



**UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER: October 2018**

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Diamond Anniversary of Alan & Eve

Written by their daughter Janine

Alan and Eve Dunnell celebrated their Diamond wedding anniversary on 27 September, attending the U3A meeting at the Baxter and then lunch with the steering committee, showing their on-going commitment to the U3A. Alan spoke of how chance and circumstance had shaped their lives. Alan was brought up near London and Eve in Northern India, and the chances of meeting were slim. They had both applied to Bristol University and both been rejected, but were accepted at Southampton University. Alan had an apple-green jumper that attracted Eve, and she was told she would have to accept the man as well as the jumper. With nowhere to stay after they were married, a friend contacted them on their honeymoon and said he knew of a boarding-house with a vacancy - were they interested?

When Alan joined British Nylon Spinners, he said he was interested in a position abroad - thinking of Germany, Canada, New Zealand. Instead he was offered a one-way ticket to South Africa! Eve encouraged him to take this opportunity, with three young children, as there might not be another chance.

They have been fortunate in their life together, supported each other, and also learnt from each other, Alan's interests leaning towards the sciences, and Eve's towards the arts.



Alan, Eve and Janine at their celebratory lunch

Summary of meeting at the Baxter 27th September

Unfortunately Badr Kazi was unwell and did not attend. Dr Groenewald explained how the *Gift of the Givers* was begun locally by Dr I Sooliman, as a means of helping those in need, regardless of race, colour or creed, and world-wide as well. In recent times the organization has been concerned with the fact that there are 104 000 people in Africa without water. It has been identified that 250 000 000 years ago there was a water shortage. In 1826 there was again no water in Cape Town, so this is an ongoing problem, which they are attempting to alleviate by drilling boreholes at schools that have water shortages. However, there is a need for careful consideration, as aquifers in the Cape could be over-pumped and the water gained could be salty from the lower-lying sea water. This is only one of their concerns in Africa.

A statement from the group website: *Gift of the Givers* is the largest disaster response NGO of African origin on the African continent. Established on the instruction of a Sufi Sheik, Muhammed Saffer Effendi al Jerrahi (a spiritual teacher) in Istanbul, Turkey, on a Thursday evening, 6 August 1992. Gift of the Givers has delivered life-saving aid in the form of Search and Rescue teams, medical personnel, medical equipment, medical supplies, medicines, vaccines, anti-malarial medication, high energy and protein supplements and food and water to millions of people in 43 countries, South Africa included.

Having commenced as a disaster response agency, the organisation now has 21 categories of projects which include bursaries, agricultural self-sustainability, water provision, counselling and lifeskills services, entrepreneurship and job creation, establishment of primary health care clinics and medical support to hospitals, winter warmth and the supply of new clothing and shoes, sports development, feeding schemes and food parcel distribution, household and personal hygiene packs, educational support and toy distribution, provision of housing, care of the physically and mentally challenged, orphans and the elderly as some of our diverse activities.

Innovating the world's first and only containerised mobile hospital comprising 28 units, innovating the world's first containerised primary health care unit, innovating the world's first groundnut-soya high energy and protein supplement in the use of severe Malnutrition, HIV/AIDS, TB, Cancer and other debilitating conditions, and establishing Africa's largest Open Source Computer Lab has earned us 125 individual and organisational accolades and awards including 4 Presidential awards. Thus far we have disbursed R2.1 billion in aid to needy individuals and communities in our 25-year history. Our motto is simple: "Best Among People are those who Benefit Mankind" and accordingly we serve ALL people irrespective of race, religion, culture, colour, political affiliation or geographical location, unconditionally. We actively seek to build bridges between people of different cultures and religions engendering goodwill, harmonious coexistence, tolerance and mutual respect in keeping with the divine injunction.

Bank Details - Gift of the Givers

Standard Bank: Branch Code - 057525; Account No - 052137228

Safety on the Mountain

Owing to the increasing number of attacks on hikers, runners and cyclists that have taken place on the mountain since late last year, a small sub-committee (comprising Tim Cronin and Jim Doyle) convened a workshop for all U3A course leaders of mountain users in the Cape Town and False Bay areas. We were fortunate to obtain the services of Advanced Conflict Training to run the workshop, which was aimed primarily at changing one's mind-set with regard to safety (in general as well as while out hiking) and given guidance on how to plan ahead as a group for an attack. Thirteen of the fourteen groups, comprising both Cape Town & False Bay leaders, were represented at the workshop. It was stressed that there was no "single solution" to be applied if attacked, but that, if the group has prepared (by planning ahead), the situation could possibly be diffused and serious injury may be avoided. A number of good ideas were put forward at the workshop, many of which have been taken on-board by the majority of the groups that were represented. The sub-committee also put together a number of hike-related documents (including: suggested guidelines and procedures, safety from attack, general safety, etc.), which were distributed to the course leaders.

U3A are also represented on the recently formed Table Mountain Safety Group, which includes SANParks and various safety organisations, including SAPS. Incidents are immediately reported to this group who not only advise the authorities but also alert their members.

Unfortunately, as we have recently seen, the attacks continue unabated. This has resulted in fewer routes which are safe to hike. U3A mountain users are urged to be vigilant and to note the "hot spots" where regular attacks have taken place. Whilst the sub-committee has now been disbanded, both Tim & Jim continue to monitor the TMSAG WhatsApp and forward alert messages to mountain leaders.

SUMMER SOCIALS PROGRAMME

To fill the gap left when everything closes during the festive season, we run the Summer Socials Programme. This is arranged by Kath Green (021 - 531 2650) and Peter Lawson (021 - 797 4493). We would much appreciate any additional offers of activities. This is a first draft of the schedule, which will be developed further, with a final version distributed at the end of November. Please give this wonderful programme your full support.

HIGHLIGHT

In July 2018, as was appropriate to the centennial, Eve Dunnell gave one of the exhaustively researched, impressively presented talks we have come to expect from her on "The peace that led to war". It was a *tour de force* from our in-house historian.

FORTHCOMING TALK

On the Thursday 25th October at the Baxter Theatre Complex, Dr Urvash Munghal-Singh, a pathologist, will speak to us on "Marijuana". This very topical subject should be of interest to all of us.

END-OF-YEAR MEETING

As a treat to end our year, on Thursday 29 November Robin Malan (of *Ah big yaws* fame) will entertain us with a talk on "Under 25 poems by under-25 poets - looking at poetry from a different perspective".

PAY EARLY AND BEAT THE FEBRUARY RUSH

A number of members have not yet paid their 2017 and 2018 subs. We need the finance urgently as the Baxter rental for next year will no doubt escalate. Please pay now, as well as for 2019, to avoid long queues at the beginning of next year.