together to create dance and movements to the music specially choreographed by Cape Town-based Matthijs van Dijk. The young musicians from the Cape Town Philharmonic Youth Orchestra and Stellenbosch University came together several times to practise playing the score. The Ingoma Choir and young girls and boys from Hout Bay's Amoyo Performing Arts Centre worked hard at their numbers. Penny whistler Big Jack Lerole Jnr flew in on the Tuesday to join in the preparations.

Zanele Ndlovu both entertained the audience with her playing of the ukhwenyama (love-bow) and acted as story teller for the concert. We took advantage of her presence in Hout Bay to organise one-hour morning sessions at five pre-schools – in Imizamo Yethu, Hangberg, and alongside the Museum. It was not clear who enjoyed the sessions most – the children, Zanele, the children's "teachers", or those of us who accompanied Zanele!

We invited young people from Hout Bay secondary schools and partner organisations to attend Thursday afternoon's rehearsal. The specially tailored programme included Amoyo's piece showcasing different types of dancing, Big Jack Jnr on the penny whistle – with opportunities for members of the young audience to try out the instrument – and the main "The Body" piece. The latter brought together orchestral music, Zanele's story-telling and love-bow, and the three young dancers. The magnificent Ingoma choir joined in for the finale.

Special thanks to our old friend, Gareth Lubbe, who initiated the idea of the concert, found the artists, pulled it all together, and acted as both master of ceremonies and performer at the event. Big thanks are also due to Merle Brown and the staff of the Museum under Jonty Dreyer's leadership for the way they worked in the background to ensure everything proceeded smoothly.

The concert offered a foretaste of the joy and creativity we hope to see from the soon-to-be constructed Denis Goldberg House of Hope.

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## LEARNING TO TEACH ART THROUGH DOING ART





On the Wednesday of the same week as the concert we hosted the first of two full-day workshop sessions for teachers responsible for art education at local schools and organisations. In these sessions the teachers were introduced to the *Imbali Artbook: Adventuring into Art* series. We were fortunate to have as our facilitator Ruth Sack, the primary author and designer of the series.

The eight Artbooks that make up the set – each about 70 pages – are crammed full of photos of works of art, most of which were produced by South African artists. The Artbooks guide teachers on how they can structure sessions so that young people discover art by looking, thinking and discussing, making and doing, exploring different materials, and expressing visual ideas of their own. Each Artbook suggests activities that do not require expensive materials – and so should be possible for all schools.

Ruth's approach was very different from the standard chalk-and-talk approach which is



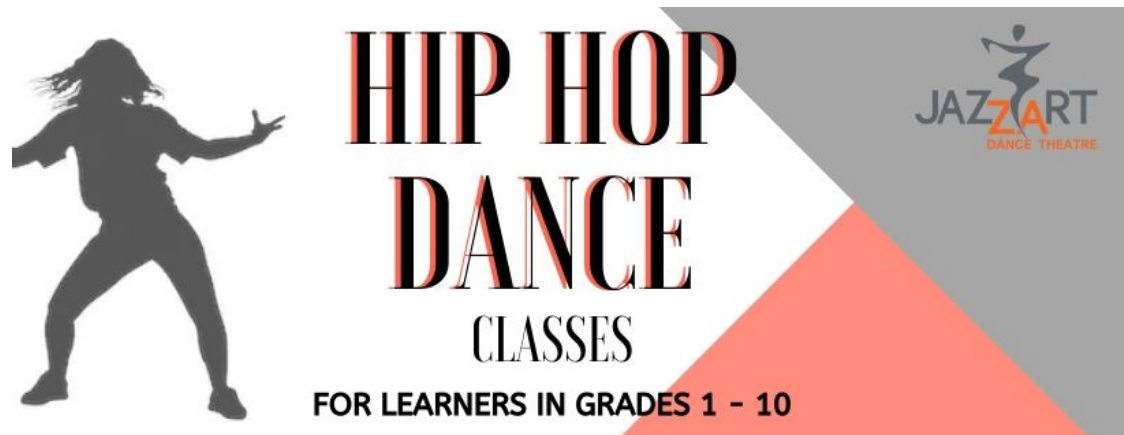
found in many teaching situations. Instead, participants themselves engaged in art-making. For example, on the first Wednesday one of the activities involved exploring how to make “marks” on paper using “brushes” made from natural materials. On the second Wednesday each participant made a doll that had meaning for themselves from a used plastic cooldrink bottle and other materials. They did this after learning about dolls that have various meanings in different cultures. After each activity, the group discussed whether and how they could use what they had done and learnt in their own classrooms.

Snoekies kindly offered their venue and discounted fish and chips for the workshops. At the end of the second day, we provided a set of the Imbali Artbooks for each public school that participated. We now look forward to seeing the art produced by the young people who are taught by our participants during 2020 and beyond.



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**HIP HOP IS HAPPENING!!**



On Saturday 8 February Jazzart came to the Kronendal primary school hall to demonstrate the wonders of hip hop, and to introduce the hip hop teacher – Liam. Our old friend, loadshedding, tried to disrupt the proceedings, but it takes more than an energy crisis to prevent the Denis Goldberg Legacy Foundation Trust from spreading light and joy.

We organised an alternative sound system, and the Jazzart dancers performed on the floor of the hall rather than on the dark stage. In addition to the group performances, Liam demonstrated his skills, and had us all open-mouthed at the antics his elastic body gets up to. There is certainly something to aspire to!

The classes started the following Saturday, 15 February. There are two classes – the first class from 09h30 to 10h30 for children in grades 1 to 4, followed by a class for older children from 10h30 to 12h00. When the number of children increases as word gets out as to what is on offer, we will be happy to add a third class.

We are very grateful to Kronendal for agreeing to lease us the hall for the classes – and for Mainstream Mall for providing an alternative venue on Saturday 29 February when the school has its own event in the hall.

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Donate to the Denis Goldberg House of Hope

If you are donating from **outside South Africa** you may find it convenient to send your donation by credit card to our **UK website GoFundMe**.

*GoFundMe*

**If you wish to donate directly:**

**Denis Goldberg Legacy Foundation Trust**

**Nedbank**

**Account Number: 1146197411**

**Branch Code/Sort Code: 167609**

**SWIFT Code: NEDSZAJJ**

If donations are paid into our bank account in cash or via EFT please send your name, the amount, and date to [dglftrust@gmail.com](mailto:dglftrust@gmail.com).

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# #lifeiswonderful

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