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You are receiving this information about the Denis Hurley Centre because you have shown an interest in the work done by us or one of our partners. We hope that you will enjoy receiving this monthly update. If you have any comments please email us.

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UPDATE

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January 2023

Great stories from the guys who sell good stories

Our condolences on two deaths

Jesuit priests as interns at the DHC

Last week to nominate for an award



Prayers for those we have lost



What are these girls doing with Post-Its?



Honouring Bishop Barry Wood

A NEW YEAR AND RENEWED VISION FOR THE DHC BOOKSELLERS

Our Street Lit book vendors started the year by giving gratitude for their many blessings, and articulating their personal dreams and goals for the new year.

The most exciting and ambitious goal was from Vusi Meyiwa: he wants to open his own café, offering great breakfasts, afternoon teas, newspapers ... and books. Vusi, one of the project veterans, used to sell books from a donated supermarket trolley, and did not have a permanent place to stay. He is now happily settled in his own home on the Bluff - and selling nearby at Bluff Towers (thanks to Broll Properties). He already has many loyal customers and helps raise awareness for the Blood Bank in the same mall, with the 'Bleed and Read' campaign - bring a book to the Blood Bank (to donate to the project), buy a book from Vusi (to read while giving blood), and donate blood to help save a life.

Another great testimony was from Eric Badise. He had a great Festive Season selling at the Durban Botanic Gardens (thanks to their Trail of Lights exhibition). He is also now a part-time tour guide at the Durban Holocaust & Genocide Centre, having impressed their staff last year with his knowledge of the Holocaust (in particular Ann Frank's story). He also has moved from transient accommodation into his own flatlet.

David van der Westhuizen is one of our most enthusiastic project

ambassadors, and never misses an opportunity to affirm his fellow vendors. We first encountered David when he was living very rough in the streets. A voracious reader, he used to help us carry donated books, in exchange for books to read. Since formally becoming part of the project, he has been selling at the KZNSA Gallery; moreover, he has moved into his own flat, thanks to the generosity of one of his regular customers. Another customer has also encouraged him to take up tennis which he now plays also with great enthusiasm.

All the vendors gave gratitude to our supportive venue partners, and to the Order of St John who host our book store and have recently given us even more space so we can grow our book collection.

We are also excited about developments and partnerships which will help our project to grow and will be announced soon.

If you have books to donate, or suggestions of places to sell – email Illa. Please do NOT give books directly to vendors and do not bring them to the DHC.

Photo: Street Lit vendor, Anele Nyembezi, chats over coffee with volunteer Peter Hattingh, in the new lounge area that is part of our expanded book store at St John.



TWO SAD FAREWELLS AND PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO MOURN

We were very saddened to hear, just a few days ago, of the death of Mrs Paddy Meskin, wife of the late Judge Philip Meskin; she was 78 and had been ill for some time. Paddy had been a Patron of the DHC since the Trust was founded in 2010 and had worked closely over many years with Archbishop Hurley, Cardinal Napier and Paddy Kearney. As a Jewish woman, she helped build links between that community and other faith groups in Durban and beyond. She was the President of 'Religions for Peace South Africa' and founded the Secretariat of the KZN Inter-faith Council. At her retirement, Paddy Kearney complimented her and Saydoon Sayed for the important witness they gave as a Jew and a Muslim working so closely together. Dedicated to the service of humanity, she cared for the vulnerable, constantly working with colleagues to identify new ways to help those in need.

At the start of the month, we had already received sad news about the death of Winston Perrier on New Year's Eve. Winston is the father of our director, Raymond, and was aged 81. He has been one of our most consistent UK donors over the last eight years and finally fulfilled an ambition to see the work of the DHC for himself when he made a visit (with Raymond's mother Phil) only two weeks before he died (*see photo at the top*). Even though he had heard lots about the DHC, had avidly read and shared our newsletters, and also seen many photos, he still exclaimed that it was 'so much more than I imagined!'

A tribute fund has been set up in Winston's name to help the DHC, and has already raised many thousands of Rand. If you are interested in creating a similar way of remembering a loved one who has passed on, please contact us.

We offer our prayers and condolences to the Meskin and Perrier families and all who are grieving at this time. A reflection by our Director on how we deal with death will soon appear in the *Southern Cross* (of which Winston was also a keen reader). If you wish to subscribe to receive the magazine on-line for

only R30 per month (£1.50) [click here](#).

Photo: Paddy Meskin (far right) with Hoosen Vawda and Debbie Heustice leading a demonstration Passover meal at the DHC in 2015.



JESUIT INTERNS LEAD RETREATS AT A DOMINICAN SCHOOL

Archbishop Hurley had a close link throughout his life with the Newcastle Dominican sisters - he attended one their schools and encouraged them to open a school in this city; he celebrated his first Mass with them in Rome and his last Mass with them in Durban North. We are delighted that that link continues with regular volunteering at the DHC by the girls of Our Lady of Fatima Dominican Convent School.

For the second year running, we were invited to lead half-day retreats to three different grades at the start of the school year. The girls were aged 18, 16 and 14 and all entered into the session of self-reflection and silence with great maturity. The retreats were led by Stuart Talbot and also two visiting Jesuit priests.

In the very long period of Jesuit training - usually about 15 years after they started, and often having been priests for more than five years - Jesuits enter a third stage of formation called 'tertianship'. This has brought Jesuits back into KZN after a long absence and the Tertian director, Fr Mike Lewis, has for the second year in a row sent two of the Tertians to work with us for four weeks. They will be living in the Cathedral house assisting Fr Sabelo with Masses and also rolling up their sleeves to get involved in the work of the DHC.

Fr Dennis (note: 2 'n's!) Baker is a native of New York State and studied Criminal Justice before entering the Society of Jesus. He has four Masters degrees and has taught at a Jesuit high school in Manhattan and been President of a Jesuit school in Micronesia in the South Pacific.

Fr Isidore-Splendour Chukwu is from Nigeria and taught at Jesuit high schools in Nigeria (Abuja and Benin City). He is currently engaged in doctoral studies and will soon be teaching in the faculty of Missiology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

Fr Chukwu said that they have really enjoyed their first week with us leading the retreat on 'Authenticity' for the girls at Fatima and seeing them find it so uplifting, inspiring and life-giving. Fr Dennis added: "Having spent so much time in secondary schools myself, it was wonderful to be back in one, and find the girls so engaged and interested."

At the beginning of February, they will assist in leading a retreat for Confirmation candidates from St Joseph's parish Morningside. The young people will be spending the night at the DHC and feeling for themselves what it is like to sleep rough - before getting up on Saturday morning to prepare

and serve 300 meals!

If you would like to work with us to develop reflective and challenging retreats for any group, we would love to hear from you.

Photo: The Grade 12 girls of Fatima listen intently to Fr Chukwu during their retreat.



LAST WEEK TO NOMINATE FOR AN AWARD

Nominations are soon closing for the Annual Barry Wood Awards for Outstanding Service.

Bishop Barry Wood (*pictured at the top*) was auxiliary bishop of Durban until his death in 2017. Since his life was so committed to service, we set up an award in his honour. Each year there is one for a staff member and one for a volunteer.

Nominations can be submitted by anyone who is involved with us - which includes you if you are reading this mailing!

Attached is a nomination form and more details about the award criteria. You can nominate a staff member, or a volunteer, or both. Please have a think about the people you know who work at the DHC (paid or unpaid) and complete the form and submit by Monday 6 February.

For more information email the Director.

The awards will be announced as part of our annual 'Hurley Weekend' traditionally held on the dates closest to the death anniversary of Archbishop Hurley (13 Feb 2004).

On Sat 11 February, we will be welcoming people to an organ and singing recital at Emmanuel Cathedral at 2pm, our Annual Stakeholders Meeting at 3pm followed by tea, and then the first Memorial Mass in the Cathedral at 5pm.

On Sunday 12 Feb there will be further Memorial Masses in the Cathedral with Bishop Neil Frank OMI: at 07.45 (in English) and 10am (in Zulu).

All are welcome!

Photo: A highlight of our Hurley Weekend will be singing by Nozuko Teto (accompanied by AJ Bethke on the organ of Emmanuel Cathedral). Nozuko delighted everyone when she sang at our Meal of Reconciliation in December.



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