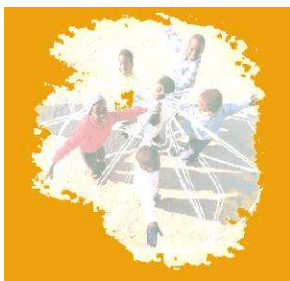


# NEWSLETTER

AD-HOC <17 AUGUST 2007>



## INTRODUCTION

The past month has been especially exciting for the Buffelshoek Trust and we would like to share these developments with our supporters and partners.

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, Mr. Saul Garlick, Executive Director of the Student Movement for Real Change (SMRC) arranged for approximately twenty students belonging to the SMRC from across America to live and work in the villages for a month during their summer vacation. The aim of this visit is to run workshops with our learners and to give the American students the opportunity of experiencing rural life.



<http://www.studentmovementusa.org/>

The feedback from the students, teachers, learners and villagers has been incredible and will be included in this newsletter.

One of our Trustees was, unbeknown to him, nominated for the Absa Jewish Achiever Award in the category of the Cyril Harris Humanitarian Award. We are proud to announce that the award was won by this Trustee. Read on for further details...



# SMRC VISIT

The Trust's most recent endeavour has been to afford both South African and international guests the opportunity to reside in the communities of Manyeleti. This initiative provides an educational opportunity for both the community members as well as visitors. This innovative project has been launched by the 20 US students who spent a month in the community.

The students ran various workshops for the benefit of both learners and teachers. These included arts & drama, sports and theatre. They also provided educational input specifically in the subjects of Mathematics and Science. Their program also included an HIV/AIDS awareness program.

Both the students and the community members have described the learning from this experience as invaluable. The community members have asked for this to be an annual event and the SMRC have agreed to arrange a similar trip for next year.

"We came to the other side of the world hoping to meet people of different cultures and different lifestyles. We did meet people with completely different backgrounds from ourselves, but what surprised me most were the similarities that we found between ourselves and everyone we met. Many people talk about differences, but we have so much more in common with the families we lived with and the students we taught than anything else. I learned that we are all part of the same world and it is our responsibility to teach each other and help each other in any way we can."

*Elizabeth Arkell*

"I came to South Africa to see what I wanted to do with my life, to see what I was called to do. But never in my wildest dreams could I have predicted what I would find in our villages: unconditional love, acceptance, and hospitality. Without a doubt, I know that I am meant to help people, to work with them to improve their lives and their futures. And at the same time, I have found that they've changed me even more than I could ever hope to help them."

*Sarah Burns*



The students were interviewed just prior to their departure and the following article appeared in the SA Jewish Report. We expect an item to be published in The Star within the next week.

## Leaving behind more than bricks and mortar

PETER FELDMAN

SAUL GARLICK is a 23-year-old American student whose parents left South Africa to settle in America in the '70s.

He has since spent a number of holidays in South Africa, but one particular trip in 2002, when he was 18, made an indelible impression and helped change his life forever.

Saul, who lives in Washington DC, visited the village of Manyeleti and noticed a strange thing. The community had placed bricks on the ground to represent a classroom they wanted to build but had no funds. He decided he would help them achieve their goals. He decided to hold a series of fundraising events with his peers and managed to raise about R15 000.

An idea then emerged from this which became The Students Movement for Real Change (SMRC). Over time it expanded into a national organisation with chapters across 20 US campuses.

"My initial idea was to engage students directly with their counterparts in Africa and around the world," he said, "but this expanded into actually changing lives by engaging in real change."

Saul contacted the Buffelshoek Trust, which has invested more than R20 million in uplifting the lives of the poverty-stricken community, and through the Trust he arranged for a group of 20 students from all over America to spend a month at Manyeleti village.

They lived with the people and lovingly imparted their knowledge and know-how; they ran workshops for both learners and teachers in the arts, in sport and in the fields of maths and science.

The students, ranging in age from 18 to their mid-20s, and coming from 16 different universities across America, saved up the cash for this "life-transforming" experience.

The Trust was formed in 2001 after the founding trustees visited the schools in the

village and witnessed the learners being taught under a tree. They have since built schools, crèches, clinics and computer centres. They also instituted computer training, maths training and a literacy programme.

These are no ordinary students. Meeting them a few hours before their departure from Johannesburg to return home, they came across as articulate, bright and committed young people who underwent "life-changing" experiences in South Africa.

Daniel Armanios (22) is super-bright science and maths student whose parents grew up in small village in Egypt and who made a new life in America. He lives in Marietta, Georgia and believes the experience he underwent was about "youth impacting youth and making a lasting impact in the community".

He said: "I feel like I got to relive what my parents went through to get the opportunities that I have and I was able to interact with people that were a lot like my family. I got to connect to my own ancestry, which is Coptic from rural Egypt."

One of the youngest is 18-year-old Sarah Burns, who is under the legal drinking age, but worked in a bar as a waitress, "where the tips were good", to earn cash for her trip.

"I came to South Africa to see what I want-

ed to do with my life, to see what I was called to do," she said. "But never in my wildest dreams could I have predicted that I would find in this village unconditional love, acceptance and hospitality."

Cameron Henderson (19), from Fullerton, California, had no idea what the trip entailed. He had spent a month in Zimbabwe and was keen to return to the continent because, as he put it: "I love to be involved in Africa."

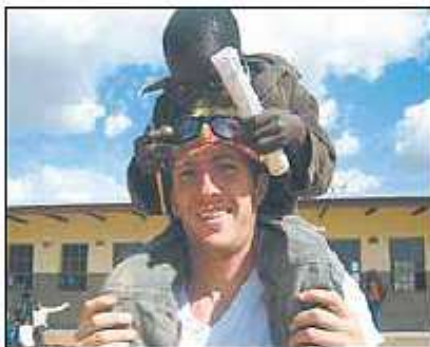
They built a library, ran camps, and taught in classrooms. He feels, however, that their legacy will not live on in their tangible actions or concrete structures, but "rather in the ideas we cemented into our students and our friends' minds".

Fortunate Ndlovu, a learner, described how their lives had been changed for the better. "We now have access to the Internet and can also use them to do school work."

Another learner, Regan Witness Mosele (18), was proud of his school "because we are the best and most privileged in the province".

Eleck Mnisi, of Mahlatsi Primary School in the area, added: "We have come a long way from studying under trees. It is wonderful to think that this isolated bush school has now Internet access to the global community. But there is still work to be done because everything we do here, everything we do for them, will determine their future."

The relationship between SMRC and the Trust is ongoing and a similar trip of love and enlightenment is planned for next year.



Kris Ansin at Shiviti Primary School in Utah with one of the learners.

  
**BUFFELSHOEK TRUST**  
AUGUST 2007

# JEWISH ACHIEVER AWARDS

As one of the founding Trustees of the Buffelshoek Trust and for his various other philanthropic work, Mr Sidney Frankel was the proud recipient of the Cyril Harris Humanitarian Award. The gala ceremony was held on the 16th August 2007 and amongst a prestigious group of fellow-nominees who have made a tremendous contribution to improving the quality of life and fabric of society on South Africa.

The nominees for this category included:

- Mr. Donald Krausz;
- Ms. Celene Bernstein;
- Mr. Mike Schalit;
- Ms. Dorienne Weil; and
- Mr. Elliot Wolf.

Mr. Frankel's response to the award was a mixture of surprise and delight. However, he believes that the award belongs not to him as an individual but to all those who facilitated the various projects under-taken.

## **In his words:**

*A very special thank you to my family, my colleagues, to the people who nominated me and to those who voted for me. My colleagues will tell you that I am publicity-shy. For me the reward is in the action rather than the accolade.*

*I am humbled by the honour of this award, yet it is not mine alone. The work that has been accomplished has been the result of the efforts of an incredible team and this award is therefore to be shared with my fellow-Trustees, all our generous partners and donors as well as Campbell, Carol, Jane & Shaz.*

*Maya Angelou said, 'When you learn, teach. When you get, give.'*

*I have been so privileged to have been given that I can give to others. I will continue to strive to give back to the world what it has given to me and to live up to the honour of this award.*

*Thank you.*



**BUFFELSHOEK TRUST**

**AUGUST 2007**

Please feel free to contact us with any enquiries. We can be reached at (+2711 483 3911) or via email at either [shazzyc@iafrica.com](mailto:shazzyc@iafrica.com) or [carol@frankels.co.za](mailto:carol@frankels.co.za)

We look forward to receiving your feedback.

The Trust continues to undertake and become involved in exciting projects and working in conjunction with the community is both rewarding and worthwhile.

We believe that the Buffelshoek Trust, by working with the community and formulating relationships with government and donors facilitates the community's plans for a better future by helping to turn *dust to dreams...*

