the tuesday forum

tuesdayforumpretoria@gmail.com

Chairman: Jenny Janisch
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Treasurer: Wendy Velcich
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Dear Members

Happy New Year to you all. I hope you are ready to enjoy and be stimulated by the monthly talks that are due to start on Tuesday 6 February at the Brooklyn Methodist Church (9:00 for 9:30).

At our November meeting last year we took up a collection for Gracia Child and Youth Care Centre. You were once again most generous. They and we were thrilled to learn from Wendy that the collection totalled a whopping R8 110.00. Thank you so much for your caring for others in this way. I have a letter of thanks from Trudie Henderson, which I will read to you at the meeting. Remember that they will welcome donations of underwear for the children, which can be left with Linda, along with any more knitted garments for the Precious Babies organisation.

The important news for this year is that we are going to move to another venue in April (that meeting happens to be the day after the Easter weekend). We are giving ourselves time to adjust to the idea and to feel comfortable about how to get there. You know that we and U3A have been looking for a more suitable venue for some time with little luck, but now we have found it. It has everything we need: a spacious hall with comfortable seats; a screen, projector and technician on hand to assist our speakers; ample secure parking; serving counters for the tea/coffee section and a lawn nearby – even a jungle gym for the agile. Everything is on the flat – no steps to negotiate – and there is even a toilet for wheelchair members' use. And very importantly, the cost is right for us. U3A is moving there for its meeting at the end of February, so those of you who belong to both organisations will get to know the place quite soon. The venue is part of the Skuilkrans NG Kerk complex in Val-de-Grace, quite close to the Botanical Gardens. It is situated on the corner of Cussonia and Jan Alberts Streets. The attached map will help you orientate yourselves. There are quite a few ways to get there, and for people coming from the direction of Irene it will be a bit longer but quicker because it is mostly on freeways, whereas to get to Brooklyn there are lots of stops.

The other change that must be noted is the time of our meetings at Skuilkrans from April onwards. We can only get access to the hall at 9 am, so from April our meetings will move forward half an hour from 9.00 for 9.30 to 9.30 for 10.00. The chairs should be in place just after 9 am, but if you arrive early there are comfortable padded benches to sit on while you wait.

This means that our membership fees will not be increased this year. Subs of R300 need to be paid by the April meeting. Guest fee remains at R50. For those of you with internet facilities, Wendy would appreciate it if you paid by EFT. Please remember that the reference is **your name**, not "Tuesday Forum". You could also make a direct deposit, sending a copy of the transaction to Wendy at her e-mail address (see above), or you can bring proof of payment to the meeting. Our banking details are:

Account name: Tuesday Forum
Bank: Standard Bank
Branch code: 011245
Account number: 011803282

At the end of last year, Elsje decided that after 11 years as programme organiser she wanted to step down. We tried to persuade her to stay another year but she was adamant. We have greatly appreciated all the work she has put in to provide us with the wonderful programmes she has compiled, and thank her very much. She has agreed to meet and look after the presenters, something she has always done and is very good at too. Ray Spencer, newly co-opted onto the committee, has taken on the job of programme organiser, and we thank him for his willingness to do so. We wish him 'happy hunting' for good speakers. He has not yet secured someone for the Joy in June meeting, but there is time for that, so the programme is finalised for February to May. We will inform you when the June slot is filled.

Regards and best wishes. I look forward to seeing you all at our first meeting.
Jenny

Committee members to contact if you have any enquiries or want to give apologies are:
Carol Verwayen, Betty Urry & Melanie Block.