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May 2016

100 moments

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EDITOR’S NOTE

One of the most unnerving – but most essential – decisions societies have to make is whether traditional customs have passed their sell-by date. How we change (or discard) practices that no longer serve our needs is always a contentious issue. Those with vested interests in these traditions will fight to retain them; others, eager for reform, point out that progress can’t take place without adaptation and revision. A case in point is our feature When Three’s a Crowd (p120), which questions whether polygamy still has any place in our country. It’s a practice which, by its very nature, denies women the rights (and, some would argue, the dignity) we’ve celebrated all over the world. On the other hand, the need to respect and preserve age-old African traditions can be just as compelling. Given the wide-sweeping movement towards restoring ethnic African values, there are many fascinating ruptures between the past and the 21st century.

Another less controversial, but highly significant area in which the old is giving way to the new is in performance appraisal at workplaces. Our feature Feedback on the Fly (p58) examines the changing mindset of employers, who are recognising that people’s potential can’t be measured in a once-a-year, perfunctory checklist. Like IQ tests – which only assess very selective areas of competence, yet have caused millions of people to be dismissed as intellectually limited – old-style performance appraisals can do far more harm than good. A holistic, balanced approach is needed, and more and more organisations are adopting one.

I mentioned celebrating women’s rights – which includes the right to optimal health and compassionate, cutting-edge treatment. Dr Carol-Ann Benn (Powerhouse, p40) is one of the most inspiring examples of what women are achieving in the field of medicine. Her contribution to raising awareness of breast cancer, her passion for healing and her refusal to recognise boundaries in research have saved the lives of hundreds of women. We salute her!

Our fashion and beauty supplement in this issue (p107) also celebrates change – at least seasonally. It’s full of tips, trends, styles and strategies to keep you looking your best throughout the winter months. In that spirit, why not treat your mom to a beauty or spa treatment, followed by a fabulous lunch, for Mother’s Day – and raise a toast to beautiful, powerful women?

We have double cause to raise a toast this month. As we celebrate our 100th issue of DESTINY, we look back at the most memorable moments on our journey, the amazing, inspirational women we’ve featured on our pages, as well as you, our readers, without whom our journey wouldn’t have been possible. Thank you for walking it with us – and here’s to another 100 great issues!

Khanyi

This month

The feeling that “there must be more than this” is still with me, except that I now regard it as a friend. It’s partly my mom and partly that light inside all of us which spurs us forward and says: “Keep going. There is more – you’ll see.”

– Camille Naidoon, Your Thoughts, p24

“I try, fail, pick myself up and move along. I imagine I’m not the easiest person to live with or love, but my family do anyway and I love them all too.”

– Dr Carol-Ann Benn, Powerhouse, p40

While there are many hugely talented artists in SA, there aren’t enough resources and support for them. Their unemployment rate is high, but their situations could change if we took the arts more seriously.

– Zama Phakathi, Young Business Minds, p52

I never forget my spunk or sophistication – they have a beautiful, symbiotic relationship. They inspire the way I walk, talk, slay or sway.

– Pearl Thusi, Style Insider, p82

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