From the chairperson’s desk

This is the time of the year when we look back and reflect on our challenges and achievements, and set goals for the coming year. We had a number of meetings where we deliberated on issues affecting the LIS sector, wherein we managed to come up with a motion on the recognition of libraries within the National Development Plan, which was accepted at the AGM during the conference. Our branch Librarian of the Year (LOY) was the first runner up, which shows the calibre of librarians we have within the branch. Congratulations to Marina for lifting the branch high at the conference, we are ready for any partnership projects with her. I would like to take this platform to thank the branch executive committee and interest group coordinators for all the time and effort you put into the branch to succeed. To all the branch members, without your support and advice we wouldn’t be able to lead the branch - thank you. The festive season is here - let us enjoy it with our families and loved ones and make sure we do not spend all the money without buying books for our kids to promote reading. Relax and come back refreshed with new innovative ideas to help develop our branch and the Association at large. Look out for notices for our membership drive there will be prizes to be won if you join or renew your membership. We pay our tribute to Tata Nelson Mandela, the father of the nation, to rest in peace.
Mr Paiki Muswazi, the Wits Deputy University Librarian, welcomed all the attendees of the AGM. In his welcoming remarks he congratulated LIASA for winning the bid to host the IFLA 2015 International Conference which will be held in Cape Town. He further emphasized the value of librarians even within the ever changing technological environment by saying “Google can give thousands answers, but librarians bring the right one”.

Ms Mnkeni-Saurombe Nampombe sketched the background to the National Development Plan. She highlighted the challenges pertaining to libraries in the plan.

- Are libraries part of the plan? Are we as librarians engaging with the NDP?
- How do librarians fit in? What can we do to impact the lives of South Africans? Librarians should meet their users exactly where they are. She cited studies to illustrate this.

In an American example, she showed how the recession affected communities negatively and they ended up using libraries to learn how to cook as they could not afford to eat out. They even borrowed baking pans from the library. She further highlighted “six things that we can do” from Rosabeth Moss Kanter’ TED that can lead to positive change. These are:

- **Show UP**- Decide to make a difference and avail yourself
- **Speak Up**- Advocacy
- **Look Up**- Remind ourselves what we stand for as librarians
- **Team Up**- Collaboration and cooperation-knowledge sharing
- **Never Give UP**- Everything looks like a failure from the middle
- **Lift Others Up**- Whether we succeed or fail there is always a lesson to learn

In conclusion, she encouraged the branch members to make a difference. The presentation led to the branch drafting a motion which was accepted at the LIASA AGM for an Ad Hoc committee which will work together with the National Library on the involvement of libraries in the NDP.
Ms Mnkeni-Saurombe Nampombe presenting.

Mr Molefi Nyofane, a motivational speaker emphasized that Librarians need a rebirth that can be achieved through attending conferences, workshops and AGMs and implementing what they bring back from these so that Return-On-Investment (ROI) cannot be questioned. They should shed strategies that are not working and adopt new ones, learn from the future. Librarians should work together, learn from technology and not be intimidated by it. He used the analogy of the eagle that lives for 70 years. After 40 of the 70 years, it hibernates, loses old wings and re-emerges to live for 30 more years in new feathers. In the same way, librarians should use conferences, workshops, AGM’s to “hibernate” and come back renewed in their jobs.

GS Branch leadership thanking Mr Molefi Nonyane after his presentation
Ms Marina van Wyk from Emfuleni Libraries was presented as the Gauteng South Librarian of the Year 2013. The chairperson Ms. Phindile Bekwa handed her the trophy after which Marina made an acceptance speech whose message was “do what you can, where you are with what you have”. The branch had a successful AGM and the chairperson was thanked by the audience for actively leading the branch and presenting a comprehensive report.

GS Branch leadership congratulating the LOY Ms Marina van Wyk

**Library celebrates health and literacy**

Westonaria Library, along with Venterspost Primary, celebrates good health and children’s literacy.

Research suggests that breast cancer is the most common cancer among women. In conjunction with The Womens Group for Childrens Literacy, founded by Julia Paris, a group of very dynamic women who advocates and creates an ever increasing awareness for childrens literacy in South Africa.

Venterspost Primary school and Westonaria Library hosted a very successful High Tea on 26 October. Speaking during the function, Julia Paris, lit a candle in remembrance of Lynda Titus one of the Women for Childrens Literacy members who donated a large number of childrens books to Venterspost.
Primary School on behalf of the Womens Group. Lynda Titus recently passed away from lymphatic cancer.

As November is also National Children’s Month, Julia used the opportunity to stress the work Lynda did for children in general and more specifically also for children from Westonaria and how these youngsters have benefitted from her generous spirit. Petra Nortjé from the West Rand Cansa branch encouraged all women present to make sure they are in touch with their own bodies in order to note any changes as soon as possible and to view it as serious enough to seek medical advice.

As a group the Womens Group for Childrens Literacy bought the beautiful art piece in the form of a shoe created by singer Andriette Norman as part of the Zivaglo project. This proved that these women are interested in the holistic development of the children of our country.

The shoe will now be donated to Cansa who will auction the shoe during a gala event in order to raise funds for cancer patients. A total of 64 children’s books were collected during the function and handed over to principal Violet Ramashila from Tolerance Day Care in Westonaria, who expressed her thanks as follows: "I would like to give my most sincere gratitude for this contribution to our centre". The celebration was well organised and enjoyed by all.

"We, at Westonaria Library, work at all levels of the community to ensure the biggest possible impact, constantly forging new partnerships, never losing hope or dwelling on the negatives," says Righardt le Roux, the Program Librarian at Westonaria Local Municipality.

Julia Paris, UJ Campus Librarian was part of the celebration
SSIG AND RETIG branch meeting

The Gauteng South Support Staff Interest Group and Research Education and Training Interest Group hosted a workshop on the 15\textsuperscript{th} November 2013 at Wartenweiler Library, Wits University in Braamfontein on “Value and Contribution to your Organisation: Do you Feel Recognised?” 22 people participated.

SSIG and RETIG Gauteng South branch attendees

Presenter Charlie Molepo receiving a gift from Chair Phindile Bekwa
One of the presentations at the SSIG and RETIG meeting

Presenter Duduzile Mnguni with Gauteng South Chair Phindile Bekwa

Presenter Caddie Hart
The focus of the workshop was on:

- Staff recognition by managers
- Benefits of being a LIASA Member
- Passion for the job you do
- Mutual respect for each other in the job by both managers and staff

Future focus:

- More workshops for SSIG and RETIG
- Suggestions were made on a qualification audit for support staff. This will assist in identifying qualified support staff for promotion and succession planning.

Feedback from the attendees expressed that the meeting was informative. In addition email messages received also indicated appreciation. Some of the attendees who are not LIASA members were so impressed that they promised to join LIASA.

Compiled by: Biziwe Tembe  
Nomasondo Mahlangu

**RETIG and SSIG conveners discussing during the meeting**

**Branch Year-end Function**

The city of Johannesburg hosted the event at one of their libraries at the Florida Library on the 6th December 2013. The branch celebrated its achievements, including the branch LOY Marina Van Wyk, who is the first runner-up for the national LOY 2013. The main speaker was Marthie Maré
who gave an interesting presentation about Face Profiling. She will be launching her book in February 2014.

Farewell Tata Mandela

Your passing on has brought us rain
A sign of your greatness
For all of us to receive blessings
Blessings from the Almighty
To continue with the struggle
Struggle of reconciliation
Peace, love, forgiveness, and non-racism in Africa and the world

Rest in peace Tata
Your legacy and spirit of Ubuntu
Will forever live with us
Your long walk to freedom
Will be enjoyed in the global world
By generations to come
Amandla.

© December 2013 Phindile Bekwa.
Renew your LIASA membership for 2014 OR Join LIASA and stand a chance to win a set of 3 books OR a gobii 7" WiFi Touch Tablet + FREE vouchers to the value of R320. Promotion runs from 25 November 2013 to 28 March 2014. Winners will be notified by email on the 4th April 2014.

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Make use of the 3 month instalments opportunity by paying R160.00 in November, R160.00 in December and the balance of R155.00 in January 2014.

Your benefits:

- Regular communication via the listserv LIASAOnline and SMS service
- Four issues of the LIASA-in-Touch, our information-filled magazine for the LIS professional
- South African Journal for Library and Information Science, the academic and accredited professional journal
- Discounted rates for meetings, workshops, seminars and the annual conference
- Discounted rates for training sessions, courses and workshops
- Eligibility for the various prestigious LIASA awards
- Eligibility for grants, scholarships or other financial support opportunities
- Eligibility to attend the IFLA Conference on the IFLA membership rate
- Eligibility to serve on branch, interest group and other LIASA committees
- Membership of your local branch and access to all its activities at discounted rates
- Membership of two Interest Groups of your choice and access to its activities

Contact the branch membership secretary;
Ms Priscilla Mothapo
(011) 999 1268
Priscilla.mothapo@ekurhuleni.gov.za
www.liasa.org.za

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