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Denis Goldberg



**Denis Goldberg House of Hope**

**Newsletter no. 31**

**February 2026**

**2025 ENDED ON A HIGH**

The DGHOH ended 2025 on a high note. In addition to the holiday programme described below, we had two performances before schools closed.

The first was a half-hour circus performance which DGHOH children performed for all the learners and staff at Kronendal Primary, the school across the road from the DGHOH. For some of the DGHOH children, it was the first time to perform on a stage. After a shaky final rehearsal, the actual performance was magnificent. The audience added to the occasion with cheers, clapping, singing along and shouts of encouragement.

A few days later 57 children performed in our annual Show 'n Tell. There were five different pieces - circus, music, drama, guitar, and hip hop. We were very proud of both the performers and our facilitators.



## **GROWING**

The topic for the December 2025 programme was “Growing”. We interpreted this broadly. The programme thus included activities related to how the children had grown physically and in other ways over the course of 2025, growing beans in wet cottonwool, growing crystals, making various craft objects that seemed to “grow” in different ways, and learning about the Indian boy, and then man, who grew a forest. Plus more to fill the three packed days.

Our choice of “Growing” as the topic was inspired by Astrid von Kotze agreeing to facilitate an afternoon session on “potato puppets”. At the start of the session, Astrid performed a puppet show with a selection of puppets that she had made with fruit and vegetables. The children then made their own puppets with fruit and vegetables selected from what Astrid brought along with her. (Some of the grapes “disappeared” over the period that the children were making their puppets.)

Each group then produced and performed a play for their peers. The last play ended in hilarity when the puppets started bashing each other, resulting in various body parts falling or flying off.

Big thanks to Astrid, to Bev who facilitated a growing-themed movement session, to Massimos, Snoekies and Dario's for assisting with lunches, and to our trusty transporter Gio.



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## 2026 STARTS WITH ANOTHER HIGH

South African children returned to school on 14 January after many weeks of holiday. The following weeks were extremely busy, and sometimes a bit chaotic, at the DGHOH.

The first session of the year was circus, and more than 40 children arrived. Some of the children were those who participated in 2025. Others were new ones who had seen our posters or heard about the DGHOH from friends. We welcomed them all, in line with our rule that a child can participate in up to two “test” sessions of an activity before committing. But then, if they want to continue, they must bring us an indemnity form signed by their parent or guardian.

The large numbers continued, with the highest being 63 children at the second circus session. We were delighted at the children's interest, but we cannot provide a quality session to more than about 30 children at a time. So we have now started controlling numbers with the indemnity forms and - where necessary - a waiting list. We also restrict each child to two of the weekly activities, so as to offer opportunities to as many children as possible.

Thanks are due to our facilitators for their creativity and skill in dealing with the over-large numbers, and for their patience while we and the children settle down. Thanks are also due to Gio Zeederberg, our main driver, who has had to make extra trips and now, as children commit, distinguish those children who should be transported and those who should not.

# VISITORS FROM IOWA

The excitement of our first week of activities was heightened by the visit of two professors and 12 students from Luther College in Iowa, USA. The professors, Martin Klammer and Jill Wilson, had visited in mid-2025. During that visit we discussed the possibility of their visiting and engaging with the children. (Those interested in struggle histories may recognise Martin Klammer as the person who assisted Blanche La Guma with her memoir, "In the Dark with my Dress on Fire".)

On the Wednesday, our Iowa visitors - with Jill in the lead - facilitated our first Hout Bay Hoppers session of 2026 for the high school learners. On the Thursday Jill led the team in facilitating our first group music session. Both days there were getting-to-know-you discussions, music, games, and more. For example, the high school learners developed lyrics for a song that they then learnt to play on recorders, boomwhackers and guitars.

On the Saturday morning, our visitors participated in a hip hop session, where our facilitator Bev taught them a sequence alongside the Hout Bay children. They made a good effort, but in so doing would have realised the extent of the skill that the DGHOH children have developed through the hip hop sessions.



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## DENIS GOLDBERG: SENTENCED WITH MANDELA

During January, eTV had several screenings of Marion Edmunds' 2011 movie about Denis. The screenings reminded us about the movie, and we took advantage of the Luther College visit to screen it at the DGH OH. We extended the invitation to members of the neighbourhood whatsapp group.

This is not the only movie that we have available for screening. In particular, we also have "Life is Wonderful", the movie about the Rivonia Trial. The movie takes its title from Denis's shout-out in court when eight of the Rivonia accused were sentenced to life imprisonment. Life was, in their view, far preferable to the death sentences that had been threatened.

*Please do contact us (at [dghoh@goldberghouseofhope.co.za](mailto:dghoh@goldberghouseofhope.co.za) or 082-5796697) if you would be interested in coming to weekend screenings of these and possibly other movies.*

## DO YOU SHOP AT WOOLIES?

Woolworths has combined WRewards, its loyalty programme, and MySchool, its charity supporting programme. The new combined programme is called MyDifference.

If you are already a WRewards or MySchool member, you can sign up by downloading the latest Woolies app and following the prompts. If you are not a member, you can join using the Woolies app, or by asking for a MyDifference card in one of the Woolies stores.

Once you are a member, ***please remember to choose the DGH OH as a beneficiary. You need to do this even if we were a beneficiary on your MySchool card*** as the beneficiaries are not transferred automatically.

After you join MyDifference and make us a beneficiary, Woolies will pay over to us a small part of the price of your purchases, at no extra cost to you. Meanwhile you can enjoy the loyalty card benefits.

## ATTENTION SOUTH AFRICAN TAXPAYERS

The 2025/26 tax year ends on 28 February. If you make a donation before year-end, we can send you a S18(a) tax certificate for the donation. You can then claim a tax deduction on your taxable income when you submit your tax returns. Quick quick!

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Meanwhile thanks to those from both near and far who gave us donations over the year-end period and into January. All donations help us to continue taking forward Denis's dream.

## DONATE

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 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](mailto:dglftrust@gmail.com). Please also let us know if you would like us to send you a section 18A tax certificate.



## #lifeiswonderful

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Our mailing addresses are:

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Denis Goldberg Legacy Foundation Trust

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