

Welcome to 6th Jozi Book Fair: 26-27 September 2014!!!

Editorial

Welcome to Jozi Book Fair 2014. Our sincere thanks to everyone, especially the public, for making JBF 2013 a great success!

This year the Jozi Book Fair (JBF) will take place on 26-27 September 2014, at Central Johannesburg College (Ellis Park campus) in Doornfontein. The new dates (a shift from October) accommodate the participation of students and staff at tertiary institutions. The venue has also been changed to take into account the growth of the Fair.

The aim of the JBF is to deepen the culture of reading and writing in South Africa and beyond. The JBF does this through our work with readers, writers, small and indigenous language publishers and self-publishers.

This year the JBF celebrates its 6th anniversary with the theme Reading the word and the world: the role of book clubs. We are also very happy to announce that the Guest of the Fair is acclaimed Southern African author, Zakes Mda.

We encourage existing book clubs to register with the JBF and become part of a readers' movement. Contact JBF if you want to start a book club and we will assist you. We also encourage you to read Zakes Mda's books in preparation for the Fair, when you will meet and discuss with him.

Join JBF and together let us build a movement of readers and writers, of all ages, across all cultures and inclusive of all languages, in schools, communities, workplaces, everywhere.

In solidarity

Editor

Announcements

- 6th Jozi Book Fair, 26-27 September 2014, Central Johannesburg College, (Ellis Park campus), Doornfontein.
- Registration to Exhibit at the JBF is OPEN! Download Registration Form at our website.
- Calling All book clubs: register with JBF and participate in the JBF Book Club Network
- Want to start a book club? Contact JBF to assist you.
- Guest of the JBF: Zakes Mda. All book clubs encouraged to read and review Mda's work in preparation for the fair. All reviews will be uploaded onto the Network.
- JBF's cultural programme with school youth called Tsohang Batjha.
- Contact JBF: Contact JBF: Telephone: 011-336 9190 Email: jozibookfair@khanvacollege.org.za, Website: www.jozibookfair.org.za and

Facebook: Jozi Book Fair

JBF 2013: a great success!

Last year the 5th JBF took place on 25-26 October 2013 at Museum Africa, in Newtown. The JBF 2013 was successful and consolidated the orientation and aims of the Fair. The JBF is a not-for-profit Fair, oriented to building social justice and tolerance through the creation of a reading and writing culture, a movement of amongst others, readers, writers, progressive publishers, youth, children and the public.



The JBF 2013 was well received: more than 2 500 people attended the Fair, including school youth and children. There were 100 events at the Fair, such as workshops, seminars and book launches. Most (70%) events at the Fair was hosted by civil society organisations and individuals, in response to the JBF's public call to 'participate in the Fair and host an event.' One of the seminars was on land struggles in Africa and South Africa, and also focused on the centenary of the 1910 Land Act. The Marikana Photo Exhibition also formed part of the JBF and was hosted at the Workers Museum. The JBF also organised tours of the Museum, which focuses on migrant labour. The Tricontinental Festival also participated and showed a select number of the films at the fair. There were a number of exhibitors at the Fair, including publishers, self-publishers and ngos. Specific workshops such as making comics, hip hop, drama and script writing were held to encourage young people to read. The theme of the children's programme was 'Playing with Language', and included activities in English, Swedish, Swahili and Southern African languages. Children enjoyed these activities effortlessly.

A number of events were held in the immediate run up to the Fair. This included a public workshop on 'the growth of the Gothenburg Book Fair and its impact on the publishing industry'. There was also a public seminar on 'Reviving African Intellectualism in the context of neoliberalism' with Professor Issa Shivji of Tanzania. The Conference on libraries, focused on the theme of the fair.

Together with the Guest of the Fair, Tanzanian born, Walter Bgoya, the Fair garnered much interest and support from various sections of the media and the public. Bgoya, versatile children's writer, publisher and activist, charmed his various audiences.





This year the JBF had partnerships with a number of organisations such as Museum Africa, the City of Johannesburg, the National Library of South Africa, the Tanzanian Children's Books and the Gothenburg Book Fair. While all the partnerships have assisted in the consolidation of the JBF, the one with Gothenburg Fair was an important learning experience for the JBF, about how to run book fairs, logistics, programming and engaging with publishers and libraries. This partnership included exchange visits and participation in each other's Fairs. This learning experience will continue to influence the JBF.

The Fair in 2013 confirmed the good will and support that the JBF has from varied constituencies within the public domain. We hope to build on this relationship this year, and we look forward to an even better Fair.

GUEST OF THE FAIR: ZAKES MDA

Internationally acclaimed Southern African writer, painter and music composer, Zakes Mda is the Guest of the 2014 Jozi Book Fair. The 'Guest' is someone who through their work reflects and promotes the aims of the Fair; and their role is to inspire the movement of readers, writers, artists and the public, and to deepen the culture of reading and writing.

Brief biography

Zakes Mda was born in 1948 in Herschel, in the Eastern Cape. He studied in South Africa, Lesotho and Britain. Mda has published 21 books, including novels, plays and poetry. His work has been translated into 20 languages, including Catalan, Korean, Serbian, Turkish and Norwegian.

Mda has won a number of international awards, including the Amstel Playwright of the Year Award, the Commonwealth Writers Prize for Africa, the M-Net Prize, the Sunday Times Literary Prize, the Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Legacy Award and the American Library Association Notable Book. He is a Patron of the Market Theater, Johannesburg.

His novel, *The Sculptors of Mapungubwe* (2013), set in Southern Africa, draws on the rich pre-colonial history. His latest book, *Rachel's Blue*, (2014) examines a rapist's fight for paternity rights over the rape-conceived child.

Mda commutes between the USA and South Africa, working as professor of creative writing at Ohio University, a beekeeper in the Eastern Cape (a project he established in 2000 with rural women), and a director of the Southern African Multimedia AIDS Trust in Sophiatown, Johannesburg.

Mda & JBF Book Club Network

We encourage all book clubs to read Mda's work in preparation for the Fair. The JBF will put on our website the reviews of his work written by the Network (see article in this edition).

A full programme of the JBF, including Mda's activities with the Network will be available later.

Join! JBF Book Club Network

In South Africa the education system is in crisis and together with current socio economic condition, this has made the working class and its organisations weak and vulnerable. In the first edition of *Baithuti* we showed how historically, in countries like Britain and Sweden, by taking responsibility for their own education and organising themselves into study groups (SGs) and book clubs (BCs), the working class built independent organisations and improved their social standing in society.

The aim of the Jozi Book Fair (JBF) is to build a reading and writing culture in society, and this year the theme of the Fair is Reading the word and the world: the role of book clubs. SGs and BCs are similar: people of all ages get together, read and educate themselves through debates and discussions.



Book Club Network

The JBF Book Club Network (Network) consists of book clubs that have registered with the JBF. The Network aims to assist book clubs and their members to network with each other through a website platform. The exchange of ideas about books, authors and the world, will develop a readers' movement and break the cycle of non-reading.

Who can join

The Network is open to all book clubs and registration is voluntary and free for one year from January to December. Although the Network is for SGs and BCs only, some events like seminars and book launches are open to the public. The JBF will assist you to form a book club, and then you can register with the Network.

Membership & responsibilities

There are many benefits and advantages to being a member of the JBF Book Club Network. Besides participating in all JBF events including the annual Book Fair, networking with BCs and SGs throughout the country (and later the region), information on how to run your book club and the exchange of ideas

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There are many benefits and advantages to being a member of the JBF Book Club Network. Besides participating in all JBF events including the annual Book Fair, networking with BCs and SGs throughout the country (and later the region), information on how to run your book club and the exchange of ideas and book reviews, the Network will assist with training and development of reading, writing and study skills. BCs and SGs will also be able to contribute to the development of the Fair, hosting events and suggesting authors.

In turn, SGs and BCs need to re-apply for membership of the Network every year to ensure that they remain active, meet and read regularly, contribute book reviews, and assist in the development of the Network and a readers' movement. For more comprehensive information on the Network please see our website: www.jozibookfair@khanyacollege.org.za

How to Write: Tips from JBF Guest: Zakes Mda

Photos of his books and himself with caption: Mda is the Guest of the Jozi Book Fair 201

Zakes Mda's tips on writing:

1. Show, don't tell. Humbug! You do need to tell as well. Effective storytelling is a balancing act between showing and telling, otherwise all stories would be in real time.
2. Write what you know. Humbug again! Otherwise all our stories would be about our own miserable little selves and nothing else.
3. The most compelling of stories are not made of big moments and sweeping gestures, but are an accumulation of small moments.
4. Waiting for inspiration? You will wait forever. Write and write and write again. Inspiration will find you on the way.
5. Write anywhere and everywhere: in the kitchen as you prepare meals for the family, at the train station, in the plane, in the bedroom between bouts of lovemaking. Solitude is a luxury you can't afford.
6. Avoid reading thrash. It is infectious and will creep into your own writing. Read only writers whose work you admire.
7. Do explore and search for unsung writers. You never know what gems you'll find between those covers. However if a novel doesn't engage you in the first five pages discard it. Life is too short.
8. Be a shameless eavesdropper.
9. Have lots of kids. They are a source for rich material.
10. Don't judge your characters; leave the judging to the reader.

Baithuti acknowledges this extract from Read SA: <http://readsa.bookslive.co.za/blog/2010/03/01/how-to-write-tips-from-zakes-md/>

Self educate! Form Study Groups

Khanya College has just completed its first Political Education course with activists from the unions, the social movements and other worker organisations. The course focused on how capitalism works.

A study group is made up of people who want to read and learn together. Anyone can form a study group. All you need to do is find people with similar interests, and a regular time to meet, and a venue for your discussions. It is important though that everyone reads the agreed text.



On the 7th March, after the Khanya course, the activists formed six new study groups. The activists are from the independent trade union Giwusa, a few Khanya staff members and members of Solidarity, a support organisation of retrenched and dismissed workers, based at the Casual Workers Advice Office (CWAO) in Germiston.

The study groups are based in the following areas: Sebokeng, Carltonville, Germiston, Kathorus, Tembisa and Johannesburg. The groups are between four to six members and meet once a week. They are reading the *Karibu* and its education supplement, *Baithuti*. They are reading about 'The changing nature of the family in South Africa' and 'The birth of the working class in South Africa'. Each group elected a coordinator to convene the meetings, keep discussion notes and ensure all members are keeping up with the readings. We wish them well with their reading!

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JBF/UJ Book Club Forum

On 12th March 2014 the UJ/JBF Book Club Forum was launched at the University of Johannesburg. This is a partnership between the UJ Library and the JBF and aims is to deepen the culture of reading and writing amongst students through book clubs.

Eighteen (18) students (14 females and 4 males) participated in the Forum. While people met each other for the first time, the meeting quickly warmed up. One student, Amanda said, "I've tried to form a book club with friends online, but after three weeks no one had started reading yet. So I'm looking forward to a book club that meets." Some students were very brave and reported that they joined the book forum to learn to read.

The meeting also discussed the difficulties of breaking the cycle of non-reading as books are expensive and often associated with narrow learning.



The JBF team encouraged students to read and will support them with particular skills development like reading, writing and study skills. After much discussions, five book clubs were formed. The book clubs are focusing on African Literature, Finance and business, biography, fiction and the work of Zakes Mda, the Guest of the JBF.

Each of the five book clubs agreed to meet once a week to develop a rhythm to their reading and to get to know each other and the book they are reading. All five clubs will meet together once a month to discuss their books at the UJ/JBF Book Forum.

The next UJ/JBF Book Forum meeting will be on Friday, 4 April 2014, from 12noon to 1pm, in the UJ Library, Tutorial Room 1. Students, librarians and staff are all welcome!

5th Jozi Book Fair elects Reading Ambassador

Every year the Jozi Book Fair (JBF) tries to purposefully intervene in the building of a readers movement. This year as we celebrated the 5th annual fair, we elected the first Jozi Book Fair Reading Ambassador in South Africa, Luli Callinicos. Luli Callinicos is an author, historian and an activist.

The reading ambassador is a role model, positioned to promote reading and writing widely, in both urban and rural areas, and all sectors, including schools, libraries, stokvels, churches and workplaces. To date there have been reading ambassadors in Britain and Australia, and while the experiences are different, the aim is to promote reading and writing as fundamental to human development, the production of knowledge and critical thinking.

In terms of the JBF's orientation, the idea of the reading ambassador will be grounded in every community and school. Anyone, including young children, youth, women, and people of all ages, is eligible to become a reading ambassador. Through building a strong and diverse reading movement, we will strengthen communication between different generations, and build tolerance and citizenship



Reading Ambassador Luli Callinicos

Her other publications include: Working Life: Factories, Townships and Popular Culture on the Rand, 1886-1940, A People's History of South Africa Volume 2 (Ravan 1987), and the biography of ANC president, Oliver Tambo: Beyond the Engeli Mountains (2004) for which she won the Noma Award for Publishing in Africa.

Her recent publication is Who Built Jozi? Discovering Memory at Wits Junction (2012). She was also a member of the Robben Island Museum Council, the Freedom Park Trust and the South African History Archives at Wits University. She has also assisted the Department of Arts and Culture in various capacities and developed educational material for the ANC. She received the Lifetime Literary Achievement Award from the Minister of Arts and Culture and write in 2008; and the Labour Media Award for Gold and Workers in 2009.

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Luli's work highlights the importance of history and memory to inform working people's struggles. She was a founder member of the Workers Library and Museum, the only workers' museum in the country. Today, Khanya College is in partnership with the City of Johannesburg and promotes activities and exhibitions for schools and the public. Luli has been a Board member of Khanya College since 2002.

To contact the reading ambassador, phone 011-336 9190 or email jozibookfair@khanyacollege.org.za, aimed at promoting citizen journalism and giving the community a platform to communicate with the outside world. He also co-founded an online Pan African commentary publication by young African writers; www.feintandmargin.com.

You can purchase the book online from Mampoer Shorts for R30.00, at the following link; <http://mampoer.co.za/mugabe-ratshikuni/child-of-the-two-south-africas>

TB Library: Wednesdays