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Denis Goldberg



Denis Goldberg House of Hope

Newsletter no. 26

November 2024

BOOKSHARING REMAINS POPULAR

During September/October our coordinator, Lavinia, and Pretty Tombo facilitated the ninth booksharing course for parents and caregivers of children aged 12 months to five years.

Pretty participated as a caregiver in one of our first programmes, and subsequently attended Mikhulu's facilitator training course. Now, in 2024, she is an experienced facilitator.

Book-sharing is different to book reading – it is about the caregiver using the pictures in the book, rather than words, to share an enjoyable experience with the child. The activity plants the seeds for the children to become life-long readers. The interactive approach also strengthens the bonds between caregiver and child.

The DGHOH has implemented Mikhulu Trust's booksharing programme since 2019. The participating caregivers meet once a week for a two-hour session over a period of eight weeks. Each week the facilitators use a different wordless picture book and introduce new techniques to engage with children arounds books.

The most recent group of caregivers was very excited by their new skills as well as the new friendships with their fellow participants caregivers. They attended regularly, even though the sessions came at the end of long workdays. They shared videos of themselves sharing books with their children between sessions, and, when the course ended, expressed their sadness that there would be no further sessions.





SCIENCEMAKESART – OUR EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAMME

Earlier this year we reported on the launch of our monthly ScienceMakesArt programme – a partnership between ourselves and the Cape Town Science Centre. The programme is “experimental” in two ways. Firstly, each session includes scientific experiments on the chosen topic. Secondly, the programme itself is experimental as it is a new idea to bring science and art together in a single programme.

Since we started we have had five sessions. The topics covered include visual effects, floating, telescopes, mirrors, weather, and electricity. During the sessions the children have made boats out of different materials, thaumatropes, telescopes, periscopes, solar ovens, and more. They have learnt how to draw patterns that create optical illusions, and have converted cloud shapes into fantastical images. Meanwhile we, as DGHOH staff, have learnt how to use often-simple materials to demonstrate the magic of science.

Thank you to the Science Centre for supporting us with this programme, including loaning us equipment where necessary. Special thanks to the Centre’s Jane-Claire, who comes up with suggestions for experiments related to each new scientific topic we want to focus on. Thank you to Dario for providing the pizza boxes which we

to turn to focus on. Thank you so much for providing the pizza boxes which we turned into solar ovens!



LEARNING CODING WITH SCRATCH

Earlier this year we hosted a large group of fourth-year students from the University of Cape Town's Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment. The visit was in some ways a follow-on from Denis's visit, shortly before he died, to speak to the Engineering students of that time. The fact that Denis was an undergraduate Engineering student at their university, and that he was recruited into Mkhonto we Sizwe on the basis of his engineering skills, made the visit especially meaningful to many of these students.

During the September school holidays, five of the Engineering students facilitated a coding course for high school learners. Over two hours for three days running, the learners were introduced to SCRATCH, a wonderful visual, interactive coding programme developed specially for children by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The UCT students started to develop the course months before the course. They worked in close consultation with us to develop a course that would be appropriate for the children we planned to invite. The skill and care with which the UCT students developed and delivered the course resulted in only one learner dropping out. This is an unusually low number for a course that was challenging and required concentration and dedication during the holiday period.

As an added bonus, one of the UCT students returned a few weeks later for a two-hour mentored further practice session.

So a big thank you to Sifiso, Thomas, Tshepo, Thabo and Katlego, for designing and delivering the course, and to Alison for introducing the students to the DGHOH. The UCT students will move on into their careers. But they have left the DGHOH with the curriculum, presentations and other materials needed to run a further SCRATCH course.





YEAR-END ACTIVITIES

We are currently in the middle of a series of end-of-year activities. These started with the children from our regular circus and music sessions attending Zip Zap Circus School's show 'n tell. We hope that this visit both inspired them and showed them what is possible as they prepare for our own DGHOH show 'n tell. The latter, to be held nearer the end of term, will feature performances by children from our circus, music, and hip hop sessions.

The high school learners who attend our Wednesday sessions will see *Le Chat Pelerin* at Theatre Arts in Observatory.

British writer, Sara Stanley, will be the guest facilitator at one of our Reading with Chloe sessions. Sara will use the session to introduce her new award-winning *One-Button and the Sea*.

Finally, we will round off the year with one of our three-day holiday programmes. We have chosen Alice in Wonderland as an appropriate theme to celebrate the end of the year in a fantastical way. The programme will include a visit to the Cape Town Science Centre to see some of the wonders there!

A TIME OF GIVING

Year-end is traditionally a time of looking back on the good and bad of the past year, and looking forward to a better new year. Year-end is also a season of giving and sharing. All the activities we offer to the children and youth of Hout Bay are offered at no cost to the young people and their children. Instead, we rely on donations to cover our costs. We hope that some of you, our readers, will dig into your pockets (or bank accounts) to help us to continue taking Denis Goldberg's Legacy forward.

We welcome all donations, big and small. We extend especial thanks to supporters who have organised stop orders for regular monthly payments to the DGHOH.

DO YOU WANT TO USE OUR BEAUTIFUL SPACE?

Please do contact us on dglftrust@gmail.com or 061-8855430 to make a booking or find out more.

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

US-based donors can donate through Omprakash. **UK-based donors** can also contact Omprakash about how to make a donation that is eligible for Gift Aid.

OMPRAKASH

If you wish to donate directly, our bank account details are:

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 Please let us know if you would like us to send you a section 18A tax certificate.



We are delighted, grateful and proud to be among the many organisations that currently benefit from funding from the National Lotteries Commission (NLC) towards our operating costs.

The NLC relies on funds from the proceeds of the National Lottery. The Lotteries Act guides the way in which NLC funding may be allocated. The NLC wants the grants to make a difference to the lives of all South Africans, especially those more vulnerable and to improve the sustainability of the beneficiary organisations. Available funds are distributed to registered and qualifying non-profit organisations in the fields of charities; arts, culture and national heritage; and sport and recreation. By placing its emphasis on areas of greatest need and potential, the NLC contributes to South Africa's development.

• **#lifeiswonderful**



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