



PHILOSOPHY
CULTURE
VOLUNTEERING

Philosophy Shop



About Us



Philosophy is life and energy, it is the spirit that drives your daily thoughts and actions. More importantly, it is a key that can unlock one's potential to live consciously and authentically. New Acropolis is a place to explore this capacity on a personal and social level. Committed to the comparative studies and practical application of classical philosophy; understanding of cultures and principal of volunteering. We invite all to our philosophy school with talks, events and courses. Come and experience how deeply sweet life can be.

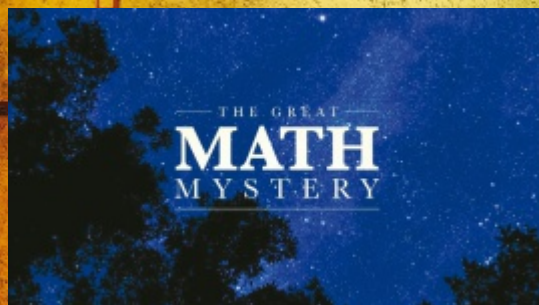
Philosophy	Culture	Volunteering
Practical philosophy helps us to know and improve ourselves. It is a way of life, not an intellectual attitude, committed to the best aspirations of humanity.	Culture broadens our understanding of life, and fosters a spirit of mutual respect and solidarity; strengthening human dignity and facilitating harmonious coexistence.	Volunteering is the natural expression of a spirit of union with life and humanity, and manifests in the practice of values such as altruism, commitment and striving for the common good.

PHILOSOFILM

Sunday 24th January @ 19h00

We have a date with the planet!

Join us for the internationally acclaimed documentary HOME (2009)



Sunday 21st

February @ 19h00

Discover the Universe with The Great Math Mystery (2015)

Sunday 20th March @ 19h00

Explore ideas of the mind, memory and destiny with Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind (2004)



All screenings are free of admission! Bring your own snacks. Tea / coffee / water & secure parking available.

**New Acropolis Braamfontein
12th Floor, Orion House,
49 Jorissen Street,
Braamfontein**



KEEP CALM AND START A REVOLUTION

How do you feel about the world today? Is there anything you wish you could change? Is this a futile hope, or can we do something to change our world?

Tuesday 19th January, 19h00
New Acropolis Braamfontien
12th Floor, Orion House,
49 Jorissen Street, Braamfontien

For more information contact:
Guy: 072 300 1274
Michael: 082 771 8459
Email: info@newacropolis.org.za

Mystical Jewellery

The use of jewellery is rooted in our most ancient past. Man has always adorned his body with precious metals, stones & beads. In traditional cultures we find a much richer symbolism which while not lost - is muted in much of the 'costume' jewellery we use today.

This talk will explore the ways in which our ancestors not only adorned their bodies, but also the deep significance these decorations had in connecting them to the divine.

Thursday 4th Feb
19h00

New Acropolis Braamfontien
12th Floor, Orion House,
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Braamfontien

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SpaceforRent

Have an event and need space?
Rent one of our comfortable rooms for any
event.

New Acropolis can accommodate you!

EVENTSINCLUDE

Various workshops from art, photography, meditation and lectures. Host a lunch or dinner party for friends or business, meet-up evenings: book / movie clubs, networking, launch a product or exhibition, dance, yoga, martial arts, company functions.

Garden Area

For unconventional workshop, party or event

Café Gaia

A large café to suit your product launch, lunch or dinner party



Studio Space

Host lectures, workshops and physical activities



Library Classroom

Audio visual equipment available for use



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411 Vale Avenue, Ferndale



AFRICAN CONSCIOUSNESS

Normally these two words are associated with the concept of “Black Consciousness” spoken about by the philosopher Steve Biko. In Biko's book titled: “I write what I like”, you can find a perspective on both ancient and modern African philosophy, and a startling similarity to the essence of global esoteric wisdom across the ages.

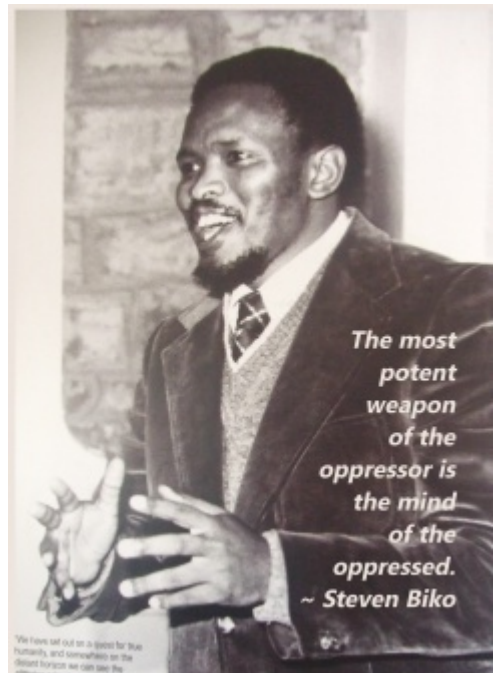
Just looking at the phrase “Black Consciousness”, we can start to contemplate the questions of “Who is African?” and “What is consciousness?”

“blacks are those who are by law or tradition politically, economically, and socially discriminated against as a group in South African society and identifying themselves as a Unit in the struggle towards the realisation of their aspiration.” ~ Steve Biko

What can we see looking at Biko's definition more than 20 years after a change of regime?

If Steve Biko was a philosopher today he would probably continue to look at the experience of the past and look towards the future, like the visionary he was.

Looking at the past it seems that under Apartheid, every South African was discriminated against on some level. We should not forget that under every dictatorship there is abuse which is ultimately an attack on freedom of thought.



Under a dictatorship, the people are forced to think and act in accordance with what is dictated to them, not in accordance with their own free will.

If for example, you manipulate a child with low self-esteem, is he to be fully blamed for his actions? Or are you, the manipulator, to be blamed?

The majority of cultures are comprised of those who are “affected”, and a small minority who are those who are “affecting”.

This is the responsibility of leadership! A responsibility which dictators abuse. A leader will lead people towards a better world and towards their better self. A dictator will dictate people out of their own selfish desires.

So looking at “Black Consciousness”, 20 years after the end of Apartheid, I really want to ask the reader for the permission to replace the word ‘black’ with the word ‘African’ and extend this definition within the South African context to include any person who is conscious of the discrimination which continues even after Apartheid's end.

A person who would like to unite with others who cares for their future and the manifestation of their aspirations - this person is an African!

This person is a Philosopher!

As Africans, we have a responsibility for this rich land we live in. If we develop our consciousness, common sense will show us that we are all one race, “The Human Race”, as Robert Sobukwe said. We all have similar aspirations and we all want a better world to live in.

“We want to attain the envisioned self which is the free self.” ~ Steve Biko

This person
is an
African!

This person
is a

Philosopher!

This is the first step of consciousness. Everyone wants to be free, but are you conscious of your shackles? Especially now, two decades after the end of dictatorship.

More importantly - are you conscious of who you would like to be? Where you would like to go? In

order to free ourselves we must be able to imagine the freedom we are looking for, this is the illumination on our path which shows us where we are going to.

For the message of Biko's philosophy from the previous century to echo in our actions, we need to show unity in mind and deed and build a better world together which will be a reflection of us as Conscious Africans.

Guy Hazon

THE KEY TO INNER WISDOM

The New Acropolis Key to Inner Wisdom foundation course in philosophy is taught at our centres all around the world.

It examines the thinking and culture of different civilisations throughout history taking us on a world tour of living & thinking; with a focus on how the best ideas can be applied in our lives right here, right now.

Join us for 16 sessions of practical and inspirational ideas which will help you unlock your hidden potential, discover and share more joy in life and inspire your Soul.

Cost: **Students - R100 p/month**
 Professionals - R250 p/month

NEXT COURSE

Tuesday 26th Jan@ 19h00

Wednesday 17th Feb @ 19h00

12th Floor, Orion House, 49 Jorissen Street



0827718459 | info@newacropolis.co.za

SEEKING PHILOSOPHY

PROSPER BEYOND SURVIVAL

LIFE UNIVERSAL VIRTUES

- Ethics and Morality
- Voices of the personality
- Dealing with inner conflicts
My destiny?
- Happiness or suffering?
- Leader lead thyself

REVOLUTIONISE THE FUTURE

- Cycles of time
- Connecting history and mythology
- Our future...

HUMAN RELATIONS & UBUNTU

- A new man for the new millenium
- Individual, society and community; universal ubuntu
- Myth of the cave; my place in society?
- Utopia, possible?
- Morality and social law
- Exploration of political theory
- Community in ancient African life

First Class
Is Free!

BRAAMFONTEIN
BRANCH



Philosophers Around You



THE ORBIT

Live Music & Bistro

"Jazz is driven by philosophy and it has always been driven by philosophy" – T.S. Monk

When my partners and I established The Orbit in

Braamfontein early in 2014, we were struggling to find a suitable name for the venue, a name that would resonate in people's minds but more specifically in the musicians' minds. Lots of names were thrown on the table but we were not satisfied. As I was going through my CD collection at home one afternoon, I bumped into the famous 1958 Riverside recording of trumpeter Clark Terry and the Thelonious Monk Quartet "In Orbit" and proposed it to the partners. We had a name.

With a name like this one, The Orbit cannot be just a venue. It cannot be a static entity that sees people come in and out without some sort of transformation happening. It has to make you travel and it participates in bringing the philosophy behind the concept forward. The son of this great jazz pianist Thelonius Monk, T.S. Monk, said a couple of years ago that *"what a lot of people don't understand is that jazz is not driven by technique. Jazz is driven by philosophy and it has always been driven by philosophy. There's a root philosophy to the music that will pass down from generation to generation and one of those philosophies is that you can't stay in the same place. You must move forward. You must stay on or as close to the cutting edge as you possibly can. The objective is to explore the unknown. Fear of the unknown drives so much negativity in the human psyche. It is the objective – going back to Buddy Bolden and Louis Armstrong – to play something that you never played before. That's why Thelonious was such a genius. He could play the same goddamn song fifteen times and each time he played it, he would make it interesting."*

That very philosophical thought applies to us every day as we set our program, work our menus, and brief our service staff. Jazz, as an art form that includes a huge dose of improvisation around a musical theme, always needs to remind us that no creative work is achieved without risk, without exploration of areas of discomfort. By essence, it teaches us daily that there is no certainty about what we will find during our journey, there is no guarantee about the final destination but there will always be a sense that we have somehow renewed ourselves during that journey and that we grow by

exposing ourselves to that undiscovered space. Any given night at The Orbit, I hope, will have its own taste and its own amount of creative high, its own enriching moments that makes our body, spirit and soul travel in the unknown.



Unexpectedly, a verb has come out of the club's name and we frequently and pleasantly hear patrons say that they will be "Orbiting" this weekend, in reference to them coming to our venue. That is way beyond expectation but it also encapsulates the philosophical dimension of the concept and goes beyond the simple expression of one physically going to The Orbit. It describes, we hope, the expectation that the journey may lead to a renewed, unknown and unexpected destination. One full of positive surprises and discoveries.

Generally speaking, Jazz as an art form is a language that interrogates us. The many different harmonies it explores and rests on provide us with a variety of sentiments, feelings and emotions that make us more or less comfortable. It forces us to explore new thoughts, new approaches, new ways of looking at ourselves and at others. It colours our existence in ways we did not necessarily imagine.

Behind the concept, the philosophy is to place a performing art form at the centre of our existence, whether we are the performer or the recipient of the message so we can revolve around it and be exposed to its many facets. Jazz is that art form that reaches out in many ways and runs across generations, gender, race, belief and social upbringing or belonging. It brings us together. We all need the arts and we need the colouring that art provides in our lives. Jazz is our favourite way of doing just that. And that is why The Orbit essentially exists.



Aymeric Péguillan

Eclecticism

The concept of eclecticism is not a new one. We first see this concept appear formally around 96 BC in ancient Greece. How were the ancient Greeks applying eclecticism? Well to philosophy of course. The term was used to describe a school of Greek and Roman philosophers who did not strictly adhere to a particular school of thought, but rather picked from a selection of beliefs and doctrines in order to give birth to new philosophical systems.

Fast forward two thousand years, and we see this concept still being practised; not only in philosophy, but also in academic classifications applicable to architecture, art, psychology and religion. This is only the beginning though – as it is very fashionable today for each of us to be eclectics in our own personal lives.

“What music do you like?”

“My tastes are eclectic”

I am sure we have all experienced this conversation. It is very rare to find people who limit themselves exclusively to one genre of anything. We don't only watch comedies, or documentaries, we watch both, and many others. We also don't limit ourselves to watching movies directed by only one individual, produced by only one

studio, or containing only a specific actor.

On the whole we could say we are all eclectics in one form or another. We are so spoilt for choice that we have had to become discerning as to what we expose ourselves to in terms of television, books and music. There are simply too many works available to allow us to consume it all. In this lies the crux of the matter: how do we practise eclecticism? And to return to the branch of philosophy – how do we decide which ideas and beliefs we wish to apply in our own lives, and which we will cast aside for whatever reason?

When choosing movies, music and books we need to make decisions. Ultimately we watch what we like, we listen to what appeals to us, we read what we enjoy. These selections are made according to personal preference. Many people will speak about some things ‘resonating’ with them, and this will be their reason for liking them.

In much the same way we see people do not build the foundations of their spirituality on one specific doctrine, church or religion. In the modern psyche there is a drive towards individualism like we have never seen before – and many of us feel that simply adopting an entire religion is a bit

Rick Souls

like taking a 'package deal'. We would much prefer it that our spiritual beliefs were tailored to us personally, and not approached with a 'one size fits all' mentality. Even if we do identify with a religion, the vast majority of us only apply the teachings or values which we are comfortable with or which are easy for us to achieve.

When we construct our own spirituality by cherry picking this way, there is an extremely easy trap to fall into. For example - if we were to look at the idea of reincarnation vs. the idea of a heaven and hell – it is much easier for us if we pick the former. Why? The latter presents a very black and white picture, where we get one life, one chance to do good, or do bad; and if we do good, we are granted eternal peace, where as if we do bad, we get eternal suffering. Reincarnation on the other hand presents us with a much softer situation – we still have the choice to do good or evil, however if we choose wrong, we will pay for it ultimately, but we get infinite chances to get it right.

Why the process of choice is important is because here our evaluation of the options again diverges into two different viewpoints: The lower ego – of likes and dislikes – could choose either to follow –

follow the doctrine of heaven and hell, because this is what is expected from the community (in the case of a Christian community) and the pain of non-conformity is to be avoided, or the doctrine of reincarnation, because it gives us infinite chances and no deadline.

Something interesting can happen however, when evaluating from the higher ego, as we may notice that the kernel which is common between the two ideas is to encourage us to make moral choices, to do the right thing. Then perhaps it is possible to choose both! Simply make the right choices, as best we are able, and we satisfy both doctrines. Is the specific dogma important? That depends on each one of us.

At the end of the day, the spirit of eclecticism is to choose 'the best', not 'the one I like most', and not the one 'which is the most comfortable'. This is why as philosophers the comparative study of ideas is so important, as it allows us not to cherry pick what suits us best, but to try and divine the common principals which have been disguised in an infinite number of forms, and then to try to apply them into our lives practically. It must be said here too that practical application is a vital part of the process of choosing and testing – as

Concentration and Inner Awakening

Take a step closer
to unlocking your
full potential during
this practical
meditation
workshop.

Weds 10th February, 19h00
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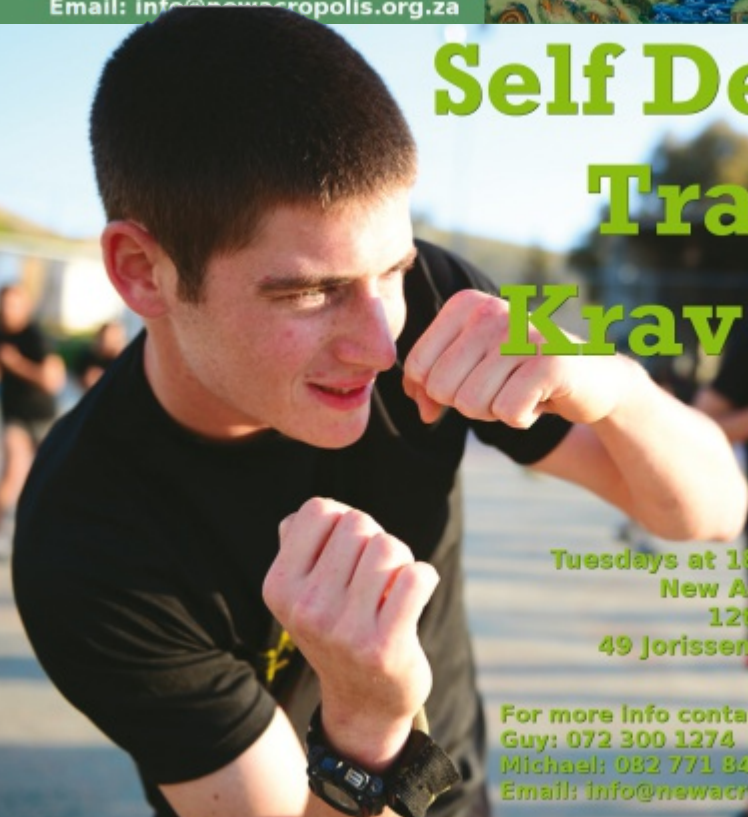
For more info contact:
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Self Defence Training: Krav Maga

Tuesdays at 18h00 starting 19th Jan
New Acropolis Braamfontien
12th Floor, Orion House,
49 Jorissen Street, Braamfontien

For more info contact:
Guy: 072 300 1274
Michael: 082 771 8459
Email: info@newacropolis.org.za



we cannot know if our understanding of a principal is correct or incorrect unless we can actually make it work.

When we are talking about creating our inner life as we would create a patchwork blanket, let us not select the squares of fabric we will use with criteria of price, prettiness, or ease to work with. Let us rather choose the fabrics which are the most durable and of highest quality – they may be expensive and take some effort to join, but at the end of the day we will have a functional tool which will not only be practical, but also durable. One which make us stronger and abler to face difficulties.

Michael Herd



THURSDAY NIGHT GAMES NIGHT

'Parlour Games' have always played an important role in culture. From normal playing cards to chess to the modern board game; they can be found in every civilisation, at any point in time. Bring your own or join in with others - either way it will be a fun filled evening to test your skills against worthy opponents!

Thursday 3rd March, 19h00
New Acropolis Braamfontien
12th Floor, Orion House,
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Braamfontien

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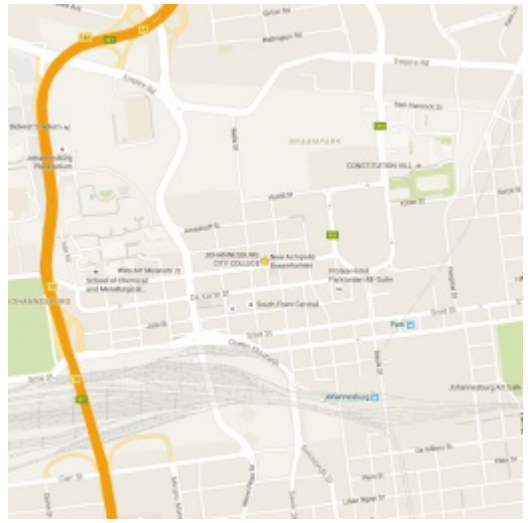
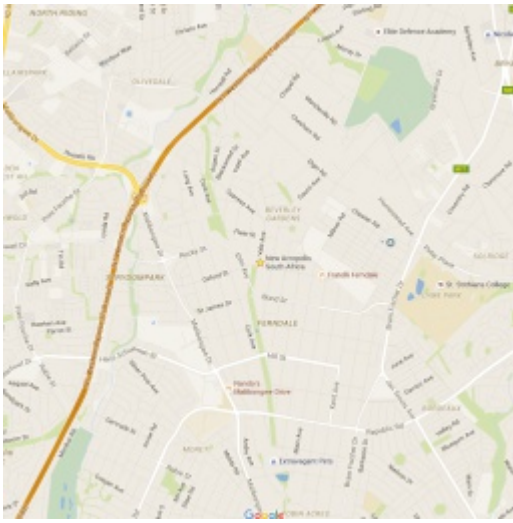
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BRAAMFONTEIN

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