

February 2009

# Q UNITARIAN E S T



## Monthly Newsletter of the Johannesburg Unitarian Fellowship

Our symbol is a flaming chalice.  
We see religion as a voyage of discovery,  
An adventure of the spirit,  
To be undertaken in a spirit of adventure.

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The Fellowship meets on the first Sunday of each month at 11:00 at the premises of the Theosophical Society, 31 Streatley Avenue, cnr Lothbury Road, Auckland Park (near Melville), Johannesburg.

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### January meeting (Sun 4<sup>th</sup>):

*Don's* talk "New Year Resolutions" was appropriate. His view contrasted strongly with currently fashionable cynicism on the subject. He enriched his talk with references to Barry Ronge and a sermon by Rev Robert Hardies.

The message was very pertinent: although continual spiritual growth was essential for each one of us, there was also a place for pivotal life-changing decisions. Such changes cannot always be planned, but neither do they come about without preparation. And it was in this light that Don viewed New Year Resolutions: an opportunity to be "Born Again ... and Again ... and Again"!

The talk was followed by a lively discussion. Thank you Don for a very provocative talk!

### February meeting:

**Date: Sunday 1 February @ 11:00**

**Speaker: Andy Johnston**

**Title: "The Body Soul Dilemma"**

### March meeting:

**Date: Sunday 1 March @ 11:00**

**JUF AGM Antoinet Halberstadt will lead a short service before the AGM.**

### Birthday in February:

We all wish you, *Doreen Roome*, a happy 90<sup>th</sup> birthday during February! Our thoughts

are with you! Sorry we do not know the exact day of your birthday!

### For the soul:

**From Lynda:** I am offering the poem beneath as I think it is rather lovely. I look to someone in the group to explain it more to me!

### 'Only Breath'

Not Christian or Jew or Muslim, not Hindu  
Buddhist, Sufi, or Zen.

Not any religion or cultural system.

I am not from the East or the West, not out  
of the ocean or up from the ground.

I not natural or ethereal, not composed of  
elements at all.

I do not exist, am not an entity in this world  
or the next, did not descend from Adam or  
Eve or any origin story.

My place is placeless, a trace of the traceless.  
Neither body or soul.

I belong to the beloved, have seen the two  
Worlds as one and that one call to and  
know.

First, last, outer, inner, only that breath,  
breathing human being.

Come, come, whoever you are.

Wanderer, idolater, worshipper of fire,

Come even though you have broken your  
vows a thousand times,

Come, and come yet again

Ours is not a caravan of despair.

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## **JUF membership:**

### **Chair**

Antoinet Halberstadt  
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### **Secretary**

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### **Honorary members:**

David Ibry (exodtohumanism@btinternet.com)  
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### **Members:**

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### **Friends:**

Willy Mulowayi  
Joel Perry

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