



**AUSTRIAN-SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY  
ÖSTERREICHISCH-SÜDAFRIKANISCHE VEREINIGUNG**  
"FRIENDS OF SOUTH AFRICA"

## **Newsletter No. 1 / 2008**

Taken from **"10 Secrets for Success and Inner Peace"** by Dr. Wayne Dyer  
1<sup>st</sup> secret: "Have a mind that is open to everything and attached to nothing"

"Having a mind that is open to everything and attached to nothing seems to me to be one of the most basic principles that you can adopt to contribute to individual and world peace...Refuse to allow yourself to have low expectations about what you're capable of creating. As Michelangelo suggested, the greater danger is not that your hopes are too high and you fail to reach them; it's that they're too low and you do."

### **DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS**

We would like to start this newsletter off by thanking you for all your support in 2007. As you already know a new Board was elected at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held at the English Speaking United Methodist Church, Sechshauserstrasse 56, A1150, Vienna on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2008, to finish the interim year for 2008. The AGM was officially opened and a speech was made by the Counsellor of South Africa to Austria, Mr Graham Anderson. This is the first newsletter with the new team, and we are looking forward to bringing you exciting news and events this year. Please visit the FoSA website to read more about the Board Members [www.fosa.at](http://www.fosa.at)

Please note the Account details for your membership fees:

**FoSA Friends of South Africa RLB NOE – Wien Account No.: 6.322.002 BLZ 32000**

## THE INAUGURAL SPEECH OF THE NEW PRESIDENT.

After a rather tumultuous second half of 2007 in FoSA, triggered by the resignation of our president Hans Werner Autz which was followed by other resignations, the realization of my having to take over as president came as a bit of a shock, leaving me (personally) dealing with issues like whether I would be qualified to follow in his footsteps. There were moments where I really didn't know whether I would be the right "man" for the job or whether I was willing to take on the position. The reality of volunteer work is that this is exactly what it is; it's like doing a full-time job but not getting paid for it. It's telephone bills, postage bills, organizing events and meetings, organizing and delegation of responsibilities, finding time in an already packed calendar for the FoSA things, and still having to get through whatever it is that you do on a day to day basis, be it work, a mother, a student or all three at once. Volunteer work is not easy, but you realize at the end of an event or when you transfer promised monies into a project's bank account that this pleasure is what makes it so worthwhile, this is your "payment" and you realize that it keeps you connected to friends; Austrians and South Africans, wherever you may find yourself who share the same values, it's for those less privileged than you in your home country, and that you do it simply for the love of it.

After sharing the commitment and dedication of the remaining board members we kicked into action and as the weeks went by the fight for FoSA gained ground, and confidence. Right now I am proud to say that I have taken on

the responsibility of being President only because I am privileged to work with a fantastic team of dedicated and enthusiastic board members who all just want to see FoSA being successful. We are strengthened by the individual talents and diverse characteristics of each board member and I am more than confident that we will be able to offer our FoSA members and friends much in the coming year!

We have tried in this short time to optimize many of our existing tasks, events and projects, to change some "old" things as well as introduce some "new" ones. As a start we will be having a FoSA "Kick Off" meeting where we want as many of our members to join in order to do some brainstorming and get feedback from you so that we can align our activities with the wishes of you, our members.

We have committed ourselves to continue with our big "money making" events, being the FoSA Golf day and the FoSA South African Braai (BBQ) this year. Both these events are in the early planning stages. We have some husbands who are keen golfers, so we are sure to get the much needed support for the golf day in June. The date for the braai has been set for early September. The advent market, which has proved to be a good and steady form of income, will be held late November.

With regard to other events and projects we have some great ideas in the pipeline (see Oeboentoe and Ha!Man below), but again finding suitable venues, making sure these dates don't clash with other big Viennese events

etc. require some active planning. We will be proud to announce concrete details soon!

Last but not least I have a big request. Please pay in the membership fees for 2008 as soon as possible. Only with your support are we able to plan and realize events which in turn generate additional funds for our projects. The banking details are in the footnotes of each page of the Newsletter. We will definitely not disappoint you.

Please help and support FoSA to become more active, more attractive and better known in Vienna and even better, in Austria. Feel free to give us any feedback, as constructive criticism is always welcome in order to improve our work and we all hope that we will see many of you at our "**Kick Off**" meeting.

Hester Wyhlidal, President

Es war eine gute Idee unserer Präsidentin gewesen, einmal einen Adventmarkt außerhalb Wiens zu besuchen und für FoSA dort einen Stand zu buchen. Es stellte sich als echter Erfolg heraus und daher nahmen die Vorstandsmitglieder von FoSA dieses Jahr auch am Ostermarkt in Hollabrunn teil, indem sie reihum den Stand am Wochenende betreuten. In einem schönen, alten Gebäude präsentiert sich der Markt sehr stilvoll und prächtig. Alle Stände verkauften Artikel zum Osterfest, von der Gastronomie einmal abgesehen. So war es nicht erstaunlich, dass FoSA's Stand herausstach, da wir nur Artikel aus Afrika und

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mit afrikanischem Touch anbieten. Den Besuchern wurde dabei erklärt, dass es bei FoSA um ehrenamtliche Arbeit zugunsten einiger Kinder-Hilfsprojekte in SA geht.

Die Besucher zeigten sich sehr angetan und interessiert und kauften unsere Artikel mehrheitlich als Geschenke, aber auch, um eigene Wohnungen zu dekorieren. Das Wochenende verlief sehr angenehm, da eine gute Atmosphäre insgesamt auf dem Markt herrschte. Ein strahlender Frühlingstag trug sicher auch zur guten Laune bei. FoSA wird in diesem Jahr auch wieder am Adventmarkt in Hollabrunn teilnehmen. Wir werden zeitgerecht darauf auf unserer website hinweisen. Bitte schauen Sie sich das einmal an, es ist nicht weit von Wien und wirklich sehenswert, anders als die Adventmärkte in Wien.

Elisabeth Péan, Board Member

**VIELEN DANK !!!**



**HANS WERNER AUTZ  
PRESIDENT OF FoSA 2005 - 2007**

Ganz herzlichen Dank für alles!  
Diese Worte können nur unvollständig unsere Dankbarkeit ausdrücken. Eigentlich wollen wir damit sagen: Zuletzt ein ganz großes Dankeschön, Du wirst sicher wissen, wie sehr wir Deine Führung und Inspiration geschätzt haben.

Viel Glück und Gottes Segen!

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An die Vorstandsmitglieder bis 2008

Der neue Vorstand möchte den ehemaligen Vorstandsmitgliedern für alle Mühe danken und für ihren Beitrag, diese schwierige Zeit zu überwinden.

Besten Dank!

## **OEOBENTOE – OUR NEWLY APPROVED CHARITY PROJECT IN SOUTH AFRICA**

Oeboentoe has for the past thirteen years been offering a safe, loving shelter to neglected and traumatized children between the ages of 0 and 13. The house parents, Cawood and Erica Kelbrick and their four children form the framework around which several welfare organizations and the Child Protection Units of the SAPS place children out for undefined periods of time.

Here the children are not only physically cared for but also spiritually and emotionally supported by the house parents, assisted by several supporters that are involved on a regular basis. They are also protected against further exposure to physical, sexual and emotional abuse and neglect, until the Juvenile court's investigation is completed. Oeboentoe House has given a home and care to approximately 145 children over the past thirteen years, sometimes under very difficult circumstances. Why the name Oeboentoe? Cawood and Erica made themselves available and the children started streaming in. They sometimes wondered how they would be able to help and love all the children that ended up in their home. They realized that the answer lay in more ways than one in "Oë -boontoe" (Eyes heavenwards). Since then the family has not looked down.

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Together with Sara as part of the team the children are helped to rediscover their human value. Self-confidence is taught through games, tasks and lots of love. The children are helped to develop, and challenged, to look life squarely in the face again. At Oeboentoe House one experiences how love and acceptance can mend the broken hearts of children. Their hearts are full of love.

Carlien Doevendans, Secretary

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### „FAMILY STRENGTHENING PROGRAMS“ PROJECT – SOUTH AFRICA

Auch in diesem Jahr wird FoSA „Family strengthening programs“ in SA unterstützen. Diese Initiativen gehen von den SOS-Kinderdörfern in SA aus und werden in enger Zusammenarbeit mit den jeweiligen Gemeinden durchgeführt. Familien, die durch AIDS dezimiert wurden und wo vor allem die Eltern fehlen, erhalten Hilfe auf verschiedenste Weise. Meistens betreut nur noch eine Großmutter oder das Älteste der Geschwister die Kinder.

Die Unterstützung wird in Form von Essenspaketen, Kleidung, Schuluniformen, Schulgeld, Gesundheitsbetreuung und Freizeitmöglichkeiten gewährt. Es wird dafür gesorgt, dass die Kinder sicher zum Wasserholen gehen können. Oft sind die Alten in der Familie selbst hilfsbedürftig, daher besuchen Freiwillige regelmäßig die Familien, damit sie auch ein wenig Liebe und Zuwendung bekommen. Ziel ist, die Familien in ihren Häuschen zu erhalten und nicht in Institutionen zu überführen. Zusätzlich gibt es Anleitung zum eigenen Gelderwerb, wie das Erlernen von

Handarbeiten und Anbau von Gemüse und Obst. In diesem Jahr 2008 unterstützen wir das Projekt in Kapstadt.

Elisabeth Péan, Board Member



### Forthcoming Events

#### Kick Off Event

We will be hosting a Kick Off Event for Old, current and non members.

**Date:** To be confirmed (end of April)

**Venue:** South African Embassy, Library

**Time:** 18h30

Please, come and join us for an evening of past memories, current ideas and future goals. Give us your input. Tell us what you want/expect from FoSA and what FoSA can offer you (and lots lots more!!!!)

Snacks and soft drinks will be served.

#### South African Braai

We are planning the Braai for 2008! Due to International Laws the South African Embassy is no longer available as a Venue. We have a few ideas on venues but if some of you have suggestions/recommendation we would be very grateful and happy if you could contact us or send an e-mail to [fosa@fosa.at](mailto:fosa@fosa.at)

The proposed date for the Braai:

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2008.

Let's make this another Braai for all to remember!

#### Ha!Man

The Ha!Man is an event none of you should miss. He is amazing, extraordinary, entertaining and lots more. This performance is for young and old.

**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> May 2008

**Venue:** To be confirmed

To have a look at this amazing artist, go to his YouTube website and have a peek

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=9590dPkKcs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9590dPkKcs)

Carlien Doevendans, Secretary

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### A little bit more fun

**Here is our biggest FoSA Smile  
Just for you, saying thanks for being a  
Member!!!!!!!**



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## WHAT DO OUR MEMBERS THINK MEMBERS SURVEY !

It is common that members of clubs and societies tend to be rather silent, and this is no different with FoSA. However, we would like to get to know our members a lot better.

So during April 2008 you'll be receiving a short questionnaire from us to complete and to return to us (voluntarily, of course!).

Helena Buss, Treasurer

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## COOKING CORNER.....

### LEMON MERINGUE PIE

397 g tin Sweetened Condensed Milk  
125 ml lemon Juice (1/2 cup)  
Grated rind of 1 Lemon  
2 Eggs, separated  
25 ml Granulated Sugar (2 teaspoons)  
1 ml Salt

### METHOD

1. mix together sweetened condensed milk, lemon juice, grated rind of lemon, egg yolks and the salt.
2. pour into a 20 cm baked pie shell.

3. cover with meringue made by beating the egg whites until they are stiff and dry, then gradually add the sugar and beat again.
4. bake in a slow oven (140-150 deg C) for 30 minutes, or until the meringue is crisp and golden brown

Paulette Hendry, Vice-President

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



It's with great pride that we announce the following achievements:

**Hester Wyhlidal** – has just graduated in “Sozial und Lebensberatung” with the focus on “Systemische Coaching und Unternehmensberatung”, dealing in areas such as Change and Cultural Management as well as Crisis Intervention. Issues such as work-life balance as well as personal growth and empowerment are also supported.

**Andree van Rooy** – completed her Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree through the University of South Africa. Next up for her is the completion of articles and bar exams.

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## WEBSITE MATTERS

We are updating the website with new information. Look out for the following:

- read more about the new FoSA board
- members's area:
  - you can send us an e-mail if you want to receive board meeting minutes regularly
  - exclusively for members – sell your unwanted stuff on the FoSA website
- check out the new charities for 2008, especially the Oeboentoe project
- more useful information on living in Austria – list of physicians
- all the upcoming events in 2008
- proposal for the election of new board members
- a new category on website “Archive” to file all old FoSA information
- photos of the Easter Market and the 2008 AGM.

Updates will be completed by 9 April 2008.

Andree van Rooy, Board Member



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**PROUDLY SOUTH AFRICAN  
JOHAN BOTHA**

**SA TENOR DETHRONES DOMINGO**

Feb 13 2008 01:42:09:383PM - Verena Dobnik  
(Media 24)

*South African tenor Johan Botha has triumphed at New York's Metropolitan Opera and dethroned Placido Domingo as the world's new Otello.*

New York - It's no small task for a tenor to take on a role that Placido Domingo dominated for decades - Verdi's Otello. But the **South African tenor Johan Botha** triumphed on Monday at the Metropolitan Opera in New York, where Domingo sang 40 performances of the Shakespearean tragedy that Verdi turned into towering musical drama.

The Met audience awarded the South African star with a standing ovation for his portrayal of the complex Otello. Otello's self-destructive love journey is one of the most riveting in opera, and one of the most technically taxing. The role demands a combination of Wagnerian heft, Italianate lyricism and volcanic rage that few singers possess. The 42-year-old Botha poured his powerful yet sweet sound into the part of the jealous Moor of Venice.

His clarion tenor exuded both passion and stamina, with blowtorch high notes like the high C Otello uses to castigate the wife he believes is unfaithful. Botha's shattering portrayal of Otello was matched by the near-perfect Desdemona of leading American soprano Renee Fleming, who brought a ravishing purity to the role of the wife humiliated and literally strangled by her husband's blind obsession.....



So Leute, das ist alles für heute. Wenn Sie Fragen, Anträge, Vorschläge oder irgendetwas haben, was Sie mit uns teilen möchten, bitte nur zu! [fosa@fosa.at](mailto:fosa@fosa.at)

Alles Gute

Ihr FoSA Vorstand

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**Easter Market @ Hollabrunn March 2008**



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