



SUMMER NEWSLETTER

I walk without flinching through the burning cathedral of Summer. My bank of wild grasses is majestic and full of magic. It is a field that solitude presses to my lips' (Violette Leduc)

This week I came across Violette Leduc's vivid and expressive descriptions of Summer and was struck by how aptly it depicts this season's garden at Temenos. The wild meadow which was created barely five months ago is indeed majestic. After the waves of red poppies subsided in October, I wondered what the field would look like in January and February when our sun is at its most ardent. But lo and behold, a miracle greets me! The cosmos, which I loved so in the open plains of the Eastern Free State, are as splendid here as there. The brightly coloured and confident zinnias, which I so liberally scattered in November, remind me each time I walk past them of graceful Indian women in their orange and purple and pink saris moving gently across an exotic tea plantation, while the hollyhocks – so equally proud of their own display – quietly observe the exuberant expressions of colour beneath them. This includes the wild indigenous flowers (often termed as 'weeds') which are allowed to flourish in our meadow. Needless to say the bees, for whom this wild garden was created, 'think warm days will never cease, for Summer has o'er-brimmed their clammy cells'.

Speaking of abundance, we have been deeply blest this season at Temenos. Not only have we met many fascinating travellers, both local and from abroad, who have found their way here, but we have also been delighted to welcome back many of our regular guests who have come to love Temenos. I often refer to these friends as flowers in our garden. They too bring their own colour and fragrance and wonder which I am convinced contributes to the beautiful energy which creates and nurtures a garden of the Beloved.

Where tolerance and openness and uniqueness are celebrated, be it in fields of flowers or among visitors who can find a space to do so, the joy of being fully alive and free brings one to an experience of being boundlessly connected.

Finally, here is another quote for you fellow gardeners out there;

'A perfect Summer day is when the sun is shining, when the breeze is blowing, when the birds are singing, and the lawnmower is broken'. (James Dent)

Wishing you some lazy days and long siestas

Love

Billy

UPCOMING EVENTS at TEMENOS

ROMANCE AT TEMENOS 19 – 20 February

Love is in the air. In honour of St. Valentine, come and enjoy a weekend with your beloved in our garden of flowering roses and wild flowers. Our package includes two romantic dinners with breakfasts – and a free bottle of champagne. For more information contact Temenos : 023 6251 871

MINDFULNESS RETREAT 1 – 4 March

Restore yourself through stillness, relaxation and delighting in nature – all through the lens of mindful attention. Join Dr Simon Whitesman and Linda Kantor for a 4 day mindfulness retreat in the beautiful gardens of Temenos. FOR MORE INFORMATION contact vzaaks@gmail.com

WELLNESS WEEK 12 – 16 March

Enjoy early morning walks, a variety of body therapies, daily Yoga, plenty of time to chill, and healthy country cuisine. Enquiries: 023 6251 871 or temenosaccounts@lando.co.za

EASTER RETREAT 5 – 8 April

We are delighted to welcome Michael Fish, a contemplative hermit monk from the Camaldoli Monastery in California, to accompany us on a rich and contemplative journey to Easter. Michael is well known for his open heartedness and depth of insight. Reservations: 023 6251 871 : temenos@lando.co.za

SILENT RETREAT 23 – 27 APRIL

A time to embrace silence and solitude. The gardens of Temenos are closed to the public for the duration of the retreat so that our retreatants may fully embrace the gifts of stillness and simplicity. Optional daily silent meditation and Yoga are included. Reservations: 023 6251 871 :
temenos@lando.co.za

FOR THE LOVE OF POETRY

As some of you may be aware, we are hoping to organize a Poetry festival later this year in McGregor.

Are you a poet?

A closet poet?

Do you know a poet who would enjoy some exposure?

Do you have any inspiring suggestions?

Please contact me billyk@lando.co.za

I look forward to hearing from you.