

Umuzi

Tears and Hugs as *uMama* is Launched

April 14th, 2009 by Emily



[Marion Keim](#)'s impassioned address at the Cape Town launch of [*uMama: Recollections of South African Mothers and Grandmothers*](#) left many in her audience moist-eyed and reaching for handkerchiefs.

But that's how it is when it comes to the women who raised us: no one touches us deeper or more lastingly.

A glamorous crowd of daughters and sons gathered in the atrium at the Centre for the Book to hear and celebrate the stories of courage, endurance and triumph collected in *uMama*.

Thomas Schoppa from the German Embassy welcomed all the guests and expressed his delight at the successful publication of the book.

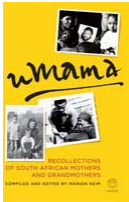
Margaret Gwegwe spoke of Marion Keim's involvement in the community and Dirk Meerkotter recalled the delight of Jim Lees, Marion Keim's husband, on discovering that they were to be parents of a girl child. Diana Ferrus read her contribution to the book, a story of her mother's struggle against poverty and alcoholism. She also recited a moving poem honouring her mother.

Thandi Tutu, daughter of the Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, read from the anthology. The story, written by her father, recalled his experience as a young boy observing a white man doff his hat towards his mother. That white man was Father Trevor Huddleston. The respect he showed his mother profoundly influenced Tutu's own emerging spirituality - and, later, his ministry.

Such is the power of mothers! Don't miss this lovingly crafted and curated memento of a book.

Gallery





Book Details

- *uMama: Recollections of South African Mothers and Grandmothers*
compiled by Marion Keim

[Book homepage](#)

EAN: 9781415200674

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