



YALE ALUMNI SERVICE CORPS  CAPE TOWN 2018

Newsletter No. 4  
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Hello everyone,

We are just 5 weeks away!

By now you should have received your project team assignment. If you didn't, then there was a failure in our finely tuned system and you should contact me right away!

Veterans of past trips may be wondering why it took so long. The answer is two-fold. First, we had a change in personnel at the top of the Philippi school district. With so many of our projects will be taking place in the schools it was crucial for us to connect with the new leadership and confirm support for our efforts. Although it took some time, I'm happy to say that the district remains 100% committed to our projects. The other reason is that Joao and I have been working closely with Amandla to set up the projects in much more detail than usual. We are hoping that that extra time and work will pay off in making your team's work a little easier in the lead-up to the trip.

Speaking of Amandla, you'll be hearing more from Scott Clarke and his staff about Amandla's work when we get to Cape Town. But in the meantime, if you'd like a short introduction, take a look here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oy\\_opDFMsk0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oy_opDFMsk0)



## **Where's the swag?**

Another change from past trips is that your *bag o' swag* will not be arriving at your door. In an effort to spend more of our money locally, we're printing everything in Philippi. Look for your package of logo-ized shirts and other useful items when you check-in at the hotel on the 26<sup>th</sup>. This means less to schlep across the Atlantic (but be sure to leave room in your suitcase to schlep it back the other way).

The final pdf of the directory will be going out soon. You can print out a copy for yourself, but we also intend to have copies printed and available at check-in on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

## **Airport shuttle**

Thank you everyone for getting us your flight info. Between those of you going on the pre-trip and those who have arranged their own pre-trips, we've got quite a spreadsheet going. On the 26<sup>th</sup> alone people are arriving on 14 different flights with arrival times ranging from 10 am to 9:30 pm. We are only offering a shuttle bus from the airport to the hotel for those arriving on that day, but I'm pleased to say that we have decided to run more than one shuttle (probably 4, in fact) so that everyone who wants a ride will get one. We'll be circulating the pick-up schedule along with instructions for where to meet the bus when we get a little closer to the trip.

## **America...and YASC's...Got Talent**

It is a YASC tradition that on our penultimate night, we feature a talent (and "talent") show. Song, dance, comedy, alleged comedy...all entries welcome. Bring your act along with your musical instruments, tap shoes, magic tricks—whatever you need for your performance. More details once we're on the ground in Cape Town.

## **Boerewors, Bunny Chow, and Snoek (Oh my!)**

This past week a group of Bay Area YASCers who are all signed up for the trip got together for a pot-luck dinner featuring South African specialties. A delicious preview of what's to come. Here's an interesting article about South African cuisine that will get you salivating:

<https://explorepartsunknown.com/south-africa/the-bittersweet-and-spicy-history-of-south-african-cuisine/>

And if that's not enough, here's an article about Abigail Mbalo, local chef and restaurateur and former finalist on the South Africa edition of the television show "MasterChef"

<https://rollingout.com/2018/05/25/meet-south-africas-masterchef-abigail-mbalo/>

Abigail will be pulling up her food truck to feed us lunch during our week in Philippi. João and I had the pleasure of eating in her restaurant in Khayelitsha township (just down the road from Philippi) on our advance trip, and we both agree that our lunches on this trip should surpass any from past trips.



### **It takes a village...Philippi Village**

You may have heard us referring to Philippi Village and be wondering if that's the same thing as Philippi township. The answer is no. Philippi Village is former cement factory that has been converted into a mixed-use business park focusing on providing office space and other services for local entrepreneurs and nonprofits as well as storefronts (made from a row of shipping containers) for small-business start-ups. Our Business Consulting team will be based there. And located across the street from the Village are a group of nonprofits, including those that our HIV Education and Women's Health teams will be working with.

Here's an interesting video made a few years ago when development of Philippi Village was in the early stages: <https://youtu.be/2u10oZfIss0>



### **More reading recommendations...**

Many of you have told me how much you enjoyed Trevor Noah's book (especially the audio version that he reads himself). For those who want more, here are some additional book suggestions:

*Long Walk to Freedom* by Nelson Mandela – His classic autobiography

*Rabble-Rouse for Peace* by John Allen – Authorized biography of Desmond Tutu

*I Write What I Like* by Steve Biko – Selected essays by one of the leaders of the Black Consciousness Movement during the apartheid era

*491 Days: Prisoner Number 1323/69* by Winnie Madikizela-Mandela – Account of her imprisonment and trials

*Winnie Mandela: A Life* by Anné Marië du Preez Bedrob – Comprehensive biography

*How Can a Man Die Better* by Benjamin Pogrund – Biography of Robert Sobukwe, leader of Pan-Africanist Congress and anti-apartheid hero

*Country of My Skull* by Antjie Krog – Chronicle of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission by the poet & journalist

*Cry, the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton – Famous novel first published in 1948

*Sounds of the Cowhide Drum* by Mbuyiseni Oswald Mtshali – Landmark work of poetry



*Power of One* by Bryce Courtenay – Novel set in South Africa in the 1930's and 40's  
*The Boer War Diary of Sol T. Plaatje: an African at Mafeking* by Sol Plaatje - Account of the siege of Mafeking during the South African War  
*Native Life in South Africa* by Sol T. Plaatje – First published in 1916, dealing with the discriminatory 1913 Native Lands Act  
*Postcards from Soweto* by Mokone Moete - Recollections of growing up in the township during the 1970s  
*The Madonna of Excelsior* by Zakes Mda – Novel centering around Immorality Act of 1927 prohibiting sex between whites and blacks  
*The Cry of Winnie Mandela* by Njabulo Simakahle Ndebele – Novel about women's sacrifices and contributions to the struggle against apartheid  
*We are not such things: The murder of a young American, a South African township, and the search for truth and reconciliation* by Justine Van der Leun – About the 1993 murder of American student Amy Biehl  
*Mother to Mother* by Sindiwe Magona – Novel relating to the Biehl murder

### **Click Click Click**

Xhosa is one of the official languages of South Africa. It is the second most common language after Zulu and is notable for its use of clicks. (It's also notable as the language spoken in the fictional African nation of Wakanda in the *Black Panther* movie!) If you'd like to start brushing up on your Xhosa language skills, here are a couple of videos to get you started.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YlocQ29uud4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kgXPafPj8zs>

Then practice singing along with Miriam Makeba on the song *Qongqothwane* better known in English as "The Click Song."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V3YOBUKN58>

Work on your team projects should now be starting in earnest.  
More news coming soon.

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P.S. Amandla has received a donation of a dozen laptops from someone in the US. Shipping them to Cape Town would be costly (versus shipping them to someone in the US). They're asking if anyone with some extra room in their luggage would be willing to bring one or more with them. The donor will ship them to your home in the US. If you're willing, please contact Bongsi at Amandla ([pm@amandladev.org](mailto:pm@amandladev.org)) and cc me on your email. We need to know right away who can do this so Amandla can arrange to ship the computer(s) to you.