



**SHIKAYA**  
LEARNING • TEACHING • LEADING



Newsletter - 2012 - Vol. I

[shikaya.org](http://shikaya.org)

Welcome to a year that is going to be even more dynamic and exciting than the last. We would like to congratulate all the teachers with whom we have the privilege of working on a year of successful hard work and dedication. What South Africa needs now more than ever are thousands more teachers like yourselves who are equally committed to excellence and inspiring change, healthy debate, and open-mindedness in their classrooms.



Shikaya is excited to launch a new initiative, *Classrooms for Change* which brings together Shikaya's teacher support and youth programmes. *Classrooms for Change* aims to develop a generation of young, engaged and dynamic Upstanders through supporting a community of teachers, inspiring and supporting their learners to take action in society and uniting them all with schools across the country around social justice campaigns. Thanks to support from the Rolf-Stephen Nussbaum Foundation and Facing History and Ourselves, we will be setting up six *Classrooms for Change* in the Western Cape and hope to reach our goal of fifty *Classrooms for Change* by the end of the year.

We wish you all the best for the year ahead.

### EWS

October 2011 realised the inception of one of Shikaya's initiatives in partnership with the Western Cape Education Department: BACK TO THE FUTURE History CAPS Content Conference at Herschel Senior School. Over eighty History teachers from across the Western Cape attended the three days of inspiring content lectures and workshops geared towards teaching the new curriculum and creating a stimulating teaching platform for History. Teachers learnt from people like Professor Francis Wilson, Max du Preez, Dr Deborah Posel and Ahmed Kathrada. As part of the conference, Dr Tim Cole from the University of Bristol, UK, delivered the first of a number of Shikaya Skype lectures that will continue during 2012.



*"(The conference) re-energised and encouraged me to find ways to motivate interest..."*

*"This has been a PHENOMENAL wellspring of information and human and other resources. I really am grateful to the Shikaya folks for putting this together."*

*"The gain in knowledge, exposure to such brilliant lectures, was the "food" I needed for my teaching."*



*"Empowering sessions, informative, enlightening and resourceful."*

*"It gave me a new perspective on how to teach history; it inspired me. I am totally motivated and look forward to imparting this knowledge and*



methodology to my learners, family, and community."

*(The conference has) challenged me as an individual in SA now, opened my eyes to broader interpretations and inspired me to continue.*

*Congratulations on a superb experience – it has been MOST worthwhile on so many levels."*

## RESOURCE LIST

Shikaya would like to use this opportunity to introduce our updated, revised and all-inclusive resource list. Our resource list has detailed information on all books, DVDs and classroom resources available for your use.

It is now much easier to determine the resource that will offer the most effective support to your teaching and classroom activities through the descriptions provided and themes that are classified. Some of our DVDs (marked with \*) are coupled with a teacher's guide which offers suggestions for types of activities, discussions, and lessons to enhance the teaching and learning process.

The resources are available for all our teachers to use. You are welcome to visit our library or alternatively, you may contact Lauren at our offices on 021 671 7200 for more information on the availability of resource material. You may also contact Nicola Frick, our Programme manager about ideas for resources to use.

Listed on the right, are two anthologies that are useful as a means of bringing literature into the History classroom. Ingrid de Kok's inspiring collection of poems provides new insight into teaching the TRC. A chilling personal account of the experiences of the Holocaust can be found in Sonia Weitz's 'I Promised I Would Tell'. These anthologies can be used to encourage cross-curricular teaching and methodologies with English teachers at your school. Our Shikaya team is available to assist with ideas and suggestions on how to achieve this.

[Click here](#) to view the resource list

## HO'S WHO IN SHIKAYA

We would like to welcome Dr Gail Weldon to the Shikaya team. Many of us have worked with Gail in her role as the Senior Curriculum Planner: History and on various National Curriculum writing teams that she headed. Gail's wealth of knowledge and expertise will be a great asset to Shikaya and the teachers whom she will continue to support.

## WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

The Facing the Past Teaching Seminar programme will begin with a seminar on homophobia facilitated by Karen Murphy, Director of International Programmes at our partner organisation, Facing History and Ourselves, is hosting a workshop on homophobia. This is a critical issue in South Africa and has been particularly highlighted by the tragic murder of 19-year-old, Zoliswa Nkonyana who was murdered because she lived openly as a lesbian.

Some of the questions we will be examining



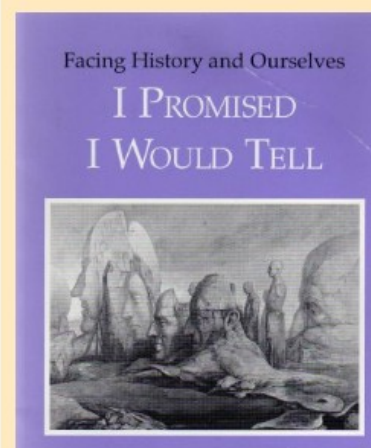
## FEATURED RESOURCES:



### Seasonal Fires: New and Selected Poems

By Ingrid de Kok

Ingrid de Kok is one of the few poets to successfully broach the burden of tragedy revealed by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings and the ceaseless ravaging of the AIDS pandemic.



...of the... are:

What are the conscious or unconscious attitudes that we are passing on to our learners? What frame of reference does our Constitution provide for us to think about homophobia? How safe are our schools and our classrooms? What role can we as teachers play in closing the gap between the vision of the Constitution and the reality of society?

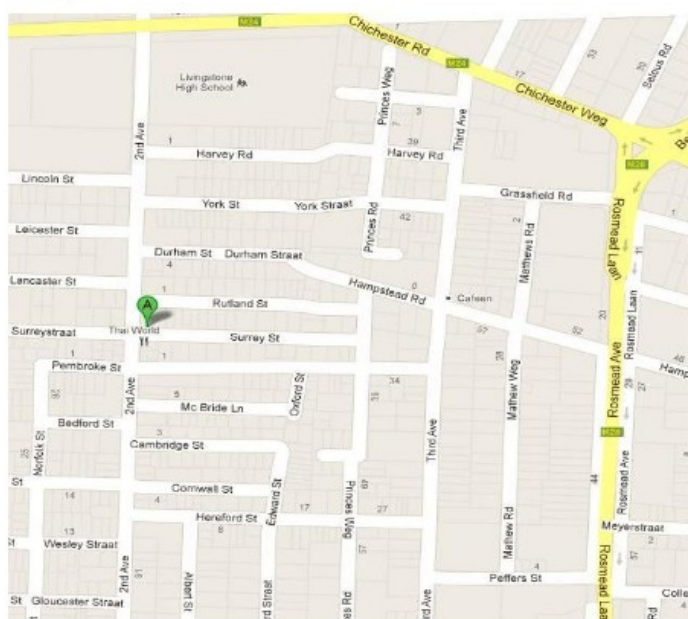
This workshop will provide an opportunity to engage critically with and learn more about these important issues as well as acquire strategies for bringing them into our classroom within the context of the content in the curriculum. Participants will be introduced to a range of resources for classroom use.

Date: Thursday 26 January 2012

Time: 16h00 - 18h00

Place: Shikaya

c/o Surrey Road and 45 2nd Avenue, Harfield Village, Claremont (Entrance is on Surrey Road)



Please RSVP to let us know if you will be attending, either by email, or by phoning or smsing Lauren: lauren@shikaya.org | 021 671 7200 | 079 498 7300

### Facing the Past Teaching Seminars Event Outline: January – June 2012

All seminars will relate directly to the CAPS curriculum and will use content and classroom strategies from the *Facing the Past* programme

Date	Event	Theme	Details
Thursday 26 January	Afternoon Seminar 4 – 6pm	Homophobia	Homophobia in the South African context
9 February	Afternoon Seminar 4 – 6pm	Identity in South Africa	African and Afrikaner nationalism
23 February	Afternoon Seminar 4 – 6pm	Choices and Human Behaviour in apartheid South Africa to 1960s	Focusing on choices made when apartheid laws were introduced
9 March	Afternoon	Choices	Choices

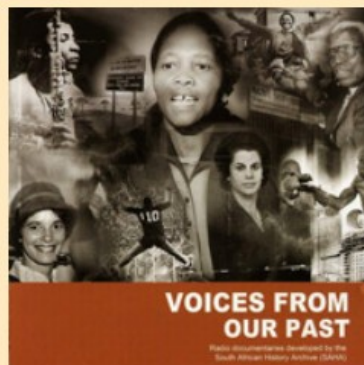
By SONIA SCHREIBER WEITZ  
HER POETRY AND TESTIMONY DURING THE HOLOCAUST  
EDITED BY SUSAN BELL COOLEY

### I Promised I Would Tell

By Sonia Weitz

'I Promised I Would Tell' is the memoir of Sonia Weitz. It includes her story of survival of years in ghettos and concentration camps and more than two dozen poems through which she bears witness to the unspeakable.

The South African History Archive (SAHA) presents the following resource as a highly beneficial tool in unpacking the dynamics of the history of our journey to democracy.



### Voices from Our Past: A guide for educators

A SAHA resource

*Voices from our Past* is a series of radio doc documentaries bringing together personal testimonies and historical audio clips from the archive that focus on key figures and moments in the struggle for democracy in South Africa.

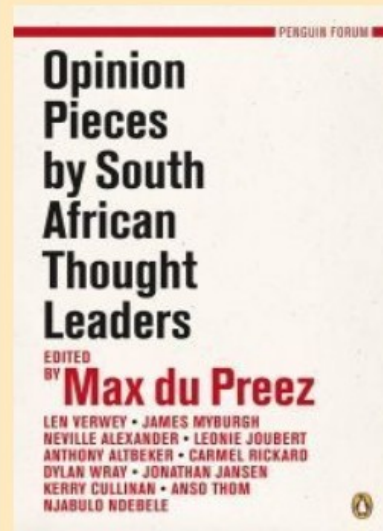


### SOUTH AFRICA 2030: IT'S UP2US

We invite your Grade 10 – 12 pupils to participate in Shikaya and Rondebosch Boys High School's *South Africa 2030: It's Up2Us* research essay writing and presentation competition based on the National Planning Commission's Development Plan for 2030. South Africa 2030 aims to create the opportunity for History learners to present solutions to the issues that they will be facing

8 March	Afternoon Seminar 4 – 6pm	Choices and Human Behaviour in apartheid South Africa in 1970s and 1980s	Choices. resisters perpetrators
Possible Saturday event – date to be confirmed	Professional Development	Passing Matric within 2 <sup>nd</sup> lang context Workshop	
April School Holidays – to be confirmed	2 Day CAPS Content Conference	FET Gr 11 Content/ Curriculum Support	
19 April	Afternoon Seminar 4 – 6pm	Judgement and Legacy	TRC
3 May	Afternoon Seminar 4 – 6pm	Ideas of Race	Introduction to eugenics and US case study
17 May	Afternoon Seminar 4 – 6pm	Ideas of Race	Case study: Australia

when they are in positions of influence in 2030. For more information on this, contact Nicola at nicola@shikaya.org



Dylan Wray, the Executive Director of Shikaya, was invited to co-ordinate and contribute to the education chapter in Max du Preez's highly acclaimed book of essays - Opinion Pieces by South African Thought Leaders. The segment that Dylan wrote, focuses on Shikaya's foundation project, Facing the Past - Transforming our Future. It argues that our country needs more good History teachers and good History teaching.



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