

# The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 54 July 2016



Most Worshipful Brother Geoff Edwards OSM.

## How Do YOU Make People Feel?

Over the past couple of years I have made a point of reading Prof Jonathan Jansen's weekly article in my daily paper. He is, of course, the Rector and Vice Chancellor of the University of the Free State but, despite his impressive list of academic distinctions, he has the ability to get right to the heart of any issues that he explores and is able to convey his messages in a very uncomplicated, readable manner.

Anyway, he was recently asked to speak to a school audience about his "philosophy of education". As always, he provides some really interesting insights on the subject but, for the purpose of this article, I would like to share just the one paragraph.

Jansen says *"I believe that the most important subject taught is yourself. Long after children forget what you taught them about parts of speech in an English classroom or irrational numbers in a mathematics lesson, they will remember who you were as a professional educator - that you were disciplined, taught with passion, took a personal interest in every child, wrote a compliment on a test paper, made much of a birthday, grieved with them when a relative died, and took them all for ice-cream one hot summer's day. What makes the subject stick is who you are as a person and as a professional. That is what draws young people to become teachers themselves."*

On a similar note, I recently came across a very relevant quotation from Maya Angelou who said *"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."*

We, as Freemasons, adhere to a philosophy that is based on truth, morality and brotherly love. We believe in and promote charity and endeavour to do

what we can to assist those less fortunate than ourselves. Our Order promulgates a total commitment to practising family values and encourages Brethren to fully support their own personal religious beliefs. We really do have all the ingredients required to create an environment where we can leave people feeling really good about the time they spend with us - and yet so often we don't. Why might this be?

Why is it that all too often a new Apprentice feels let down by his experience or the inexperienced Worshipful Master feels unjustly undermined by the very Brethren who he was expecting to support him? Are our principles not working - or are we sometimes insensitive in the way in which we try to apply them?

I would suggest that, in far too many cases, it is the manner in which we project our message rather than the message's content. Perhaps we need to give more thought as to how people may feel about how we convey our message to them. Are our criticisms, for example, thoughtful, constructive and kind. Do we try to remember that we too were once that new Apprentice or Worshipful Master and try to treat them as we would have liked to have been treated. Can we, in good conscience, claim to be "ever forbearing to the faults and frailties of a Brother".

A few days ago the world lost one of its true sporting icons - Muhammad Ali. In the aftermath of his passing, much was written about his life and opinions and he certainly was a man of great substance. At some stage he had taken time out to document the man he wanted to be remembered as and I could not help but be moved by his thoughts. In Ali's words *"I would like to be remembered as a man ... who was humorous and treated everyone right. As a man who never looked down on those who looked up to him. And who helped as many people as he could. As a man who stood up for his beliefs, no matter what. As a man who tried to unite all humankind through faith and love."*

Brethren, I really believe that it is the duty of every single Freemason to do what they can to enrich the lives of those with whom they come into contact. Not to simply provide guidance, direction and assistance, but to endeavour to do so in such a way that the recipient feels uplifted by the experience. It's not always easy, Brethren, and it's not a skill that most of us naturally have, but it's another step in our efforts to shape and smooth the rough ashlar that symbolises our progress as men and as Freemasons.

Let us never look down on those who look up to us and always remember that it's how we make people feel that really leaves the most lasting impression.

**MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM  
Grand Master**

## Lodge de Goede Hoop's Installation

On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June Wor Bro Cobis Wilson was installed as new Master of Lodge de Goede Hoop. The Installation was a Grand Lodge call-out led by the Grand Master and was attended by some 130 Brethren including the heads of the English, Irish and Scottish Constitutions. Also in attendance were RW Bro Alf Bröner (PGM of Central Division) accompanied by several of his Brethren, and various visitors from a number of the local Constitutions and Lodges. The working itself was extremely well performed by RW Bro Avron Jacobson and his team.



The outgoing Master, Wor Bro Frank Begot, gave a very detailed report on the Lodge's activities during the previous year and it became clear that the Lodge of the Year award was indeed well earned.



*Here's a Toast to the Worshipful Master!*


## Practising Brotherly Love

A few weeks ago the Grand Master and Provincial Grand Master (Southern Division) who are both Stormers fans, and the Provincial Grand Master (Northern Division) who proudly supports the Lions, were presented with an opportunity of spending some time with the Sharks coach Gary Gold. While Gary is not a Freemason, the Brethren still hoped that they might be able to assist their Eastern Division Brothers as they sought to raise the standard of their rugby team's workings! I guess that time will tell.



*MW Bro Geoff Edwards, RW Bro Alan van der Vyver, Gary Gold and RW Bro Avron Jacobson*

**If you are still searching for that one person who will change your life, look in the mirror.** *Nicole Salinger*



Registration Number: 2002 / 031211 / 23

### Masonic Tour to Israel "In the Footsteps of Freemasonry"

Join the Grand Master on this wonderful tour during  
September 2016 - Cost is R30,934 pp sharing

Please contact Henda Heyneke on +27 (0) 11 764 2783,  
Cell: +27 (0) 83 256 6682 or on [heyneketours@telkomsa.net](mailto:heyneketours@telkomsa.net)  
for more information on this tour and other arrangements.

## Masonic Spring Ball's 42<sup>nd</sup> Birthday!

It was in 1974 that Southern Division held its first Spring Ball. The intention was to raise funds for the provision of affordable housing for retired people in need of assistance. It is now 42 years later and the Ball is still entrenched in Southern Division's annual calendar. As a result of the funds raised the Division now owns and manages a block of flats and 3 houses for retired people and a house for quadriplegics - but still the work continues and this year's Ball will take place on the Grand Lodge Annual Meeting weekend.

If you are going to be in Cape Town, try to make a point of attending this prestigious event which is held at the very up market Kelvin Grove Club. The venue and food are both special and the company is as good as a bunch of Freemasons sharing an evening can get.

If you would like to advertise in the Magazine (a brick costs only R250) or make a contribution, please contact Wor Bro Andre Engelbrecht (details below).

*Masonic*

# Spring Ball

**Kelvin Grove Club**  
Saturday 20 August 2016

19h30 - Dancing till midnight

Ticket price R375pp  
(Includes 3 course dinner)

**RESERVATION ESSENTIAL**  
RSVP Andre 0832500913 or Geoff 0833300083  
[secretarysd@grandlodge.co.za](mailto:secretarysd@grandlodge.co.za)  
Cash Bar/No BOB

## The Lodge Prins Frederik Installation.

This most successful and highly enjoyable event took place on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June at the Park Lane Masonic Complex in Johannesburg. The Grand Lodge delegation was well represented and was led by the Grand Master, MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM, while Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Alan van der Vyver, led the Provincial team. The retiring Presiding Master, Wor Bro Reuven Coenen, was reinstalled as the Worshipful Master of the Lodge.

The late MW Bro Ben Lindeque OSM, would always quip to a Brother being installed for a 2<sup>nd</sup> year; "and get it right this time!". In Lodge Prins Frederik's case, however, such a comment would have been more than unjustified. During the last two years, the Lodge has increased its active membership from 4 to 27, of which 7 were initiated in the last 12 months.



MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM, Wor Bro Reuven Coenen and Wor Bro Piet Roos (Installing Officer).

The Installation ceremony was conducted in an exemplary manner by Wor Bro Piet Roos assisted by Wor Bro Rex Ingle who presented the proclamation while Wor Bro Ini Akpan performed his last working as the Master of Ceremonies before his forthcoming investiture as an Assistant Provincial Grand Master.

The valedictory report outlined an extremely busy and productive year for the Lodge and, from the program outlined, the Lodge will be even busier in the year ahead with the focus on growth and having fun.

Prins Frederik had recently been re-constituted as a "Dining Lodge" and has moved to Park Lane to take advantage of the professional in-house catering facilities that are not available at Orange Grove. The Festive Board was excellent and very convivial.

## The Provincial Grand Royal Arch Chapter, Northern Division's Annual Meeting.

The above AGM was held on Saturday 11 June 2016 at the Orange Grove centre. MEx Comp Martin Kotze was invested as the new Grand Superintendent before a well attended convocation.



The retiring Grand Superintendent, MEx MEx Comp Martin Kotze with MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM

Comp Tom du Toit, reviewed the Division's successes and commented on the favourable growth in members that had been achieved.



Front - MEx Comp Bernard Neuhaus. MEx Comp John Smith OSM, MEx Comp Johan Britz, MEx Comp Martin Kotze, MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM and MEx Comp Piet Naude MSA; Back -. Ex Comp Demos Markantonis, Ex Comp Hennie Kotze

MEx Comp Kotze indicated that with the new spirit of cooperation between the Grand Lodge and the Royal Arch, it is expected that the opportunity for every Master Mason to complete his Third Degree journey will be facilitated by a resurgent Royal Arch.

## Farewell to RW Bro Doug Kirton.

It is with great sadness that we have to report that the highly respected Master of Lodge Isandlwana, RW Bro Doug Kirton has passed to the Eternal East after a hard fought fight with cancer.



RW Bro Doug Kirton was recently installed as the District Grand Master of the UGLE's KZN Division. He was also the Presiding Master of the South Africa Lodge (UGLE) in London. The KZ Natal Freemasons are a small but close knit group of Brethren. The Constitutions work together in great harmony and assist each other in various ways to promote Freemasonry in the region. Bro Doug Kirton was a very active founder member of Lodge Isandlwana and was its second Master.

Although unusually talented, Doug was an extremely humble man and was always more interested in promoting the image of Freemasonry than personal glory. Of course, glory always follows when you are successful in achieving a common good.

Lodge Isandlwana will conduct a Lodge of Mourning on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July in his memory at the NMR Temple Complex.

**We take for granted the things we should be giving thanks for.**

## M W Bros John Rose and Graham Botha

The last two Deputy Grand Masters of the Netherlands were also the only ones to play a direct part in the formation of the Grand Lodge of South Africa.

In 1945 **Col John George Rose DSO** was installed as the Deputy Grand Master. He was a quiet, humble man who had spent his business career as an analytical chemist. He had a distinguished military record having served in the Anglo Boer War and in both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> World Wars. He was a distinguished sportsman and, as a young man, excelled in both cycling and rowing - he held the world 1 hour cycling record. He was also Chairman of the Royal Automobile Club of South Africa.



Rose was a member of de Goede Hoop and, in 1946, presented them with a banner which is still in use today. He consecrated new temples in Bellville and Bredasdorp and after the formation of the GLSA was honoured with the rank of Past Grand Master.

In 1957, **Lt Col Colin Graham Botha** was installed as the last Deputy Grand Master National of the Grand Lodge of the Netherlands. Botha, a Lawyer



by background, had established and been the much respected Master of the National Archives and a historical writer of note. He also used his skills as an archivist to recover many of our historical records and was a highly regarded leader by our Sister Constitutions.

It was during Botha's term of office, of course, that the misguided efforts of the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the Netherlands to bring about unity in Europe in the post World War II years, saw the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland and Scotland threatening to sever their ties with that of the Netherlands. For South Africa's Netherlandic Lodges this would have been disastrous. As a result it was decided to separate from the Grand Lodge of the Netherlands and form the Grand Lodge of South Africa. Lt Col Botha was installed as the first Grand Master!

Botha, as with all of his predecessors, belonged to Lodge de Goede Hoop and the Lodge still proudly uses 2 silver collection plates which he presented to them after 50 years as a member of the Lodge.



John Rose, Colin Davidson (GM of Netherlands) and Graham Botha prior to the formation of the GLSA

## Almoner's Corner

It is great sadness that we have to advise that the Grand Almoner himself suffered the loss of his wife Marilyn during the past month. Marilyn had been very ill for some time after suffering a stroke that had left her bed ridden. For most of us it is hard to even begin to understand the emotional stress that one would go through whilst daily sitting by the bed of a loved one, watching her slowly drift away. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Neville and their family and friends.

As a mark of the character of our much loved Grand Almoner, he never stopped caring for others during this very difficult time and continued to perform his duties for Grand Lodge. We often pass the comment when we see a truly special man "that he is one in a million". Neville, you really are and we consider ourselves blessed to have you amongst us.

Wor Bro Hannes de Vries (Lodge Umgeni) has again been unwell and we wish him everything of the best and our hopes for a speedy recovery.

## Grand Almoner

Brethren, the Grand Almoner can only be as effective as the information he is fed. Please, if anything is known about a Brother in distress, just phone RW Bro Neville Klein OSM at 071 4148869 or send him an email to:

[kleinneville@gmail.com](mailto:kleinneville@gmail.com)



## GRAND LODGE REGALIA ITEMS

*"Wear them with pride".*

The following items of regalia of the Grand Lodge of South Africa are currently available from the Grand Lodge Office.

The price of the tie is R100.

The cufflinks cost R140.



Both of these items are only available whilst the current stocks last.

## A Bag of Tools

Isn't it strange that princes and kings,  
And clowns that caper in sawdust rings,  
And common people like you and me  
Are builders for eternity?

Each is given a bag of tools,  
A shapeless mass and a book of rules;  
And each must make - ere life is flown -  
A stumbling block or a stepping stone.

R L Sharpe