

eNewsletter No. 11

September 2013

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**1. From the Director's Desk**

**PACSA pays tribute to Professor Colin Gardner**

It was with great sadness that we in the Pietermaritzburg Agency for Community Social Action learnt of the death of Prof. Colin Gardner. He has been a member of PACSA for over 30 years and served on the PACSA Council for many years. During this time we came to know Colin Gardner as a wise, caring, witty, and humble person who lived his life in service of others.

[Read the full tribute here](#)



Dear Readers

Greetings from PACSA.

PACSA office is located on a street lined with Jacaranda trees. We have a saying that when the Jacaranda's flower then the work year is almost over. For us that is a rather scary thought because we still have a number of events and commitments before the work year end.



You will notice that most of this E-newsletter is devoted to upcoming events. In October we release our Food Price Barometer; we are also hosting a round-table discussion on political leadership, a very interesting and important topic as we approach our 2014 national elections, and this month we also host our Film and Arts Festival, which includes more events than last year.

We would like to invite all our local readers to attend the events that interest you and our overseas readers to connect with us via face-book or view the outcomes of these events on our website. Have a good month.

**MERVYN ABRAHAMS**

**2. News**

**· Heritage Day event in Eastwood**

September is Heritage Month and the Thembalihle youth group, in collaboration with Source of Hope youth organization, organized a heritage day celebration in Eastwood, Pietermaritzburg. Eastwood is a racially mixed community with diverse cultures. The day-long celebration focused on community cohesion, solidarity, and building stronger inter-generational communication and included activities such as Zulu dance, Isicathamiya, indlamu and Indian dance.

[Read the full article here](#)



**· Mobilizing Men for an HIV free generation**

For a number of years the Springs of Hope Network engaged with women on HIV and related issues but in September 2013 they embarked on a campaign addressed to men to be part of a HIV free generation through the life-style choices they make. The main message of the campaign, addressed to men, was, "I tested, my partner tested, we talk openly of HIV."



[Read the full article \(with gallery of photographs\) here](#)

· **Mirjam Knecht, a new PACSA intern, writes**

My name is Mirjam Knecht and I am currently an intern at PACSA. I am doing my masters in Global History in Germany, but I decided to interrupt my studies to gain practical experience in the field of NGOs for my future working life. I feel very fortunate to have the possibility to join PACSA's work for the next months. The PACSA staff gave me a warm reception and I already feel being part of the PACSA family.



[Read the full article here](#)

· **The Mandela Day Marathon Benefits PACSA Financially**

In the previous E-Newsletter we mentioned that PACSA was nominated as a beneficiary organisation of the Mandela Day Marathon which took place on the 25th August 2013. On the 19th September the Umgungundlovu Mayor, Cllr Yusuf Bhamjee and the MEC of the Department of Cooperative Governance, handed a cheque of R50, 000 to PACSA and two other NGO's.



[Read the full article here](#)

· **PACSA Staff at the Cumberland Nature Reserve**

PACSA staff spent a day of retreat in the Cumberland Nature Reserve on Friday 13 September 2013. Our retreat focused on connecting with the rhythm of nature and exploring eco spirituality and was led by Allen Goddard of A Rocha South Africa



[Read the article \(with gallery of photographs\) here](#)

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### 3. Upcoming Events

PACSA has a number of public events during the months of October and November 2013. Please join us in the event that most interest you. More information will be provided on the PACSA website and face book.

#### 1. Media Launch of the 2013 PACSA Food Price Barometer

The PACSA Food Price Barometer will be launched at a media briefing on Tuesday, 15 October 2013. The report will be available on the PACSA website ([www.pacsa.org.za](http://www.pacsa.org.za)) on the 16th October which is World Food Day. (Media event)

#### 2. Round table Discussion on Aspects of Political Leadership (Public Event)

[View the invitation here](#)

#### 3. PACSA Film and Arts Festival: 25 to 27 October 2013 (Public Events)

The PACSA Film and Arts Festival will include the following activities:

**Launch of the Festival on the 25 October 2013** at the City Royal Hotel, Burger Street, Pietermaritzburg, from 7.00 to 8.30pm.

- The main event at the launch will be a 'Conversation with Richard Pithouse on Reclaiming Power . . . Imagine Possibilities'
- Included in the programme is a 5 min trailer of the main films to be screened on the 26th October
- Snacks and a glass of wine will be served and a supervised Kids Corner is available

**Various Films and Art Events (26 and 27 October 2013)**

**Films: 26 October 2013**

## 1. Sinodale Auditorium, Burger Street, Pietermaritzburg

### · 10h30 - The Take

The Take is a Canadian documentary film released in 2004 by the wife and husband team of Naomi Klein and Avi Lewis. It tells the story of workers in Buenos Aires, Argentina who reclaim control of a closed Forja auto plant where they once worked and turn it into a worker cooperative

### · 12h00 - Revolution will not be televised

Revolution will not be televised is a 2002 documentary about the April 2002 Venezuelan coup attempt which briefly deposed Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez. A television crew from Ireland's national broadcaster, RTf happened to be recording a documentary about Chavez during the events of April 11, 2002. Shifting focus, they followed the events as they occurred. During their filming, the crew recorded images of the events that they say contradict explanations given by Chavez's opposition, the private media, the US State Department, and then White House Press Secretary Ari Fleischer. The documentary says that the coup was the result of a conspiracy between various old guard and anti-Chavez factions within Venezuela and the United States.

### · 15h00 - Guerrilla Grannies

In the 1970s, filmmaker Ike Bertels was intrigued by an image of three young women on a BBC documentary about the Mozambique Liberation Front. After searching for them for more than a decade, Ike traveled to Mozambique to meet them for the first time - three fierce female guerrillas fighting for the liberation of a nation and in the process, the liberation of its women. Over the next 2 decades, Ike visited the women two more times: in 1994, after the end of the civil war and again in 2011. Guerrilla Grannies tells the story of this last visit. The guerrillas are older now. They have dedicated their lives to revolution. In the latter years, as mothers and grandmothers, they must confront the meaning of freedom for their children in an increasingly uncertain globalised world.

### · 17h00 - Rainmakers

In 2008, the world's food system began to fall apart. Threatened with hunger, rich countries started buying up land in the developing world and industrializing agriculture. In Mali, an American operation threatens small-scale rice farmers who worked this land for generations.

Rainmakers is an investigative documentary about the decline of China's environment. The story is told from the perspective of four civil activists who refuse to accept the ongoing ecological destruction of their homeland. On the border of heroism and stubbornness, four diverse and remarkable Chinese civilians explain why they have the courage to fight the pettish and aggressive local authorities, against all odds. In a film that takes the natural cycle of water as its visual framework, the polluted air of Beijing and Changsha, the filthy water of the Qiantang River and the advancing sand of the Tengger desert, serve as symbols for an environmental battle with many losers and occasionally some winners.

## 2. City Royal Hotel, Burger Street, Pietermaritzburg

### · 14h00 - Black Beulahs

Black Beulahs is a revealing documentary about being black and gay in the township of Soweto. The film is intimately filmed from the perspective of director Fanny Tsimong, looking at the lives of three of his closest friends.

Black Beulahs is a revealing documentary about being black and gay in the township of Soweto. The film is intimately filmed from the perspective of director Fanny Tsimong, looking at the lives of three of his closest friends: Somizi is a television personality, actor dancer and all round entertainer - and creator of the drag persona, Madam Gigi. Chix is a body builder in a relationship with a woman but still indulges his fantasies with men on a regular basis. In his middle-age, DK is the respected owner of a funeral parlour and pillar of the community. Three strong personalities, different in the expression of their sexuality and love, but rooted in Soweto, balancing complex societal expectations and changing sexual values, to live their lives by their own terms.

### · 15h30 - Phakathi - Soweto Middling Class

Two-thirds of adult Sowetans describe themselves 'middle class'. But less than a third of the township's adults have regular employment of any kind, and the proportion of professionals and business owners is tiny. So why do so many say they are 'middle class'? This film follows Mosa Phadi, a researcher from the University of Johannesburg, in her quest to find an answer. She looks at the lives and lifestyles of five self-identified 'middle-class' residents - all from different backgrounds - but draws a blank. Eventually, she films a furious argument between two of them, both women, one owning substantial businesses and the other living in a shack settlement. They both contest the other's right to call themselves middle-class, providing Phadi with part of an answer. But it is not the full story, and the film concludes with a question to the audience: 'What do you mean by middle class'?

· Guerrilla Film Making Workshop, at the City Royal Hotel, Burger Street, from 9.00am to 1.00pm. This workshop will be facilitated by 'The Jetty' and involves exploring the power of video stories, including YouTube videos and movie clips.

#### JAZZ FESTIVAL: 26 October 2013

· A Jazz Festival at the City Royal, Burger Street, starting at 18h00 and featuring artists such as, Zazi, Izqhaza, Afrocentric, and Soulful Sound.

#### POETRY SESSION: Sunday, 27 October 2013

· A poetry session starting at 13h00 at the City Royal, Burger Street, Pietermaritzburg, hosted by Izwi Youth Movement and featuring the following poets:

Mxolisi - Zulu Love Letter

Horus

Ndu Zondi

Minenhle Mthembu

Xoliswa Dlamini

Andile

#### 4. 16 Days of Activism: Launch of two new books

During the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence in November 2013 PACSA and partners will launch two new books. Dates and venues for these launches will be announced later. The books are:

· Men and Masculinities in South Africa. A three part series comprising stories, analysis and faith based resources



**Men and Masculinities in South Africa**  
a three-part series comprising stories, analysis and faith-based resources

Gender transformation work is critical to sustain our country's democratic process. PACSA and Sonke Gender Justice Network share the ambitious aim of bringing about fundamental social change that includes the prevention of domestic and sexual violence, achieving gender equality, responding to HIV and AIDs and deepening democracy and human rights.

Working with gender activists, NGOs and local communities, they have compiled a three-part series to contribute to this agenda by promoting positive male norms.

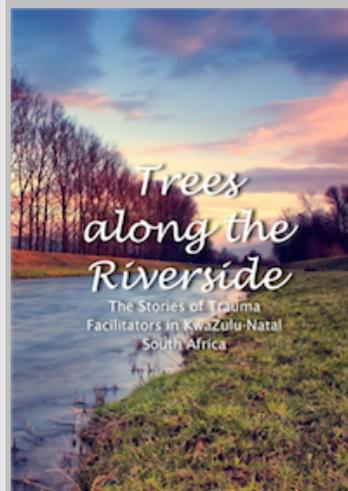
**Volume 1: Stories of Men Making a Difference**  
This volume contains personal stories of men who, through their struggles, exemplify positive male norms.

**Volume 2: Understanding Masculinity in South Africa - Essays and Perspectives**  
The essays and interviews in Volume 2 analyse the divergent masculinities which prevail among different sectors of South African society. Perspectives offered include those of traditional African culture, religion, gender rights, gay and lesbian rights, and our democratic Constitution. These insights reveal the importance of, and the possibilities for, positive change in the pursuit of a more equitable and inclusive society.

**Volume 3: Faith-based Resources for Change**  
Volume 3 contains resources developed by people working on these issues with men and boys. It aims to equip those, especially people working within faith communities, who seek to bring about change in the perceptions of men - and women - about what it should mean to be a "real" man.

· Trees along the Riverside. The Stories of Trauma Facilitators in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.



#### 4. Feature/Debate

South Africa is in the process of exploring an innovative system of healthcare, known as the National Health Insurance that will make sure that all citizens of South Africa (and legal long-term residents) are provided with essential healthcare, regardless of their employment status and ability to make a direct monetary contribution to the NHI Fund. One of the pilot areas for the NHI is the Umgungundlovu District in which PACSA operates and PACSA, as part of a collaborative process with Monash University and Oxfam Australia, facilitated a number of reflection spaces with community groups on the NHI.



#### 5. Support PACSA financially through MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet Card

PACSA is now registered as a beneficiary of the Woolworths My School card programme. This means that the My School card users can list PACSA as a beneficiary and we will receive a small contribution each time you swipe your card at Woolworths. If you are a card user and would like to list PACSA as a beneficiary then please follow the steps below:

1. Link your current Woolworths Card to MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet by calling 0860 100 445 and make PACSA one of your charities.
2. If you already have a MySchool card, but would like to change your beneficiary, simply call our Client Service Centre (0860 100 445) - there is no need to get a new card!
3. If you don't have a MySchool card yet, simply apply for your card online or fill out an application in store.



#### **If online:**

Go to the Woolies website: <http://www.woolworths.co.za/>

- Click on Reward Yourself-it's on the top button bar
- Go to the box titled: Reward a School of Charity and click on click there for more information.
- Then follow the steps outlined

**NOTE:**The list of possible charities is right at the TOP of the form-go down the list and choose PACSA (My Village). Visit: <http://www.myschool.co.za/> for a comprehensive list of Villages and Planets or to read more.

#### 6. Write to us!

*Here we encourage readers to write to us!*