

WHAT'S UP

The Rosedale Newsletter

December 2018



A message from the RSC committee chairperson Stephen Leibbrandt:

It's hard to believe that an eventful year is almost past. It's been a tough one financially and globally on many levels. However, we at Rosedale have been able to keep the fires burning on the home front. We have staged many successful events (regrettably not all well attended) and I would like to thank you, the residents, for your support as well as the RSC committee that works so hard in staging these events.

It's also a time for reflection on those residents who have left (either deceased or moved away) and to welcome new residents who will be sharing the festive season with us.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution made by the staff members and I know you will join me in wishing them and their families a glorious holiday season. And, as chairperson of the Rosedale Service Centre committee, I wish you and your loved ones a very blessed Christmas and good health and personal happiness in the New Year.

Season's Greetings

Gremlins in the woodpile

And a message from Moi: We're still experiencing problems with pagination and collation of the newsletter (pics out of alignment and so fifth). Bear with me, please, as I grapple with Bill Gates and Tim Cook in solving the problem.

THINKING OF YOU Whether it is in celebratory style (birthdays and anniversaries) or maybe you've been poorly (sick or even hospitalised), perhaps there's some consolation in knowing that you're very much in our thoughts.

WELCOME to Annette Ledger in 404NR and Colin Slater 308R - a lovely time of the year to be moving in and we hope you will be joining us in all the fun and festivities that this time of the year brings.

GOODBYE to dear Felix Westwood who has moved to Sherwood Lodge. We will miss her, particularly in the Library, as well as her wonderful piano-playing at the weekly church services and at various memorial events.

From their official website comes this description of the **Cape Welsh Choir**: "Established in 1982 and a member of the Welsh Association of the Male Voice Choir, the current members come from a variety of backgrounds that all share the love of singing in the rousing Welsh male voice tradition. The love of singing in this genre, together with the resultant benefits enjoyed by a variety of worthwhile causes, are the principal objectives of the choir. Performance venues have ranged from imposing concert halls to modest rural schools and, over the years, these have varied from conventional concerts to State functions and musical productions." Here at Rosedale we've had the pleasure – indeed, the joy – of hearing them sing to us on a number of occasions. Now we will hear their dulcet tones every Wednesday when the choir will rehearse in the Wreck Room from 19:30. As John Verster points out, "It's only practising," but you're welcome to stick your head around the door should you wish to do so. Read further on about their participation in the Carol Service.

FUNCTIONS AND EVENTS

There is no **Social Dance** this month. For details about next year's dates, call Carmen on 021-6857045 / 079 191 7371.

Lita Gonsalves' daughter, Odette Leach, owner/manager of **Kay-Dee Educare Centre & Daycare** will bring the little ones to entertain us in the dining-room on **Friday 7 December** at 10:00.

By now you should have given your names into the RSC office to attend the **SAL Christmas dinner** which will take place in the dining-room on **Saturday 8 December** 18:00 for 18:30.

In fond memory of Bidy Jackson, surrogate daughter Virgie Johnson has organised the **handing out of gift vouchers** in the dining-room on **Wednesday 12 December** at 17:00 followed by tea and biscuits.

The highlight event for this precious time of the year is, without a doubt, the **Christmas Carol Service** which will be held in the lounge/dining-room on **Saturday 15 December** 17:30 for 18:00 and will be followed by the sale of boerie rolls and frankfurters in the Wreck Room at R25,00 each, when the bar will be opened. Tea/coffee will be served for which an honesty jar will be in place. The platinum box will also be put out for general – and hopefully generous – donations. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to invite family members and friends to participate in this annual event and to join the choir in singing your hearts out in celebrating the joy that this precious time of the year brings.



Chair Stephen will lead the proceedings and, exciting news, Bishop Frank Retief will deliver the message. A man of considerable ability, Frank was born in Cape Town in 1942. He became a minister in the Church of England (CESA) and pastored St James Church, Kenilworth (well known for the tragic massacre which took place there in 1993) for many years. Frank was consecrated an Area Bishop for the denomination in 1985. In 1999 he was nominated as Presiding Bishop and served the denomination in this capacity until his retirement in 2010. He is also an author of note and has written a number of books on a wide range of topics. With that impressive resumé we are sure of a meaningful and spiritual message of note.



Rosedale residents & the Welsh Rarebits hard at work →

"The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear."
– Will Ferrell, Elf

The Carol Service will take on a new format with the inclusion of some of the members of the Cape Welsh Choir who call themselves the Welsh Rarebit. Don't you just love it! And so, the choir and audience, accompanied by Ralph Kelly on the piano and the praise-and-worship team band from St Peter's Community Church, Fish Hoek, will sing heartily along with these accomplished men to golden oldies such as *O Come All Ye Faithful* and fresh renditions of *Away in a Manger* as well as lesser-known carols such as *See Him Lying on a Bed of Straw*. All in all, it promises to be a night to remember.

There's also the **Christmas Day** spread, courtesy of Del Davies and Phyllis Webb, to look forward to. Hand in your names at the RSC office if you would like to join us. The cost is R120,00/head for residents, R150,00 for non-resident members and R175,00 for guests. And it's not too late to make a contribution in cash or kind so if you find a few spare cents lying around, these could help make what promises to be a happy day even more exciting.

We have very special friends, readers: Robbie Roberts of 71 Signals Association, whom I reported on has been elected onto the SAL's executive committee, and who encourages donors far and wide to contribute to functions at Rosedale, as a result of which Del and Phyllis received a very welcome and generous donation from Fahmy Rhode – not the first time, mind! - who, with his wife, Fatima, and mother, visited us in person to hand over his contribution and in acknowledgement Del



wrote, "Once again I must thank you for the generous donation handed to Lucille this morning. We are so grateful to you and to all the other Signals Unit members who have come to our aid yet again." May you and your family be blessed over this holiday season and through 2019. Folks, Fahmy is a Muslim which makes his gesture even more meaningful – and does it not capture the spirit of the Nguni Bantu word ubuntu "I am because we are" or also described as "the belief in a universal bond of sharing that connects all humanity". A strong message for this precious time of the year – in fact, at any time of the year. Thank you, Fahmy.

27 December **No Interruptions Day** is celebrated on December 27. Personally, I think this day should follow after the wrap-up of the seasonal festivities, but clearly whoever came up with this one did so as a way of encouraging people to take time off for themselves and get ready for the New Year. However, you choose to spend it, focus on your closest relationship; do something special with your loved ones - go for a hike or a picnic and leave all electronic gadgets behind; spend quality time with your friends and let them know that your uninterrupted time is theirs today.

Then, batteries charged, get into gear and prepare for **New Year's Eve** (or Hogmanay to you Sassenachs) which falls on **Monday 31 December** this year and here at Rosedale you and your family and friends are invited to bring your braai requisites and revel on the lawns when the fires will be lit – the use of which will cost R10,00 per person – and ready for braaiing at 19:30. The bar will not be open so bring your own XYZ.

NOTE: There will be no family braai on 5 January 2019.

CHITTER CHATTER



Thank you, Sue Gow, for this insight as to how the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" was composed and explains just how that partridge and all the others landed up as part of our Christmas scene. In 16th century England, Catholics were not allowed to practice their faith but teach their children basic doctrine they were determined to do, so symbols were chosen and put into a rhyme which could be sung during the twelve days of Christmas:

The Partridge in a Pear Tree

The partridge literally will risk her life for her chicks, so the partridge stands for Christ and the pear tree symbolises the Cross

Two turtle Doves

The Old and the New Testaments

Three French Hens

French hens were costly – gold, frankincense and myrrh (or Faith, Hope and Charity)

Four Calling Birds

The four Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

Five Golden Rings

The Pentateuch – the five books of Moses where the law was given

Six Geese a-laying

Laying geese symbolises new life – the six days of creation

Seven Swans a-swimming

The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit in Romans XII vs.6-8 – prophesying, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving generously, governing diligently and showing mercy

Eight Maids a-milking

Milkmaids were very lowly but faithful, like Christ – the eight beatitudes Matthew V vs.3-10

Nine Ladies Dancing

The fruit of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control Galatians V v.22

Ten Lords a-leaping

The Lords kept law and order – the Ten Commandments

Eleven Pipers Playing

The eleven faithful disciples

Twelve Drummers Drumming

The twelve doctrines found in the Apostles' Creed

It is so encouraging to be able to record a successful collection on **Poppy Day**. I can't give you an exact amount, but I can report that more than last year's amount was collected. This would not have been possible without the generous contributions from passers-by who were persuaded to part with their hard-earned moolah by the team who stood with tins in hand on street corners and in shopping malls on Saturday 10 November. From every military veteran who will benefit from this annual event we say thank you!



And so, dear readers, we reach the end of the road for 2018. My message is, first of all, thanks to those of you who read (and hopefully enjoy) *What's Up*; more importantly, thanks for your contributions to its format and content. Happy holidays and season's greetings to you all.

"Love the giver more than the gift." – Brigham Young

**Share your copy of the newsletter with a friend or tablemate
and if you remove the newsletter from the noticeboard in order to read it
please put it back for the benefit of others.**

Till next time - keep smiling



The Rosedale Service Centre Committee