

# The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 56 September 2016



Most Worshipful Brother Geoff Edwards OSM.

## The Violinist

*On Saturday 20 August 2016 in Cape Town, I installed RW Bro Tommy Hardiman as the new PGM of Southern Division. This was my Installation address.*

MW, RW, VW, Wor Brethren and Brethren all, my address today was inspired by the very attractive cover of this year's Spring Ball Magazine, which was designed by Bro Mark van Dijk. Mark had sent me his proposed cover and asked for my opinion. I was suitably impressed and asked him where he had found the subject and he advised me that it was the door leading into the ante-chamber of our Temple - a door that I have been entering for 30 years now without ever realising just how beautiful it really is.

It reminded me of a story that I had read some years ago entitled "The Violinist". In Washington, DC, at a Metro Station, on a cold January morning in 2007, this man with a violin played 6 Bach pieces for about 45 minutes. During that time, approximately 2,000 people went through the station, most of them on their way to work. After about 3 minutes, a middle-aged man noticed that there was a musician playing. He slowed his pace and stopped for a few seconds, and then he hurried on to meet his schedule. About 4 minutes later a woman threw a dollar into the hat and, without stopping, continued to walk. After 6 minutes a young man leaned against the wall to listen to him, then looked at his watch and started to walk again.

After 10 minutes a 3-year old boy stopped, but his mother tugged him along hurriedly. The kid stopped to look at the violinist again, but the mother pushed hard and the child continued to walk, turning his head the whole time. This action was repeated by several other children, but every parent - without exception - forced their children to move on quickly.

The musician played continuously for 45 minutes but only 6 people stopped and listened for a short while. About 20 gave money but continued to walk at their normal pace. The man collected a total of \$32. At the end of an hour he finished playing and silence took over. No one noticed and no one applauded. There was no recognition at all.

No one knew this at the time, but the violinist was Joshua Bell, one of the greatest musicians in the world. He played one of the most intricate pieces ever written, with a violin worth \$3.5 million dollars. Two days before, Joshua Bell played at a sold-out theatre in Boston where people paid an average of \$100 each to sit and listen to him play the same music.

This is indeed a true story. Joshua Bell, playing incognito in the DC Metro Station, was organised by the Washington Post as part of a social experiment about perception, taste and people's priorities.

Brethren, in the modern world life is lived at a frenetic pace. We are all so busy struggling to keep up that we sometimes don't concentrate enough on those things which ought really to be obvious. We are surrounded by so much natural beauty and so many extraordinary people and yet we fail to be impacted by them. We form our own conceptions of exactly how each individual should appear to us and what makes them attractive or unattractive, without looking beyond the superficial exteriors. The reality is, however, that we cannot afford to miss that which should, perhaps, be obvious to us.

I firmly believe that the Great Architect had a special plan for each of his creations and that each individual is truly gifted in some or other way. As Freemasons, we must be aware of this and focus on trying to identify what gift each of our Brethren really has and how best they can contribute to our efforts to uplift the world around us. We use the mosaic floor and tessellated border as symbols of how each man has a part to play and how, when all are properly fitted together, we finish with a beautiful whole - and yet, all too often, because of our own distractions, we fail to see where a Brother best fits in.

If we do not have a moment to stop and listen to one of the best musicians in the world, playing some of the finest music ever written, with one of the most beautiful instruments ever made .... How many other things are we missing as we rush through life?

**MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM  
Grand Master**

What I do best is share my enthusiasm. *Bill Gates*

## Elu Working has 11 Candidates!

The Elu (9th degree) of the AASR can only be worked in Temples that have the unique requirements catering for it. In South Africa we are privileged to have the only facility in South Africa and, to our knowledge, Africa at the de Goede Hoop temple.

This year's Elu working took place on the Monday following our Grand Lodge AGM and we had 11 candidates from our various Chapters around South Africa, all taking advantage of the opportunity to participate in this unusual ceremony.



*MWS Evangelos Doucas with candidate Frans Appelgryn* graced by the attendance of Sovereign Grand Commander, MP Bro Piet Coetzee and his 2IC, Puis Bro Boet du Plessis, and they further enhanced the occasion by presenting M Ill Bro Cedric Moroukian with a well deserved Meritorious Award jewel to recognise his outstanding service to the AASR of South Africa.

This year's event was



*MP Bro Piet Coetzee*

## Die Bevestiging van Losie De Morgenster

Hierdie bevestiging het plaasgevind te Kroonstad, Sentrale Afdeling op Saterdag, 30 Julie 2016. Die Grootlosie afvaardiging was gelei by die Gedeputeerde Grootmeester, SV Br Dave Duncan ODV.



Daar was groot nostalgie in die "ou" Tempel-gebou wat destyds spesiaal vir Vrymesselaars gebou is. Die na-tafel se tema was die "80s" en alle dank, sukses en voorspoed word aan die Agbare Meester, Agb Br Ian Hunter en sy mede Broeders van die Losie toegewens vir die komende Masonieke jaar.

SV Br Dave Duncan OSM, Agb Br Ian Hunter, SV Br Alf Brønner en die Broeders na die Bevestiging.



*SV Br Dave Duncan OSM, Agb Br Ian Hunter, SV Br Alf Brønner en die Broeders na die Bevestiging.*

## de Goede Verwachting's Installation

Thursday 18 August saw the reinstatement of Wor Bro Jacques Maritz as the Presiding Master of Lodge de Goede Verwachting. The Lodge has done extremely well over the past year, attracting new



*Wor Bro Jacques Maritz*

members and taking positive steps to ensure high quality workings. They well deserved their trophy as the Southern Division's "Emerging Lodge". The Grand Master led the Grand Lodge delegation. Our dear Brother and friend, the Past Grand Master of Greece, MW Bro Dimitri Kontesis, was also in attendance. There were a large number of visitors and overall it really was a very special occasion. The Installing Officer, Wor Bro Evangelos Doucas, conducted the ceremony, with distinction.



## Die Bevestiging van Losie Makalani

Heelwat Broeders het weer die ongeveer 5000 kilometer afgelê om die Bevestiging van Losie Makalani op Saterdag, 2 Julie 2016 anderkant die grense van Suid Afrika in Namibia en te Grootfontein by te woon.



Die pad was lank, maar die broederliefde en liefde vir die Orde het geseëvier. Die Sentrale Afdeling onder die leiding van die Provinsiale Grootmeester, SV Br Alf Brønner en sy gewillige mede Broeders het met trots die bevestiging gaan behartig en was, soos altyd, met die goeiehartige Namibiese gasvryheid ontvang, bedien en behandel. Alle seënswense vir die Agbare Meester, Agb Br Andrew Coetzee en sy mede broeders vir die komende Masonieke jaar.



*SV Br Alf Brønner, Agb Br Andrew Coetzee, Grootlosie en PGL Ampsdraers, Besoekers en Broeders.*

### A Thought from a legendary Freemason.

*"There are two ways of creating happiness: We may either diminish our wants, or augment our means. Either will do, the result is the same -and it is for each man to decide for himself, and do that which happens to be the easier. If you are idle or sick or poor, however hard it may be for you to diminish your wants, it will be harder to augment your means. If you are active and prosperous, or young or in good health, it may be easier for you to augment your means than to diminish your wants. But if you are wise, you will do both at the same time, young or old, rich or poor, sick or well. And if you are very wise, you will do both in such a way as to augment the general happiness of society."*

MW Bro Benjamin Franklin

### 3 Generasies as Voorsittende Meester

Geskiedenis is gemaak in die Vrystaat tydens Losie Bultfontein se bevestiging op Saterdag, 13 Augustus 2016 met die derde geslag wat as Voorsittende Meester van hierdie losie bevestig is.

1986 - Agb Br JF Otto Conradie (Oupa) is bevestig.



SV Br Jan Conradie (Pa) is in 1989 bevestig. Hy was ook die Bevestigings Amptenaar. Agb Br Otto Conradie (Seun) is in 2016 as die Voorsittende Meester bevestig.



Soos altyd was die natafel 'n groot sukses met 'n skaapbraai en heerlike boere kosse. Die goeie dames het dit saam met ons geniet. Alle seënwense word aan die Voorsittende Meester en die Broeders toegewens.



Die Broeder van Losie Bultfontein met PGM, RW Bro Alf Brønner en sy span by Wor Bro Otto Conradis Installasie.

Oupa is kort na die bevestiging na die Ewige Ooste geneem. Hy was 'n staatsmaker in die Losie en sy heengaan word betreur. Hy pluk nou egter die vrugte van 'n gelowige in die Hiernamaals.

### A brief History of our Royal Arch

The first Royal Arch Chapter was formed in Holland in 1949 following a request by the Grand East of the Netherlands (GEN) to the Grand Royal Arch Chapter in London. Royal Arch Chapters under the English and Scottish Constitutions already existed in South Africa at such time. In 1950, Members of Lodge Mutual in Cape Town, which fell under the GEN, asked their Provincial Grand Lodge to submit a request to the GEN to form a local Royal Arch Chapter.

In 1951 the GEN duly granted permission for the formation of Royal Arch Chapters in South Africa under the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the Netherlands. Chapter Mutual was duly proposed with Wor Bros HL Sumner, FV Ryan and J Dommissie as the first MEZ, EH and EJ. A petition to form the new Chapter was prepared and signed by RW Bro JG Rose (Deputy Grand Master), RW Bro CG Botha (Provincial Grand Master) and Wor Bros TA Murray, P Clouts, HL Sumner, FV Ryan, AS Hooper, FH Kenneth-Watts, LH Croxford, JHS Hofmeyer, SD Shargey and HW Gibson. While the Netherlandic RA rituals were being translated, it was resolved that Chapter Mutual would use the rituals of the Scottish Constitution and Chapter Southern Cross loaned them regalia and other items until Chapter Mutual could acquire their own.

On 28 May 1953 Chapter Mutual was consecrated in the de Goede Hoop temple, the ceremony being performed by MEC JG Rose (Deputy Grand 1<sup>st</sup> Principal), assisted by MEC CG Botha and other high ranking Royal Arch Freemasons and Chapter Mutual commenced working in the Suburban temple in Rondebosch. Soon thereafter Chapter Bellville was formed in the new Bellville temple and, in 1958, Chapter Unie was formed in Bloemfontein.

The GLSA was consecrated in 1961 and, as a result of discussions between MW Bro CG Botha (Grand Master) and the GEN, Chapters Mutual, Bellville and Unie were eventually removed from the roll of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the Netherlands on 30 June 1967 and placed under the new Grand Lodge. On 31 August 1968 the members of the Grand Lodge approved the degrees of Mark Master and Excellent Master being incorporated as preliminary degrees to that of the Royal Arch.

On 30 August 1969 the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of South Africa was consecrated in the de Goede Hoop temple by MEC JEA Salem, the District Grand Superintendent of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Rhodesia. MW Bro E Conradie (GLSA Grand Master) was installed as the Grand 1<sup>st</sup> Principal and RW Bro H Dalebout (PGM - Southern Division) as the Pro Grand 1<sup>st</sup> Principal.

Several new Chapters were then consecrated; in '69 Orange (Rustenberg), in '70 Dromedaris (Durban), Johannes Truter (Worcester), Eendrag Maak Mag

(Johannesburg), Koh-I-Nor (Pretoria), in '71 Fiat Lux (Port Elizabeth), De Broederband (Pretoria), in '72 Royal Protea (East London), Horeb (Krugersdorp), in '73 Witbank (Witbank), Fidelity (Johannesburg) and de Goede Kaap (Cape Town).

Two Provincial Grand Royal Arch Chapters were later constituted, being the Southern and the Northern Divisions.

The attendant Orders of the Royal Ark Mariners and the Cryptic Council were later incorporated and they are also subject to the jurisdiction of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of South Africa.

**MEC Bill Prentzler  
Past 1<sup>st</sup> Grand Principal**

### Almoner's Corner

Sadly, the following BB passed to the Eternal East this month. VW Bro J du Toit, (Lodge Rising Star), RW Bro F Pistorius (Losie de Broederband) and W Bro O Conradie (Losie Bultfontein). We extend our deepest condolences to their families and we will miss these BB dearly. Our deepest sympathies are extended to W Bro G de Wet (Lodge de Goede Trouw), who recently lost his mother.

VW Bro S Croften and W Bro C Grobbelaar (both of Lodge Simon van der Stel), W Bro J Maritz (Lodge de Goede Verwagting), W Bro R Marquis (Lodge Marina) and W Bro K Mannefeldt (Lodge Bellville) have all spent time in hospital. We wish them a speedy relief from their suffering and a safe return to us on the Square.

BB; it is that time of the year with its change of the season when colds and flu seem to dominate us. Please make sure that you take care of yourself and stay well.

### 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***



**Winston Churchill loved paraprosdokians**, figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected.

*Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit.  
Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.*

## A Freemason's Response

People NOT involved in Freemasonry  
(usually with very strong preconceived ideas)  
often ask me

"What exactly is Freemasonry anyway?"

I tell them:

As Individuals, we are not a cult, sect, trend,  
party, clique, circle, faction, gang, clan, troop,  
band, crowd, mob, horde, mass, pack or cluster.

As a Fraternity, we are not an Institution, Union,  
company, corporation, club, league or congregation.

Our Ideals are not any particular dogma, belief,  
creed, doctrine, policy, code, protocol, regulations,  
laws, commandments, decree, edicts, directives,  
rules, commands, verdicts, judgements or opinions.

With a smile I then tell them:

What we are is a structured philosophical framework,  
a value system with personal freedom.

That is usually the point when  
the right questions are  
then asked...

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