



## **SAARP SOCIAL SERVICES - PINELANDS**

(Reg No 2006/003084/08)

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Monthly Meetings: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at Pinelands Bowling Club  
St Stephen's Rd. Doors open at 09:00, meeting closes 11:15

### **NEWSLETTER: APRIL 2019**

Hello, again

As I write, raindrops are chasing each other down the windows and I think back to the times when, on rainy days, my siblings and I used to compete with one another, each urging a favoured raindrop to beat the others to the bottom! I'm also reminded of the lovely old song, April Showers, sung by stars such as Al Jolson and Judy Garland – remember?

*Though April showers may come your way  
They bring the flowers that bloom in May  
So if it's raining have no regrets –  
It isn't raining rain, you know, it's raining violets  
So when you see clouds upon the hills  
You soon will see crowds of daffodils  
So keep on looking for a bluebird  
And list'ning for its song  
Whenever April showers come along.*

### **MORE RECENT REFLECTIONS (!)**

I know many of you found last month's presentation by Valerie Francis of absorbing interest – her description of living conditions and social life in Saudi Arabia was a real eye-opener. Unfortunately, Clive and I were unable to visit the penguins this time round but I understand that was an enjoyable outing. Last week's visit to The World of Birds was splendid and the lunch at Mariners Wharf very pleasant, although we did have to split up into separate small groups because of the crowd; however, the fruit juices included in the Pensioners lunch was most welcome.

### **LOOKING FORWARD**

***Thursday 18 April – General Meeting, including our AGM:***

- (a) At our Committee meeting it was agreed that we should commence the AGM at 09:45. Members are therefore requested to arrive a bit earlier than usual so that we can get the business of payment of subs and buying tickets for outings done before it starts. Teas/coffees and nibbles will be available. Any volunteers to join the Committee would be much appreciated. More than half our Committee members are in their 80's and we desperately need new blood! Please, please help if you can.**
- (b) Our speaker will be an audiologist, Celeste Leveson, who will inform us of interesting new research concerning *Hearing & the Brain*. Later in the year**

we're looking at inviting a firm currently working with Head Office to tell us about their hearing aids, which will be discounted for SAARP members, and they will provide free screenings at that meeting.

- (c) **Subscriptions:** You are urged to pay your subs as soon as possible, please, or risk losing your membership in July. EFT payments are acceptable but you **MUST** put your surname and PLS number in the Ref column. A reminder of our Nedbank details: Name of account – SAARP Pinelands Social Club; Account No. 2012078737.

**Tuesday 23 April – Ostrich Farm @ Cape Point & lunch @ Dixie's, Simon's Town:** At the farm we will be served with tea/coffee and, *if we have 40 or more on board*, Dixie's are offering a super 'Sunday roast dinner' followed by ice cream! Tickets @ R250.00 a head. Too good to miss – make sure you book and pay at our meeting on 18 April.

**Tuesday 28 May – A tour of Afrogem with lunch at The Avenue Restaurant in Harfield Village:** Afrogem was established in 1966, specialising in diamonds, tanzanite and other gemstones. During the tour of the factory we'll learn about all the C's of gemstones – Colour, Clarity, Carats, Choice, Cleaning and Caring – and we can drool over the magnificent jewellery in their showroom. It should be very interesting.

## **THEATRE NEWS**

### **A – ARTSCAPE (Booking: 021 421 7695 and Computicket)**

- (a) **Opera House:** Men in Tutus – an all-male comedy ballet danced by 19 prima dancers from 7 countries. Thurs 18 April @ 20:00; Sat 20 April @ 15:00 & 20:00; Sun 21 April @ 14:00. Prices R190-R390, pensioners 20% discount. Duration about 2 hrs.
- (b) **Theatre:** Ella Fitzgerald – A Century in Song. Anna Davel & Sima Mashazi sing the music of the legendary jazz songbird, including such favourites as *I Got Rhythm*, *They Can't Take That Away From Me*, *Cheek to Cheek* and *Summertime*. Friday 28 April @ 18:30. Price: R110.
- (c) **Opera House:** The Merry Widow – Franz Lehár's ever-popular musical romp. Thursday 27 April @ 20:00. Prices: R80-R120. Duration 90 minutes.

### **B – FUGARD THEATRE**

- (a) **Studio Theatre:** Paul Gallico's timeless classic short story *The Snow Goose*. Till 4 May. Tues – Fri 20:00; Sat 15:00 & 20:00. Prices R140 – R160. 'The use of masks and ingenious staging has created a theatre gem.'

### **C – BAXTER THEATRE**

*Morning Melodies* – 10:30 on Wed 24 Apr: Palm Strings Duo – violin & guitar arrangements of well-loved music of varying genres.

### **D – THEATRE ON THE BAY**

- (a) Till 20 April – Peter Shaffer's gripping psychological drama, *EQUUS*.  
(b) From 24 April – *Offbeat Broadway 5*.

**'TO ALL THE KIDS WHO SURVIVED THE 1930s, '40s, '50s, '60s and '70s!! First, we survived being born to mothers who may have smoked and/or drank while they were pregnant. They took aspirin, ate blue cheese dressing, tuna from a can, and didn't get tested for diabetes. Then, after that trauma, we were put to sleep on our tummies in baby cribs covered with bright coloured lead-based paints. We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, locks on doors or cabinets, and, when we rode our bikes, we had baseball caps, not helmets, on our heads. As infants and children, we would ride in cars with no car seats, no seat belts, no air bags, bald tyres - and sometimes no brakes. Riding in the back of a pick- up truck on a warm day was always a special treat.**

**We drank water from the garden hose and not from a bottle. We shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle, and no one actually died from this. We ate cupcakes, white bread, real butter, and bacon. We drank Kool-Aid made with real white sugar. And we weren't overweight. WHY? Because we were always outside playing...that's why! We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights came on. No one was able to reach us all day -- and, we were OKAY.**

**We would spend hours building our go-carts out of scraps and then ride them down the hill, only to find we forgot the brakes. After running into the bushes a few times, we learned to solve the problem.**

**We did not have Play Stations, Nintendos and X-boxes. There were no video games, no video movies or DVDs, no surround-sound or CDs, no cell phones, no personal computers, no Internet and no chat rooms. WE HAD FRIENDS - and we went outside and found them!**

**We fell out of trees, got cuts, broke bones and teeth, and there were no lawsuits from those accidents. We would get spankings with wooden spoons, switches, ping-pong paddles, or just a bare hand, and no one would call child services to report abuse. We ate worms, and mud pies made from dirt, and the worms did not live in us forever.**

**We were given guns for our 10th birthdays, made up games with sticks and tennis balls, and although we were told it would happen, we did not put out very many eyes. We rode bikes or walked to a friend's house and knocked on the door or rang the bell, or just walked in and talked to them.**

**We played sports and competed against other schools, and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment.**

**Imagine that! The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke the law was unheard of - they actually sided with the law!**

**These generations have produced some of the best risk-takers, problem solvers, and inventors ever. The past 50 to 85 years have seen an explosion of innovation and new ideas. We've had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned how to deal with it all.**

**If YOU are one of those born between 1925-1970, CONGRATULATIONS!'**

**I hope you all enjoyed that – it's something I've had on my computer for some years and came across it while looking for another item I had thought of using. Browsing is fun sometimes! It's good to remember things while we still can, isn't it?!**

**Next month's newsletter will have all the contact details of our NEW COMMITTEE – see you at the AGM on Thursday!**

**Cheers for now.  
Ruth**

**Picture courtesy of JP Bruwer.**

