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# Denis Goldberg House of Hope

## Newsletter no. 11

### February 2021



If you drive up St Anthony's Road, Hout Bay you will see, on the left-hand side, a new and almost completed building, white and gleaming and pristine. You will see the normal bustle of construction workers – plumbers and electricians and painters – going about their business, doing whatever it is they do.

But this is no ordinary construction site. This is the Denis Goldberg House of Hope, the culmination of a key stage in the work and dreams of the late Denis Goldberg and the Trust which he set up. As from April 2021 – the expected

completion date – this will be a centre of art, education, learning and culture, a place where projects are run to empower the young people of Hout Bay, and surrounding neighbourhoods.

To achieve this, the architect, Jo Noero, has designed small and large spaces connected by covered walkways open to the site on all sides. In this way the building spaces breathe out and take in views of the site. The largest space will accommodate the exhibition of Denis Goldberg's life, his art collection and a teaching space. It is an open area in which all these functions can happen simultaneously. This mixing of the activities together in one space will serve as a living symbol of Denis's faith in arts and education as a fundamental element in youth development.. In this non-hierarchical space, visitors to the gallery and museum will rub shoulders with children from the wider Hout Bay area taking part in art, dance, and music sessions within the same space.

This central space in turn opens out through large sliding doors to an outside space with tiered seating on the one side and a small stage on the other. This enables the inside area to double in size and will easily accommodate large audiences for concerts and other such activities.

The building's finishes are simple, painted white with splashes of colour to highlight entrances and other important thresholds. The construction is straightforward, the materials used are basic, reflecting Denis's training as an engineer and his abhorrence of pretense in both life and building works.

We are sure that the building represents, and will in future represent, Denis Goldberg's values. It will live as a testament to his wonderful life.



## **Introducing everyone to the physical Denis Goldberg House of Hope**

As the building neared completion in late 2020, we began making plans for the official launch. We planned it for April 2021. This will be the first anniversary of Denis's death and would also have been his 88<sup>th</sup> birthday.

We looked forward, in particular, to introducing the building to many of the Hout Bay residents whose children will be the primary beneficiaries of our activities, but who themselves might enjoy viewing Denis's art exhibition and our exhibition on Denis's life and contribution. We hoped that Denis's UK-based family could join us for the event.

Then the COVID second wave struck, with our especially fast-spreading local variant. We are, thankfully, emerging from the worst of the second wave. But the rollout of vaccinations has only just begun in South Africa. And we certainly don't want our launch to be remembered as a super-spreader event.

So we have postponed the larger official launch, but will not delay in introducing the building to local people in particular. We will do this through sessions with different categories of people, organisations and institutions who can both view the building and discuss with us how we can collaborate to ensure that the new building is well used. The categories include teachers, young people's organisations, other NGOs, tourism initiatives, other arts and culture initiatives ..... and MORE.

Do contact us, at [dghoh@goldberghouseofhope.co.za](mailto:dghoh@goldberghouseofhope.co.za), if you have ideas about how YOU could use the building.

## **Despite COVID...**

Other parts of this newsletter indicate that we have not been idle during the period when the COVID pandemic has so severely affected almost all our daily and work activities. In particular, the Denis Goldberg House of Hope building is a product of this period.

However, our main purpose is to provide arts and culture education activities for the children and youth of Hout Bay. The building is a means to that end, but not an end in itself. So we tried to find activities we could do despite COVID.

In an earlier newsletter we wrote about the weekly art packs we distributed to 60 children in Hangberg and Imizamo Yethu over the most severe period of lockdown in South Africa. Mid-year and in December we succeeded in

organising COVID-compliant pottery courses for secondary school learners together with Earthworx Social Pottery. And weekly hip-hop classes with Jazzart's dynamic teachers took place in Mainstream Mall's outdoor auditorium while schools were open.

We also managed to complete Mikhulu Trust's weekly book-sharing course for parents of children of pre-school age. Thank you to Mikhulu for providing a book-pack to reward all those who completed!

For December we had planned a three-day holiday programme for younger children. We had also bought tickets for Zip-Zap Circus's year-end performance for the children who had attended hip-hop classes. Both of these had to be cancelled at the last minute when the severity of the COVID second wave became apparent.

As a next-best option, we prepared art-music-dance packs for each of the children who had signed up to attend the holiday programme. The packs contained the materials and instructions for different arts and craft activities. For music, we gave materials and instructions on to make a kazoo which the child could then play. For dance, the instructions explained how to use the long ribbon we provided for ribbon dancing. Thanks are due to Rene, Lana, Roxy and Jen who assisted us in different ways. Meanwhile Zip-Zap has kindly agreed to organise a special session for the hip-hop children when restrictions ease.

Since schools opened in mid-February we have re-started the Saturday hip-hop classes with Jazzart. But, like everyone else, we are impatiently waiting for a time when we are free to do much more yet stay safe!





## Donate to The Denis Goldberg House of Hope

*With the Denis Goldberg House of Hope physically in place, we will have some new expenses, including utilities, security, maintenance and the like, alongside expenses to cover the cost of activities for children and youth. We hope that you will continue to support us as we move into the next stage of taking forward Denis's dream.*

**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

#### **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)

All donations made to the DGLFT are exempt from donations tax and qualify for deductions from taxable income in accordance with the Income Tax Act (58 of 1962). If you make a donation, please let us know at [dglftrust@gmail.com](mailto:dglftrust@gmail.com) if you would like us to send you a Section 18A tax certificate enabling you to claim a tax benefit from personal or corporate taxable income.

*If you donate before end February, you will still have the opportunity to use the tax benefit for the 2020/1 tax year!*

German donors who would like a tax certificate in respect of their donation should please contact us at [dglftrust@gmail.com](mailto:dglftrust@gmail.com) before they make their donation.



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