

CHATHAM HALL IN SOUTH AFRICA 2012



UNDERSTANDING OURSELVES THROUGH COMMUNITY ACTION OVERSEAS

MARCH 11–23, 2012

PROGRAM DETAILS: Day 1 - Day 13

► DEPART CHATHAM HALL

Day 1 • Sunday, March 11

- Depart from Chatham by bus at 10:00 a.m.
- **South African Airways Flight #208** departs from Washington/Dulles at 5:40 p.m.

Please Note: It's important that you arrive at Dulles by 2:40 p.m. latest. You will need the entire 3 hours to check in, move through security, and get to the gate. Aaron Casey of Alterra Global Education Initiatives will be at Dulles in advance of 2:40, waiting for you.

► ARRIVE SOUTH AFRICA

Day 2 • Monday, March 12

- Arrive in Johannesburg at 4:30 p.m. Clear Immigration & Customs, and proceed to the domestic terminal to check in for flight to Cape Town.

Please Note: In Johannesburg, as always, you will need to navigate the transfer from the International Terminal to the Domestic Terminal. Johannesburg airport is world-class and very well-signed; you should have no issues transferring to your Cape Town connecting flight. Be sure to inquire about the present location of the belt where you may re-check your luggage.

- **South African Airways Flight #363** departs from Johannesburg at 6:15 p.m. and arrives in Cape Town at 8:25 p.m.
- **Lynne Abrahams**, Cape Town-based program manager for Alterra Global Education Initiatives, meets our group. Transfer with Lynne and your driver, Louwrens Stapelberg, by bus to the hotel.
- Light snack and overnight at the **Hotel Graeme**, Somerset Road near the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront (<http://www.hotelgraeme.co.za/>). Telephone dialing from US: 011 27 21 434 9282.)

► **SOIL FOR LIFE: COMMUNITY FOOD GARDENING**

Day 3 • Tuesday, March 13

- Breakfast at Hotel Graeme, V&A Waterfront.
- **Table Mountain** (www.tablemountain.net)
- Community Service at **Soil for Life** (www.soilforlife.org.za)
(Lunch at 12:00 noon; Workflow 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 pm)

Please Note: This year's service program involves 'turning' compost, building compost heaps, bagging the compost for use in food gardens, and constructing seed beds at the gardens themselves. You will work at Soil for Life headquarters, and at two different gardening projects in the "Seawinds" community.

One of the Seawinds projects takes place at the very school that we visited in 2010 and 2011, and the second is with a wonderful group called Mothers Unite. This group comprises women who operate not only a productive, working garden, but also a soup kitchen for their neighbors. Local garden leaders will work alongside our group, and will explain the importance of this work to their livelihoods.

- Dinner and overnight at Hotel Graeme, V&A Waterfront.

► **SOIL FOR LIFE: COMMUNITY FOOD GARDENING**

Day 4 • Wednesday, March 14

- Breakfast at the Hotel
- Service with **Soil for Life**
(Lunch included; Workflow 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., 12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.)

Please Note: Alterra has arranged for a visit to **Cape Town's 'Two Oceans Aquarium'**, as a treat to follow this 2nd day of food gardening. If we're lucky, we'll catch the predators exhibit!

- Dinner and overnight at Hotel Graeme, V&A Waterfront.

► **SOIL FOR LIFE: COMMUNITY FOOD GARDENING**

Day 5 • Thursday, March 15

- Breakfast at the Hotel
- Service with **Soil for Life**
(Lunch included; Workflow 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., 12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.)
- **Greenmarket Square** (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greenmarket_Square)

Dinner, followed by Live Music at Marco's African Place

Tonight, we'll venture to Marco's African Place (<http://www.marcosafricanplace.co.za/about.asp>), a well-known, well-loved stop on Cape Town's live music scene. Marco's offers fresh, tasty indigenous cuisine, and showcases live local talent. 'Young Bakuba', a local group who typically performs Thursday nights, often invites guests onto the stage to participate in the music-making and dance.

- Overnight at Hotel Graeme

► **TOUWSRIVER SERVICE & AQUILA PRIVATE GAME RESERVE**

Day 6 • Friday, March 16

- Breakfast at Hotel Graeme.
- Depart at 6:00 a.m.; arrive at **Steenvliet Primary School in Touwsriver** at 8:30 a.m.

Please Note that our service at Steenvliet will last from approximately 8:30 a.m. to approximately 1:00 p.m. There will be three main nodes of service:

- Food preparation, distribution, and clean-up.
- Tutoring/remedial assistance in the Steenvliet computer lab.
- Painting of public spaces, fence repair, and other light construction.

A warm surprise welcome also awaits!

- **Lunch at the Lodge**
- **Evening Game Drive (5:00 p.m.)**
- **Dinner at the Lodge**
- Overnight at Aquila Private Game Reserve (<http://www.aquilasafari.com>)

► **TOUWSRIVER SERVICE & AQUILA PRIVATE GAME RESERVE**

Day 7 • Saturday, March 17

- **Early Morning Game Drive**
- Breakfast at the Lodge
- **Brave Heart Home**
(9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.; Lunch Included)

In 2012, we will continue to assist the early stages of Brave Heart orphanage to provide sustenance, shelter, and love to small local children whose parents have died or cannot properly care for them. Our 'SA6' group will pick up where SA5 left off. We will:

- ➔ Sort and catalogue new and donated clothing.
- ➔ Paint, where necessary, and assist with grounds-keeping tasks.
- ➔ Engage in productive, mission-driven play, with children of varying ages.

- **Aquila's Unique Commitment to Cheetah Survival:** Aquila is particularly committed to the survival of the cheetah, a classic 'Big 5' species and Africa's fastest, most elegant wild cat. Aquila runs a special, well-regarded breeding and protection program on-site, which we are invited to observe this afternoon during a brief interactive tour.
- Overnight at Aquila Private Game Reserve

► **ROBBEN ISLAND & MALAY QUARTER**

Day 8 • Sunday, March 18

- Depart for Cape Town at 8:00 a.m. Arrive at **Robben Island ferry** at 10:30 a.m. Ferry departs at 11:00 a.m., and returns to the V&A Waterfront at 2:30 p.m.

Our 3 hours on Robben Island will be powerful and affecting. Now a major site of remembrance attracting visitors from throughout the world, the island is notorious as the site of the apartheid government's prison for political dissidents. Former president Nelson Mandela, now revered as the 92-year-old icon of national healing and reconciliation, was reviled by the apartheid authorities and incarcerated at Robben Island prison for 18 years. We will visit the former prison (now a spectacular museum), and grapple with how and why Mr. Mandela and his colleagues persevered against the odds.

- **Late Afternoon at Leisure**
- **Dinner at Biesmiellah Restaurant** (www.biesmiellah.co.za)
(Traditional Cape Malay Cuisine, 7:00 pm)

Please Note: Tonight, at dinner, we'll hear from 3 figures:

- ➔ Christo Brand, former prison warden to, and personal friend of, President Nelson Mandela.
- ➔ Vusumzi Mcongo, former Robben Island political prisoner.

→ Mr. Osman, Biesmiellah proprietor and esteemed member of the local Malay community.

We'll have the chance to query each gentleman about his own life experiences, and about what the promise of the New South Africa means to him.

- Overnight at Hotel Graeme, V&A Waterfront.

► CARAVELLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Day 9 • Monday, March 19

- Breakfast at the Hotel
- **Community Service at Caravelle Primary School** (9:00am– 3:00 pm; Lunch Break Included)

Chatham Hall's five years of productive, invaluable service at Lawrenzia School has concluded. It was a resounding success, and so we move on! In 2012, our 6th year visiting South Africa, we'll establish a new and equally exciting relationship with another school that welcomes our contributions – Caravelle Primary School in Mitchell's Plain Township.

Our 'SA6' group will be the first to render service at Caravelle. As it did at Lawrenzia, this year's program will feature a focus on food service (e.g., preparation, distribution, clean up). And yet Caravelle's principal, Ms. Damon, has very explicitly also asked us to help improve the school's math lab and library.

Here, in blue italics, is a vision statement, direct from Mrs. Damon:

Caravelle Primary School Vision Statement

*Our vision is to improve our learners' math and literacy levels. Currently our math achievements are very low. We have established a **mathematics resource room** where the learners can be exposed to a more practical approach to the subject. We believe that the learners will do better if they are practically involved and see the concrete things. We want them not just to learn math, but also experience it with most of their senses.*

*In the **library/reading resource centre**, our vision is to improve our reading and language achievements. Xhosa is 95% of our learners' home language; this has a big impact on our [English-language] literacy achievements. We want to expose our learners to a story-rich learning environment. The aim is to create an environment where our learners will become excited about reading.*

The school's **math lab** and **library** ... These are places of focus and intention where early-years numeracy and literacy are encouraged in hopes that vulnerable children may gain skills quickly. Our help in promoting skills acquisition will position Caravelle's young students enviably vis-à-vis their peers, nationally and internationally. Today and tomorrow, we'll serve as an importance resource to Ms. Damon, her faculty team, and the youngsters themselves.

- Chaperoned Dinner Period @ V&A Waterfront
- Overnight at Hotel Graeme, V&A Waterfront

► CARAVELLE PRIMARY SCHOOL, DAY #2 & DINNER AT WYNBERG GIRLS' HIGH

Day 10 • Tuesday, March 20

- Breakfast at the Hotel
- All-Day Community Service at Caravelle Primary School (Lunch included)
- Depart Caravelle Primary School for hotel at 3:00 p.m.
- Depart hotel at 5:45 p.m. for Wynberg Girls' High School (Arrive at Wynberg at 6:30 p.m.)
- **Wynberg Girls' High** (Dinner & Cross-Cultural Evening)

Please Note: Wynberg Girls' High School is excited to host us for a 3rd year of special cross-cultural interaction. Wynberg is planning a fun and meaningful program, in which we'll learn creatively from each other. Wynberg has requested that our Chatham Hall group teach them our school 'cheer' song – something short and catchy that does not take too long to learn! Wynberg also wonders if they might learn our national anthem.

Here are selected elements of our anticipated evening program:

- *Mix and Match Activity:* This will serve nicely as an icebreaker. Girls will be given a piece of paper, with either a word or a description on it - and they will need to find a person who matches this word/description!
- *Vocal Ensemble Performance*
- *Senior Marimba Band Performance*
- *Traditional African Dance session*
(We'll learn the 'gumboot dance'.)

What's more, over dinner we'll learn how to say "Hello" in each of South Africa's 11 official languages and we'll make bracelets with African beads in the colors of our two nations' flags. We may keep these pieces as mementoes!

We'll work a 'South African Quiz', share our school songs, and end the evening with a friendly tea.

- Overnight at Hotel Graeme, V&A Waterfront Mall.

▶ GREEN SOLUTIONS: A SPECIAL DAY OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE

Day 11 • Wednesday, March 21

- Breakfast at the Hotel
- **Day of Service at Cape Town Bird Sanctuary**
The City of Cape Town offers volunteers from South Africa and overseas myriad options to perform meaningful environmental service. Our 'SA5' group made inroads in combating the scourge of invasive plant species and their drain on the local water table.

For 2012, we are exploring several new environmental service options, including tagging and bird census work at the Raapenberg and/or Dick Dent bird sanctuaries. What's more, we are conferring with Herzlia High (www.herzlia.com), a local, mixed-gender independent secondary school renowned for its own service activities, to undertake this service jointly with them today.

- **Hosted Dinner & Evening Activities at Herzlia High.**
- Overnight at Hotel Graeme.

▶ CAPE TOWN → JOHANNESBURG

Day 12 • Thursday, March 22

- Breakfast at the Hotel, followed by a portion of the morning at leisure.
- Depart hotel for airport at 10:30 a.m.
- **South African Airways Flight #334** departs from Cape Town at 1:15 p.m., and arrives in Johannesburg at 3:15 p.m.
- **South African Airways Flight #207** departs from Johannesburg at 5:35 p.m.

▶ ARRIVE CHATHAM HALL

Day 13 • Friday, March 23

- **Arrive Washington/Dulles at 6:25 a.m.** Clear customs/immigration, and proceed by bus to Chatham. **Arrive in Chatham at approximately 12:00 noon.**