

STORIES OF 'LIVING DISTRICT 6'

Reconciliation Day Interfaith Walk 2018



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PROGRAMME

STORYTELLERS

Letlice Joemath is an ex-Trafalgarian. "I lived in St Leger Street and Small Hanover Street during my high school years. I did my midwifery training at the Peninsula Maternity Home. I am residing at the Moravian Church manse in District Six with my husband Bishop A.P. Joemath".

Sheikh Ismail Keraan grew up in District 6 and has always been affiliated to Al-Azhar Masjid through family. Before becoming the sheikh at the masjid, which he has been for 22 years now, Sheikh Keraan spent over 30 years of his life as a teacher, imparting his passion and knowledge of Geography to young minds.

Gwynne Robins is deputy director of the Cape SA Jewish Board of Deputies and a founder member of the Cape Town Interfaith Initiative as well as the Reconciliation Day Interfaith Walk.

Organized by Moravian Hill, St Mark's Church, Al-Azhar Mosque, Holy Cross Church, Cape Town Interfaith Initiative, the Restitution Foundation, Masibuyisane, the District 6 Museum

Supported by Afosa, Centre for Christian Spirituality, District 6 Working Committee

Walking together is intended to be both thoughtful and celebratory. The journey offers space to reflect on our journeys with the issues of our time. Please try to keep up with others so that we stay together during the walk. This will also facilitate any marshaling necessary. There'll be time for walking in silence, but also time to perhaps talk to someone walking next to you and so meet someone new. Please take special care crossing roads. The roads should be quiet as it is a public holiday, but please take special precautions to avoid an accident.

'God, I pray better to you by just breathing; pray better to you by walking than by talking'

- Thomas Merton

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PROGRAMME

MORAVIAN HILL

ARRIVAL - *Moravian Brass Band*

WELCOME - *Bishop Augustine Joemath (Moravian Church)*

STORYTELLERS IN CONVERSATION

- *Ms Joemath, Sheikh Keraan and Ms Robins*
- *Meditation on our Biographies*

PRAYER - *Bishop Augustine Joemath*

You're invited to **walk in silence** to St Mark's further reflective on your own journey and perhaps go sit next to someone from a different community than your own.

Walk to St Mark's Church

ST MARK'S CHURCH

WELCOME - *Fr Donovan Meyer (Arch-Deacon, Anglican Church)*

SHARING from our biographies in listening groups

PRAYER - *Fr Donovan Meyer*

HONORING the late Canon Rowan Smith under whose auspices as Dean of Cape Town this Walk has started thirteen years ago.

All: Let your love shine upon him.

On the way to the mosque you are invited to continue sharing freely perhaps with someone you don't know so well

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Walk to Al-Azhar Mosque

AL-AZHAR MOSQUE

Remove shoes before entering; it is suggested women cover their heads if possible.

WELCOME - *Sheikh Ismail Keraan (Imam of the Mosque)*

PRAYER from the Jewish community - *Stuart Diamond (Jewish faith)*

PRAYER - *Sheikh Ismail Keraan*

Walk up Keizersgracht passing the New Apostolic Church to Holy Cross.

HOLY CROSS CHURCH

WELCOME - *Fr Gerardo Garcia (Parish Priest, Holy Cross Catholic Church)*

From the **NEW APOSTOLIC CHURCH** - *Rector Mike van Haght (Rector, New Apostolic Church, District 6)*

UPDATE on the restitution process in District Six - *Attorney Ighsan Higgins*

LITANY OF RESTITUTION - *Ds Riaan de Villiers, Groote Kerk*

One: O God of all people, we come humbly before you
All: In you we place our hope
One: We ask for courage to face the past
All: Our hope is in you
One: For the actions and attitudes of restitution
All: Our hope is in you
One: With words that do not result in action
All: We are no longer satisfied
One: For excuses and reluctant leadership
All: They are not enough
One: With government programmes alone

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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN DISTRICT 6

A large Jewish community was based in District 6 in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Built in 1898 and called Bekinstadt, the building currently occupied by Charly's Bakery (in Canterbury St) was one of the last Jewish businesses left in the area. The SA Jewish Museum did an exhibition on Jewish life in D6 a while ago and has the catalogue and other related materials which can be viewed there.

THE LYDIA WILLIAMS CENTRE FOR MEMORY, Chapel Street, District 6

The Lydia Williams Centre for Memory honors a much-loved resident of D6 who was born a slave in 1820, freed at age 18 and died in 1910. She dedicated her life after slavery to the healing of memory of former slaves. During the 1980s the building housed the Community Arts Project which spawned many aspirant artists.

THE MARION INSTITUTE

The Marion Institute was established as a community center during World War 2, initially offering singing, dancing and night school classes. Today it also houses an educare center.

MOIRA HENDERSON HOUSE

The Haven Night Shelter for the homeless in Moira Henderson House. Moira played a leading role in the Dependents' Conference (DC) that had its offices in Cowley House, just opposite.

COWLEY HOUSE

Cowley House was built and occupied by the Cowley Fathers who were invited to SA by the first Anglican Bishop of Cape Town, Robert Gray. Bernard Mizeki, after whom many churches and institutions are named, was baptized by the Cowley Fathers at St Philip's Church next door, lived an exemplary life of mission and died a martyr in Zimbabwe. Before the Trauma Centre was established at Cowley House post-1994, Dependence Conference was based there. The house accommodated and cared for the families of political prisoners held in the Cape, including on Robben Island. The Trauma Centre for survivors of violence and trauma is still housed here.

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All: They are not enough

One: For accusations, fear and blame

All: We repent, O God

One: For our forgetfulness and short memory

All: Forgive us, O God

One: For demanding that those who have been hurt bear so much

All: Forgive us, O God

One: For those of us who have grown up after Apartheid

All: We offer up our privilege

One: For those of us who were complicit with Apartheid

All: We have considered our ways

One: For those of us who were dishonoured by Apartheid

All: We open our hearts to true sorry-ness

One: Grant us, O God, a vision of South Africa

All: As your love would have it

One: A South Africa where the weak are protected

All: And none go hungry or poor

One: A South Africa where the riches of creation are shared

All: And everyone can enjoy them

One: A South Africa where different races and cultures

All: Live in harmony and mutual respect

One: A South Africa where peace is built with justice

All: And justice is guided by love

One: Give us the inspiration and courage to build it

All: In your name we pray.

Amen.

PRAYER - *Fr Gerardo Garcia*

Light refreshments served in the Holy Cross Church Hall

Walk down Keizersgracht back to base.

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I like to walk alone on country paths
putting each foot down on the earth
in mindfulness,
knowing that I walk on the wondrous earth.
In such moments,
existence is a miraculous and mysterious reality.
People usually consider walking on water
or in thin air, a miracle.
But I think the real miracle
is not to walk on water or in thin air,
but on earth.

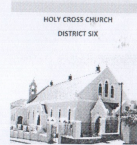
Tich Nhat Hanh

PARTNERS:

AL AZHAR MASJED

HOLY CROSS CHURCH
DISTRICT SIX

ST MARK'S DISTRICT 6



CAPE
SA JEWISH BOARD
OF DEPUTIES



NO PLACE
FOR HATE



CAPE TOWN
interfaith
INITIATIVE

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