

EDITORIAL



Once more it's upon us – YULETIDE! Yes, is this not a very special time of the year for many of us? Apart from the fact that it really is a time to slow down, take stock, be kind, regroup, think of others, forget about all the negatives that have invaded our lives on a daily basis in the past year; and most important, a time to thank a higher being for seeing us through another year; I simply love the bells and whistles and all that glitters that's part of the festive period.

For many of us this is also the time of the year when we take our annual vacation, and for that very reason we've asked one of our well-known book selectors, Sabrina Gosling, to put together a holiday reading list (page 23). What a joy it was to edit – my only frustration is that there are so many books that I ticked to add to my list of books to read before I die that I think the Grim Reaper is going to catch up with me before I am halfway through my list! As an added element of interest we contacted our various correspondents who contributed to the magazine during the year; and we also did an internal survey of staff to find out their best reads for 2012 – all of which we share with you on page 8. I am fairly confident that nobody is going to battle to find at least one good book to lose themselves in during this holiday period.

On the more serious side, Genevieve Hart, associate professor at the University of the Western Cape shows us a year in the extracurricular life of a library school – interesting and informative reading on page 14.

Very important also in this issue, on page 16 we publish a comprehensive article on municipal replacement funding by deputy director Pieter Hugo. This funding has been put in place by the Western Cape Government to compensate vulnerable municipalities for library expenditure, which, since 1996 actually has been the responsibility of provincial governments.

The 2013 International Board on Books' World Congress, held this year in Copenhagen has also come and gone, and on page 20 outgoing chairman Robin Malan provides interesting feedback on this important event.

Cheers! Slainte! Gesondheid! Prost! Skål! ... man's fascination with the fruit of the vine cannot be denied, and if not abused, it is for many an indispensable feature of any social interaction. As correspondent Dalena le Roux points out in her article on page 50, a glass of something liquid in our hands can almost be called the lifeblood of any get-together. Well, we are entering the festive season, so use the 'liquid' wisely and make sure that you have a book, not a steering wheel, in your hands!

Friendly Christmas wishes from all in Publications!



Dis weer sulke tyd - KERSFEES! Dit bly vir baie van ons mos 'n baie spesiale tyd van die jaar. Behalwe dat dit werklik tyd is om die pas stadiger te maak, om jou lewe in oënskou te neem, om jou vere reg te skud, om te vergeet van die talle negatiewe gebeure wat 'n mens daaglik beïnvloed, en baie belangrik, om dankie te sê aan 'n hoër wese vir die talle genades ontvang deur die jaar; bly ek dol oor die heerlikhede van die feesseisoen.

Hierdie tyd van die jaar gaan die meeste van ons lesers met hul jaarlikse vakansie en om daardie rede het ons Sabrina Gosling, ons bekende boekkeurder; gevra om 'n vakansieleslys saam te stel (bladsy 23). Dit was pure plesier om dit te redigeer – my enigste frustrasie was dat daar só baie boeke op die lys was waarlangs ek 'n merkie gemaak het vir my lysie van boeke wat ek nog moet lees voordat ek doodgaan, dat ek bevrees is dat die Ou Grote my dalk sal kom haal voordat ek by almal uitgekom het! Net om dit nog interessanter te maak, het ons al ons medewerkers van 2012 genader; en ook 'n vraelys aan personeel gestuur om hul beste boek vir 2012 aan te dui – kyk gerus op bladsy 8 na hulle keuses. Ek is vol vertroue dat niemand vanjaar gaan sukkel om hul neuse in tenminste een goeie boek te druk nie.

Op 'n ernstiger noot vertel Genevieve Hart, mede-professor aan die Universiteit van die Wes-Kaap vir ons van hul meer informele kursusse wat deur die biblioteekskool aangebied word – interessante nuus wat op bladsy 14 gelees kan word.

Ook baie belangrik in hierdie uitgawe, publiseer ons 'n volledige artikel op bladsy 16 deur adjunkdirekteur Pieter Hugo oor die Munisipale Vervangings-befondsing wat deur die Wes-Kaapse regering in plek gestel is om kwesbare munisipaliteite te vergoed vir uitgawes op biblioteke wat sedert 1996 eintlik die verantwoordelikheid van provinsiale regerings is.

Die uittredende voorsitter van die International Board on Books (IBBY), Robin Malan, het die onlangse wêreldkongres van IBBY in Kopenhagen bygewoon en deel op bladsy 20 sy ondervindinge met lesers.

Cheers! Slainte! Gesondheid! Prost! Skål! ... die mens se bewondering vir en toegeneentheid tot die vrug van die druif kan nie ontken word nie, en solank dit nie misbruik word nie, is dit vir baie 'n noodsaaklike bestanddeel vir enige sosiale interaksie. Dalena le Roux merk tereg in haar artikel op bladsy 50 op dat 'n glasie van die een of ander vloeistof in die hand omtrent gesien kan word as die lewensbloed van 'n samekoms. Wel, terwyl ons nou die feesseisoen betree, gebruik asseblief die 'voggies' oordeelkundig en maak seker jy doen dit met 'n boek in jou hande en nie 'n stuurwiel nie!

Vriendelike Kerswense van ons almal in Publikasies!

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