

SK Newsletter 33.

June 2017.

Horst Kleinschmidt.

Dear friends and relations,

In this Newsletter:

1. In Memoriam: Emma /Uiras-Jood, symbolic unifier in our once divided family.
2. The intriguing discovery of the Baumann relatives in the USA and how DNA tests connected us. To read this please go to second attachment to this email.
3. Recommendation and brief review of a new book “Where are you from? – Playing white under apartheid” by Ulla Dentlinger. Like the Schmelen-Kleinschmidt family, Ulla traces her family across the race divide.
4. My invitation to Japan and South Korea was to learn of the dangers that demand a global grass-roots reaction. My article and photo presentation can be viewed on my home page www.horstkleinschmidt.co.za.
5. Apartheid-style evictions in my neighbourhood continue. We inform, we protest, we make representations to the South African Human Rights Commission and to the Office of the Public Protector. We have momentum to take this struggle forward but politicians across the board remain unconcerned.

I hope you find the diverse pieces stimulating. As always, I welcome reactions, criticism and corrections.

This Newsletter and the documents referred to will also be loaded on the cover page of my home page. www.horstkleinschmidt.co.za.

Good wishes to you all.

Yours,

Horst.

1.

**IN MEMORIAM: EMMA (Sabatha - /Uiras) JOOD. (21.11.1937 –
12.4.2017)**



It was with great sadness that we bade farewell to Emma /Uiras-Jood earlier this year. I only met in recent years. To me she represents the motherly embrace of the wider family, across the divide that our past cast us in.

I will not forget when her son Charles Otto first took Christine and I to her and her husband Rubin's humble home in Khorixas in the Kunene Region of Northern Namibia. Being the first to cross the line that divided us from the side of the family who clawed on to, or benefitted from, our 'whiteness', she was instantly generous. She greeted me with "Where have you been, we have been waiting for you". After a warm embrace she took my arm for support and took us into her home. Without yet having explained the purpose of my visit, she ordered the younger generation to make us tea and serve biscuits.

Emma's mother was Sara Rebecca Kleinschmidt who was married to Cornelius Koso Sabatha of the Swartbooi royal lineage, a Nama ethnic group.

Sara Rebecca was the grandchild of Ludwig Kleinschmidt, the only of the eight missionary children who ignored the colonial rule: To advance in the newly imposed society a white skin and white family background was imperative. Civil Rights, Human Rights, voting rights, land rights and thus power and influence depended on being 'White'. Our family anticipated problems.

For the eight Kleinschmidt missionary children their Namaqua (Khoi) grandmother, Zara had suddenly become a problem. They had until the advent of German colonial rule in 1884 been a highly regarded large family enjoying respect and hospitality at most of the ruling Chiefs homes throughout what was now called German South West Africa. Seven of siblings averted the looming trouble by marrying 'White' partners. In most instances it did not help them. A few succeeded – notably my lineage via my father and grandfather. But Ludwig, by not marrying into a white colonial family, apparently put the efforts of his siblings at risk. Increasingly Ludwig was shunned, even forgotten about. And the Kleinschmidt's had cousins, through their aunt Friederike, who also married without regard to race – and in so doing failed the colonial imperative. (Those who met Kenneth Makatees at the family gatherings will know this branch of the family).

Emma married first married Dawid Frederik /Uirab (b. Otjimbingue, 20.3.1930 and died Outjo 30.1.1971). They had nine children: Essegel Max (Vice Captain of the Swartbooi Authority), Saugan (deceased), Elias (deceased), Seth, Emma (married surname Ndeyzenga), Dr. David, Antonia (married name Kamuhake), Bisey, Charles Otto, and Jara (deceased).

After Dawid Frederik died Emma married Rubin Jood in 1974, born in Aroab (18.7.1925) South-Eastern Namibia. He survives Emma. They had two children. Martha (married surname Ochurus) and Abel (deceased).

At the time of her passing Emma had 58 grandchildren and 35 great grandchildren.

Son, Charles Otto, wrote this of his mother: *'She was a strong human rights activist in her own right. As a strong Christian and an elder she believed everybody was equal in the eyes of the Lord. She was traumatized when her son Essegel Uirab was arrested and sent to prison for a year for taking part in political activities under the banner of Swapo. He was also under house arrest from 1980 to 1989'.*

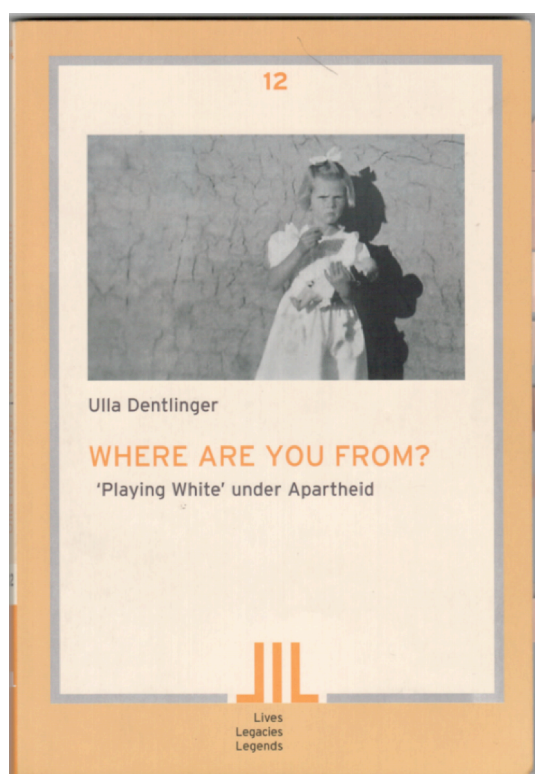
'The one thing she used to say about the white side of the family is that they will turn up one day and she hoped to be alive to see that day. She was, and she was grateful for that'.

Emma's sisters and brothers were: Orkis Kleinschmidt, Johannes Kleinschmidt, Dawid Swartbooi, Charles Sabatha, Elisabeth and Magrietha, all deceased. Edward (Eddy) Sabatha is the only surviving sibling of Emma's generation.

To remember and celebrate Emma I urge you to read what I wrote in 2012 after first visiting her and Rubin. I attach my Newsletter 14 of June 2012. It best captures the Emma I remember.

See item **2** in a separately attached file.

3. I want to commend to you a newly published book. Here its cover page:



On 25th May 2017 I was privileged to lead a conversation with Ulla Dentlinger at the launch of her book “Where are you from? ‘Playing White’ under Apartheid”. The launch took place at Clarke’s Bookshop in Cape Town. It is co-published by Basler Afrika Verlag (Switzerland) and the Carl Schlettwein Stiftung in Frankfurt, Germany. It appears in their series Lives, Legacies and Legends. The book is written in English.

Ulla’s story, from childhood, significantly happens in Rehoboth, Karibib, Bethanien, Windhoek, Cape Town. These are the very places where my family history unfolded and over the same period of time. And the correlation goes further since my side of the family equally ‘played white’. But there is a big difference. Ulla,

given her parents background, speaks of her underlying “consciousness of inferiority” she had to overcome. In the conversation I highlighted that in my family, which traversed the same social space, I was educated into a “consciousness of superiority”. From different starting points we both spent our lives trying to rid ourselves of the consciousness that burdened us, without adopting the consciousness of the other. Carefully and tenderly we now tread the ground that is informed by the other’s experience. - Our families and we did not know of each other until we met at Clarke’s bookshop. Such is the complex nature of race and identity when manipulated to serve those who rule and those meant to serve.

Ulla breaks new ground with this book and I gladly recommend you read it. It deserves a powerful place in the telling of our stories where pain, anger, fear, trauma and family secrets are finally confronted.

Namibian bookshops sell the book. In Cape Town it is available from Clarke’s in Long Street.

ISBN Switzerland: 978-3-905758-79-5.

ISBN Germany and Austria: 978-3-95558-186-2

ISSN 1660-963.

4. In April this year I spent eighteen days in Japan and South Korea as a guest of the Japanese and Korean Citizens against Nukes organisation. Its formidable leader is Prof. Kim, Yong-Bock, of the Asia Pacific Center for Integral Study of Life (Zoesophia). I learnt about the politics of nuclear energy and nuclear weapons. I became convinced that this debate is absent in South Africa and is at least as important as the no nuclear power plant vs yes to nuclear power plant debate.

I was exposed discussions and then met survivors of Hiroshima, their children and the cancer victims of leaking nuclear power plants and the politics around Fukushima. In Japan I learnt about nuclear victims and nuclear aggressors in the form of household names like Toshiba and Hitachi and Samsung. This debate soon widened to Japanese and South Korean Corporate State Capture, the legacies of Colonial rule of Japan by over Korea and the failure to acknowledge past crimes.

My hosts intend to counter the global corporate power grab with popular movements in all countries. South Africa is on the margins of this debate. Their focus is Japan, Korea, China, India and the USA and its allies.

An article I wrote on the subject and the presentation I use when I make at workshops can be viewed on my website.(www.horstkleinschmidt.co.za). Below invite was by the Community Development Research Centre. I am willing to give such talks – no fees expected.

“Corporates, Corruption and Complacency in a New Age of Nuclear Power”

A conversation with Horst Kleinschmidt

10am to 12pm, Friday 19 May 2017 at the CDRA Centre

The Cape High Court judgement on Wednesday 26th April, stopping our Government from proceeding with its procurement of nuclear power plants (NPP's) from Russia and possibly other countries, is welcome indeed. This should not allow us to be complacent because those in power will seek new ways to overcome what they see as but a hurdle on the way. Likely South African Government corruption, the cost of nuclear power and the dangers hidden this form of energy, deserve wider amplification.

This debate is elevated to a new level if you hear a report-back from Horst Kleinschmidt who recently returned from a study-tour on the subject, when he visited Japan and South Korea. He met with Hiroshima survivors, physically and emotionally affected children of survivors and then the survivors of the Fukuyama disaster six years ago who suffer cancer on an unprecedented scale. His testimony touches on two nations who fear they might be victims of derailed diplomacy, pursued in their part of the world, by a corporate sector, driven by profit, who build NPP's, facilitated by different Governments and now driven to a pitch by President Trump.

The talk will be augmented with pictures taken during the trip in March this year.

Discussion will also be opened to ways we might respond or add our weight to any initiatives already planned.

Hosted by Nomvula Dlamini, CDRA Director

5. APARTHEID-STYLE EVICTIONS CONTINUE IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD.

Apartheid style evictions continue all over South Africa. There is no difference whether the African National Congress or the Democratic Alliance controls a City administration; these barbaric acts are once again daily occurrences.

Here in Cape Town, and in our neighbourhood, the people of Masiphumelele are fenced in, have their shacks smashed repeatedly, have poor sanitary provisions, in part live in sewage fields, lack electricity and adequate access to water.

Profitable companies, sometimes with tentacles that reach deep into the apartheid era military, are hired to smash house and home of people with no other place to stay and desperately poor.

What used to be called "influx control" and "Group Areas Act" is now achieved with an "illegal settlement" anti urbanisation agenda. In our area, the valley from Fish Hoek to Kommetjie and Noordhoek is laced racist overtones from a complacent white majority. As always, the poorest are denied their democratic rights, despite our claim to live in a democracy that has a Bill of Rights.

We have lodged a complaint with the SA Human Rights Commission and the Office of the Public Protector.

The people of Masi are angry, very angry.

Below are recent photos, my most recent letter to the press and pictures of our solidarity protests in support of the leaders of Masiphumelele.



First demolitions and then re-building – it all happened, in the rain on a Sunday – 11 June 2017.



Part of the regular Friday morning picket. We invite people from Masi, Ocean View, Kommetjie and Imhoff's Gift to hoot in support of our call for land, housing, sanitation and water for the poorest in our community. We also issue information leaflets. Judging by the cacophony of hoots we have sizeable support for our call but as yet the City of Cape Town does not budge.

These children are warming themselves. The gulley on the right disgorges human excrement from 10 municipal toilets that are not connected to a sewage system. The gulley runs into a stagnant storm-water open canal. Locals run water from the single tap after early morning 'peak hour' to clear the canal. I asked the woman who did this if she worked for the Council. No she said, 'I'm just a good Samaritan, you might say. I'm still looking for a job, so for now I help in this way'.

Eight months of complaints and no repair or remedial action from the authorities.



Join us and picket against the inhumane conditions in Masi'

EAR South Peninsula neighbours and friends, our *ubumelwane*.

It was infuriating to see more destruction and violence of homes in Masi by the City of Cape Town.

It happened on Sunday morning when it rained. I cannot say how many homes and their contents were destroyed but Law Enforcement appears to have made a hasty retreat via Lekkerster Road when angry residents came to confront them.

I went there on Sunday afternoon to witness the chaos and destruction, not only of shacks but of kitchen cupboards, fridges, radio-cassette players, bedding and clothes were still lying in the mud as angry and tearful people

realised they were once more having to start from scratch.

You might find Felicity Purchase's email to local community leaders after the smashing of the homes of interest. She wrote to her city superiors and to Masi the same inexplicable email: "Hi, Please can you investigate the circumstances around the demolitions that were don't (sic) this weekend."

"I was informed via a wats app (sic) from community members yesterday late afternoon and (sic) they had received from a post of Masi Facebook page. When I enquired it became apparent that neither of your offices were aware of the incident (sic). I was under the impression that the city does not

demolish any shacks in bad weather. Why was this done this time? Regards Felicity."

Since then, nothing.

The city's approach to evictions, land, housing, water and sanitation stops all possibility of sensible talk or negotiations. There are plenty of apologists for the city, all arguing from the comfort and security of their homes, but the bottom line is, without a shadow of doubt, that the situation in Masi is continuously getting worse. With it, anger and frustration are rising.

The city has no single development plan for Masi! The current phase of building houses has been in the pipeline for so long that it constitutes a

totally inappropriate response and a costly fiasco. The Houmoed Road recently completed is another costly and inappropriate fiasco.

I invite all fair-minded people to come and join the picket this morning (Thursday, because tomorrow is a public holiday) and/or again next Friday (June 23) from 6.30am to 8.30am at which we, neighbours and friends of Masi protest the smashing of homes and the refusal to provide proper land, housing and sanitation in Masi.

The city has the moral and constitutional obligation to stop this inhumane war of attrition.

Come along for however much time you can offer, and let's make it clear that

the city is not acting in our name if it carries on the way it does.

The picket takes place on Kommetjie Road where Pokela Road (from Masi) joins it. We have picketed for six weeks and will carry on until the city hears the leaders of Masi.

If you want to see just how inhumane the situation in the wetlands area is, join me at 3.30pm on Sunday at Goemans Nursery.

With Masi leaders we will walk and explain the hair-raising conditions in which thousands upon thousands are compelled to live. Please let me know by email if you intend to join me.

Horst Kleinschmidt
Highcliffe

