

EDITORIAL



Is crime fiction the new political novel? was one of the topics at the Franschhoek Literary Festival. In his *On writing* series Dr Francois Verster discusses this rather interesting genre which is extensively elaborated on in Stanley Jonck's article, *Investigating crime in South Africa* on page 18. Stanley in turn discusses several non-fiction titles that cover crime-related aspects varying from pathology to true crime stories – a real treat.

Mimi Coertse, known to South Africans as 'Onse Mimi', and a world famous soprano and opera singer, recently celebrated her 80th birthday. As a tribute to her, our audiovisual selector Cherezaan Basadien discusses some book titles as well as CDs in our collection on page 38 in her article, *Our Mimi*. Enjoy!

Having had to weather the weather (excuse the pun) this year in what, in my opinion, has been the coldest winter since I landed in the Cape in 1992, has caused me to long for an early spring and those warm lazy summer days. One of our correspondents, Dalena le Roux takes the first step into spring with her article, *My garden, my haven ...* (page 42) in which she highlights some creative titles on how to turn one's garden into a haven and personal sanctuary. This will especially appeal to the enthusiastic DIY-types. It may also serve as inspiration for some displays in libraries to advertise the variety of titles on the topic.

In closing, at the time of going to print we are furiously preparing for National Book Week, the launch of which this year is taking place in Hermanus. National Book Week is one of the highlights on the literary calendar and the Library Service of the Western Cape plays a very active role during this period to encourage and promote reading, especially among the young. In our next issue we will feature the activities of this exciting project. In the meantime we hope that we will see many of our readers at the Book Week.

Is misdaadfiksie die nuwe politieke novella? was een van die onderwerpe wat onlangs tydens die Franschhoek Literêre Fees onder bespreking was. Dr Francois Verster bespreek in sy reeks, *Skryfgedagtes*, hierdie interessante genre. In sy artikel, *Investigating crime in South Africa* op bladsy 18 brei ons boekkeurder, Stanley Jonck op sy beurt verder uit op die onderwerp en bespreek 'n hele aantal nuwe nie-fiksie titels met misdaad as onderwerp wat wissel van patologie tot ware misdaadverhale.

'Onse Mimi', 'n huishoudelike naam onder Suid-Afrikaners vir die alombekende Mimi Coertse - 'n wêreldbekende sopraan en operasanger, het onlangs haar 80ste verjaardag gevier. Ter viering van hierdie geleentheid bespreek Cherezaan Basadien, ons oudiovisuele keurder, 'n keur van boektitels en CD's in die Diens se versameling in haar artikel, *Our Mimi* op bladsy 38.

Kapenaars moes omtrent vanjaar die gure winterweer trotseer (vir my die ergste sedert ek in 1992 permanent in die Kaap aangeland het). Die ysige koue laat my omtrent verlang na 'n vroeë lente en daardie heerlike luilekker warm somersdae. Dalena le Roux, een van ons korrespondente het hierdie maand besluit om die lente aan te jaag met haar inspirerende artikel, *My garden, my haven ...* (bladsy 42) waarin sy lesers attent maak op die interessante versameling titels beskikbaar om hul tuine in daardie spesiale toevlugplekkie te omskep. Doen-dit-self entoesiaste sal hierdie artikel besonder geniet en bibliotekaris se kan gerus uitstallings oor die onderwerp saamstel om voorraad te bemark.

So tussen al die tydskrifaktiwiteite deur is dit 'n gewoel en gewerskaf om voorbereidings te tref vir die jaarlikse Nasionale Boekweek wat op 3 September geloods en vanjaar in Hermanus aangebied word. Die Nasionale Boekweek is een van die hoogtepunte op die literêre kalender en die Biblioteekdiens speel gedurende hierdie week 'n aktiewe rol om lees te bevorder, veral onder die jeug. In ons volgende uitgawe berig ons graag oor die week se gebeure en ondertussen hoop ons om baie van ons lesers daar raak te loop.

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