

The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 57 October 2016



Most Worshipful Brother Geoff Edwards OSM.

Freemasonry - an International Brotherhood

This article was written at Istanbul airport while waiting for my flight back to Cape Town after a most interesting Masonic weekend attending the Grand Lodge of Portugal's 25th anniversary celebrations. I thought that I'd just share a few thoughts with you based on my recent Masonic experiences.

I arrived in Lisbon on Friday at lunchtime, with my first function being that evening's cocktail party and dinner. It was there that we renewed old friendships and established some new ones. There were some 40 Lodges present at the celebrations and, while some of them really don't talk much English, most of them do and it is extremely enlightening listening to the challenges our Brethren have to face and their approaches to handling them. The reality is that we all subscribe to the same Masonic principles, even if we sometimes vary in our approach to promoting them.

I shared Friday evening with the Past Grand Master of Utah, the Past Deputy Grand Master of India, the Grand Master of Israel and various European Grand Masters. I also shared a few light moments with the delegations from Mali and Morocco.

On Saturday morning I observed the installation of their Worshipful Masters. The Grand Master used to perform all the installations himself but, with significantly more than 100 Lodges this became far too onerous. They opted for a single event, and more than 100 new Masters were installed at the same time. The Grand Master read the work from the East while the outgoing Masters demonstrated all the signs, grips and words to their successors. It was intriguing, but I still prefer our more personal approach and can't see us changing it any time soon. In America, incidentally, each Lodge installs their own Worshipful Master.

Saturday afternoon was a grand occasion with all the visiting delegations being received with much pomp and ceremony.

We witnessed the Grand Master, MW Bro Julio Meirinhos, being installed for a second term with some 800 to 1,000 Brethren present.



Over lunch, incidentally, I had a most interesting discussion with RW Bro Deepash Letap of India. They have 28,000 members covering 25 religious sects and 33 languages - and they are currently growing at 15%! Their average age has dropped from over 70 to 46.

At the Grand Banquet I had the privilege of sitting on the main table with the Grand Masters of Portugal and France and I spent most of the evening interacting with the Grand Masters of Ireland and Washington. Once again, the input from such esteemed Freemasons really is invaluable to our Grand Lodge.

Another Brother who I spent valuable time with was the Grand Master of Israel, MW Bro Avi Baranes.



A group of us recently visited Israel and our tour included a most memorable evening with the Holy Land Lodge. As MW Bro Avi Baranes

was away at the time, I was formally received by the Past Grand Master, MW Bro Nadim Mansour. Avi and I were able to catch up on our touring group's experiences and I just hope that he came out of our discussion fully aware as to how appreciative we were.

Our Masonic tour of Israel is reported on in a separate article. Let me just say, though, that it way surpassed all of our very highest expectations.

Masonic travel and meeting foreign Brothers really is a special privilege afforded to us and I can't exhort each of you strongly enough to enjoy it whenever you are presented with the opportunity. You will not only gain much Masonic knowledge, but will also form friendships which will last you a lifetime.

**MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM
Grand Master**

**The Smart Man knows how to get out of trouble.
The Wise Man knows how to avoid getting into it.**

Lazarus, our Israel Tour Guide, when we tried to persuade him to take us to a potential "hot spot".

Royal Arch Annual Convocations

Saturday 17 September saw our Royal Arch holding 2 very successful meetings in Cape Town. In the morning it was the Southern Division AGM, while the afternoon was for the Annual Convocation of our Supreme Grand Chapter. They were well run and were a credit to our team. Both M Ex Comp Johan Britz and M Ex Comp Brian Carstens are to be congratulated on the progress that they are making.



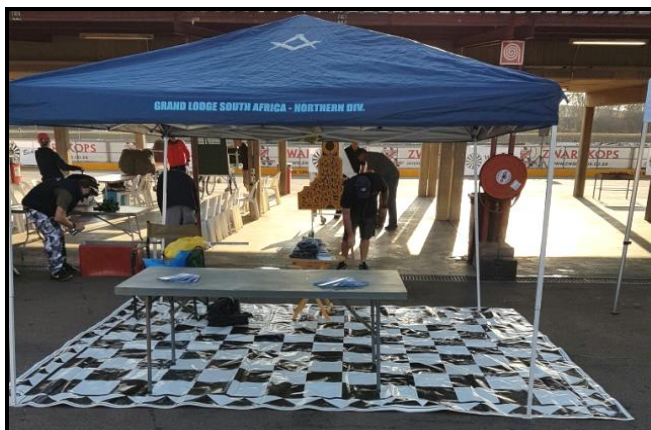
*The Supreme Grand Royal Arch Officers. The M Ex Comps in front are John Smith (Dep 1st G P), Graham Sumner (2nd G P), Johan Britz (1st G P), Geoff Edwards (Grand Master), Bernard Neuhaus (3rd G P), Alf Rhoodie (Past 1st G P).
Note : G P = Grand Principal*

Round Table Bed Race - 4th September 2016.

Bro Colin Morris (Lodge Friendship) invited local Freemasons to participate in this annual charity fund raising event, which took place on a beautiful Highveld Sunday morning at the Zwartkops Raceway in Pretoria. Friendship's members manned the gate and collected the entry donations while members of Lodge Star of the Rand, under the watchful eye of their Worshipful Master, Wor Bro Simon Nash, organised a bed to participate in the race.



Wor Bro Simon Nash "raring to go".



PGL Northern Division manned their stand and provided literature and information to interested bystanders.

As far as the race itself was concerned, Brethren Nicholas Mulligan, Gareth Thomas, Sonwabo Zide, Rainer Moringer and Jacques de Bruin, joined by Wor Bro Philip Spitz, and Bros Bryte Kobe and Chris Botha from Lodge Koh-I-Nor and Bro Anthony Fraser from Lodge Flaming Star propelled the bed around the race track in just over 30 minutes.

They promoted a fun image of Freemasonry for all to see and whilst they did not take line honours, they won the "race within the race" against a clearly less mobile Sister Constitution participant.

Genade in Aksie - Losie Dagbreek

Na die eerste uitreik na "Genade in Aksie" op die 9 September 2016 het Losie Dagbreek tot die besef gekom dat daar behoefte daarbuite bestaan. In ag genome die voorregte wat ons as Vrymesselaars geniet en die genoegsame fondse tot Losie Dagbreek se beskikking het ons besluit om nog vars groente aan "Genade in Aksie" te skenk vir verspreiding na die minder bevoorregtes.



Lede van Losie Dagbreek: Ag Br Fred Meiring, Br Leon Krause en Agb Br Frans Appelgryn was behulpsaam met die oorhandiging van die skenking.

PROJEK "HARVEST"

Lindi 082 229 3669 / Hannes 076 339 1851 / Maureen 082 894 3013



Graag nooi ons jul uit om enige tyd van die dag iets te bring wat ons vir ander in 'n kospakkie kan pak. As deel van ons hulp aan minder bevoorregte gesinne benodig ons dringend blikkieskos, pasta, stampmielies, koffie, tee, suiker, konfyt of enige iets om op 'n skool broodjie te smeer.

Vars produkte sal ons dadelik versprei, uie, pampoen boontjies, aartappels, spinasie enige iets wat ons kan bekom sal altyd van hulp wees

Maandag tot Saterdag 8h00 tot 17h00

Sondag 8h00 tot 15h00

www.genadeinaksie.co.za maur1203@hotmail.com

Masonic Tour of the Holy Land

On 3 September 2016, the Grand Master of the GLSA, MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM, his wife Val, 10 Brethren from various constitutions and 2 of their partners embarked on a tour of Israel. The tour was led by Henda Heyneke and on arrival in Tel Aviv we were introduced to our local Tour Guide, Lazarus, who raced us off to our first scheduled visit to Jaffa - and set the hectic pace for 10 unforgettable days.



Our Group at the Mount of Olives overlooking Jerusalem

The "In the Footsteps of Freemasonry" tour covered areas of Masonic, Religious, Cultural, Political and Historical interest, whilst taking in the various social and sightseeing attractions that Israel offers.

The tour began on the Mediterranean Coast in Tel Aviv and took us to Caesarea, Acre, Tzefat, the Golan Heights, Galilee and Tiberius before finally reaching Jerusalem. From Jerusalem we visited Bethlehem in the West Bank, and also spent a day visiting the Dead Sea region and Masada.

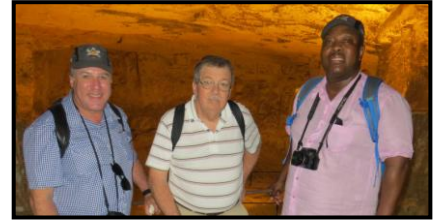
A special highlight was an official Grand Lodge visit to Tel Aviv's Holy Land Lodge where we were very well received by the immediate Past Grand Master of Israel, MW Bro Nadim Mansour. They presented most interesting and informative lectures about Freemasonry



in Israel and the history of their Grand Lodge. After exchanging greetings and gifts we all enjoyed a formal Festive Board in the company of wives and partners. As most Israeli Lodges were in recess at the time of our visit, other informal visits were arranged around the country with Brethren from various Lodges.

Some of the many highlights of the trip included visits to the Ayalon Institute pre state underground bullet factory, the Knight's Halls in Acco, ancient Synagogues and alleyways in Tzefat, a boat ride on the

Sea of Galilee, visits to the war trenches of the Golan Heights whilst looking over Syria, the River Jordan baptismal site, Nazareth and the Church of Annunciation, the Western Wall, taking part in a Shabat Dinner, visiting the Mount of Olives and the Garden of Gethsemane, the Garden Tomb and a suggested



site of the crucifixion Inside King Solomon's Quarries of Jesus, Bethlehem in the West Bank and the Church of Nativity, attending a sound and light spectacular at the Tower of David, visiting the underground Western Wall (Kotel) tunnels, following the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and Christ's Tomb, visiting Zedekiah's Cave (King Solomon's Quarries) where the first Masonic Lodge in the Holy land met in 1873, the Holocaust Memorial Museum, ascending Masada by cable car, swimming in the Dead Sea, hiking to the Ein Gedi waterfall oasis, visiting the Old City of Jerusalem including Jewish, Christian and Arab Quarters and shopping at bustling, colourful markets.

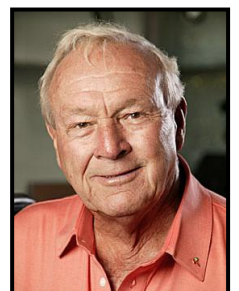
This Holy Land Tour was truly enriching and eye opening and exceeded all the expectations of the fortunate Brethren and their partners who participated. Sincere thanks to Henda Heyneke for organising the trip and taking good care of us and to our extraordinary Tour Guide, Lazarus Kevorkian, whose objective and informative input made a real difference.



RW Bro Avron Jacobson

Tribute to Bro Arnold Palmer

A few days ago Bro Arnold Palmer, the golf immortal, successful business man, devoted family man and dedicated Freemason passed to the Eternal East. Born in 1929 in Pennsylvania (USA), he had a down-to-earth common touch that made him one of the most popular and accessible public figures in modern history.



As a golfer he won 92 professional championships, including 4 Masters, 2 British Opens and 1 US Open. He played in 2 Ryder Cups and was a winning captain.

But above all this, Arnold Palmer was a kind, considerate and admirable human being and a credit to Freemasonry. He played a major role in raising the funds that helped create the Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children and Women in Orlando in the 1980s and took part in numerous other charitable initiatives.

Arnold Palmer belonged to Loyalhanna Lodge No 275 in Latrobe, Pennsylvania and was a 33rd degree in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the AASR.

Visit to Cameroon - 10th September 2016.

A GLSA delegation led by our Deputy Grand Master, RW Bro Dave Duncan OSM, attended the reinstallation of MW Bro Pierre Moukoko Mbonjo as the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Cameroon for a second term. Dave was enthusiastically accompanied by Bros Albert Fotabong (Lodge Alpha) and Raymond Yosimbom (Lodge de Goede Hoop).



Bro Raymond Yosimbom, MW Bro Pierre Moukoko Mbonjo, RW Bro Dave Duncan and Bro Albert Fotabong.

The Installation ceremony was performed by MW Bro Jean-Pierre Serval, Grand Master of the Grande Loge Nationale Française, who had brought his Master of Ceremonies with him. The ceremony was conducted with great dignity and some Gallic flair and was performed in the presence of representatives from 11 Sister Grand Lodges.

The South African delegation was treated “royally” and the Brethren accompanying RW Bro Dave Duncan, both of whom are Cameroonians, renewed friendships and made new acquaintances. The importance of visiting can never be over stressed. Whether it be at Lodge level or international, the visitor always comes away enriched by the experience. Masons are part of an international “family” and bonds are strengthened by face to face interaction.

The program was spread over three days with a “meet and greet” dinner for the Heads of Delegations on the Friday night; the AGM and Gala Dinner on the Saturday and lunch at the home of the Grand Master on Sunday. The hospitality was exceptional and the camaraderie very warm.

Taking no pity on a “Eurocentric”, the Deputy Grand Master was challenged to try all of the many delicacies, up to 30 dishes at a time, on offer at the festive boards. He had no idea as to what he was eating, but found it all very tasty and exciting. He declared it to be a most interesting gastronomic journey - and one is sort of reminded of the time that MW Bro Watty Watson OSM much enjoyed a bowl of Grass Cutter Soup, only to discover the next day that Grass Cutters were, in fact, some sort of cane rat!

“People who aren’t having any fun, seldom produce good work”.
David Olgilvie

Almoner's Corner

Wor Bro Louis Wolsink (Lodge Royal Protea) has recently had a major operation to remove his cancer and is recuperating in a Cape Town hospital.

Sadly, this month we lost Wor Bro Dirk Opperman (Losie Oranje) and Wor Bro Willie Heyns (Losie Jacob de Mist) to the Grand Lodge above. Both had been ill for some time and are now relieved from their suffering. Our deepest condolences are extended to their families and friends.

Our prayers are extended for the speedy recovery of Wor Bro Louis Wolsink, RW Bro Charlie Inggs (Lodge Theophilis), VW Bro Swenny Crofton (Lodge Simon van der Stel), Wor Bro Marco Saunders (Lodge Helderberg). All have been experiencing medical challenges recently. Brethren; we wish you all a speedy return to good health so that you may, once more, join your Brethren on the square.

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



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.

The Grand Lodge is in the process of printing hard cover bound Lodge Attendance Registers with 300 pages. Price: R400

Spare a thought for the Editor!

“That was before I had had my coffee! I’m not responsible for any information delivered pre-caffeine”.
Irene Hannon.