

# The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 60 January 2017



Most Worshipful Brother Geoff Edwards OSM.

## A Resolution for 2017

We are now at the end of yet another year and, having taken our annual festive season break, we will gather ourselves together and set off on the 2017 journey. Inevitably it will, as always, have its ups and downs. There'll be joys and there'll be sorrows but, if we stay true to our Masonic precepts, we will all become stronger and wiser for our experiences. I recently came across this simple Buddhist story which I thought I'd share with you to help you in your quest.

*A young farmer paddled his boat up river. He was covered with sweat as he battled upstream to deliver his produce to the village. It was a hot day, and he wanted to make his delivery and get home before dark. Looking ahead, he saw another boat heading rapidly downstream toward him. He tried furiously to get out of the way, but it didn't seem to help.*

*He shouted, "Change direction! You are going to hit me!" The boat came straight towards him anyway. It hit his boat with a violent thud. The young man cried out, "You idiot! How could you manage to hit my boat in the middle of this wide river?"*

*As he glared into the boat, seeking out the person he held responsible for the accident, he realised that there was no one there. He had been screaming at an empty boat that had broken free of its moorings and was floating downstream with the current.*

The simple truth is that we all too often behave differently when we can identify somebody or something else to blame. We get angry, assign fault, and play the victim - we don't engage in a positive way for ourselves, but in a negative and defensive way that really doesn't make anything better!

We tend to behave far more calmly when we anticipate that what is coming towards us is really just

an "empty boat". If there is no identifiable scapegoat, we don't get so upset. We accept the fact that our misfortune was the result of fate or bad luck and we do our best to address the problem. We may even laugh at the absurdity of a random unmanned boat finding a way to collide with us in a vast body of water.

The challenge for all of us is to behave as if there's never really anybody in the other boat. There is nothing to be gained by screaming at an empty vessel. Empty boats aren't targeting us - and seldom are the people creating the sour notes in the soundtrack of our day. If we start treating all boats as empty, we will have no choice but to accept what is and to focus on changing what we can. By applying this principle we are far more likely to avoid some of the inevitable setbacks and to enjoy the resultant victories.

As we set forth on our journey into 2017 there will be many occasions when we face challenges in both our personal and Masonic lives. Let's assess them for what they are and try our utmost to handle them calmly and with dignity. There's a saying that goes "If it's to be, it's up to me!" Let's remember this and reflect on Florence Nightingale who, when asked to what she attributed her success, replied "I never gave or took an excuse." Let us follow this edict and each take responsibility for all that which we can control.

For 2017, let us all resolve to never take or make excuses but to focus on what must be done.

**MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM  
Grand Master**

## A Brand New Year Awaits Us

*RW Bro Nuno Calvet sent me the reflections below and I thought that I'd share them with you.*

The end of the fading year is near. The New Year comes with promises of good fate and prosperity. The past year has been one with both ups and downs; As it bids us farewell, we mourn - How we will miss you, dear 2016!

We know you shall never return.  
As wonderful memories flood our hearts.  
Our faces are splashed with tears.

And we sit down to thank the Most High for the protection He has bestowed upon us the past year, and for giving us all plenty to visit down the memory lane.

To hope, to solemnly promise, that the coming year shall be better than 2016 - and the reason shall be US!  
We will spend the last hour of the year, held fast with a resolution ... Awaiting the coming year...  
We shall miss you 2016 - but, now, we await to unveil the surprises which 2017 holds.

## Southern Division's Year-end Celebrations

It is something of a Southern Division tradition that the final working of the year, being that of Lodge de Goede Hoop, is also used to celebrate the year end and to recognise some notable achievements. 2016 was no exception and several awards were made.



The Grand Master presented Ritual Excellence pins to RW Bro Tommy Hardiman (PGM) and Bro Skottowe Lourens. Skotty, in fact, was awarded a Senior Ritualist.

These are the first Ritual Excellence pins awarded in the Division and many more are expected to follow.

Lodge Bellville donated R50,000 to the PGL Benevolent Fund. In recognition of this fine example, the Lodge were the recipients of a well earned Charity Jewel. This was presented to VW Bro Kenny Manefeldt (Past Master) by the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Tommy Hardiman.



The Masonic Homes and the annual Spring Ball are entrenched in Southern Division activities and the Ball has just celebrated its 42<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year. This year's fund-raising set a new record and saw an amount of R210,000 being handed over to the Masonic Homes Chairman, RW Bro Brian Rossouw, by RW Bro Tommy Hardiman, PGM.

## Masonic Homes Christmas Party

Southern Division now owns and supports a block of flats and 3 Homes for Seniors and a specially customised Home for Quadriplegics. In December each year we host a Masonic Homes Christmas Lunch in the de Goede Hoop Refectory and the residents of all of our Homes celebrate with us. The current Masonic Homes Chairman, RW Bro Brian Rossouw, doubles up as Father Christmas and makes certain that a "jolly" good time is enjoyed by all present.

Among the guests were Val Edwards, Doreen van Niekerk who is the widow of the late Andy, and RW Bro Alf Rhodie who served over 20 years on the Spring Ball Committee.



*Santa making a special fuss of Gillian Ackerman who is a resident of Andy's House.*



*Shirley Kennedy, another Andy's House resident, also met with Father Christmas' approval and was rewarded..*



*Our Durbanville Masonic Home for Quadriplegics was also well represented and Father Christmas made certain that they were well looked after. He is seen here with Donovan and Lisa Pitt.*



*Pat du Plessis of Desmain Lodge receiving her gift from Father Christmas, also known as RW Bro Brian Rossouw.*



*The Masonic Homes Directors were well represented with all of the House Chairman being present.*

## Season's Greetings

This is the time of year for extending greetings and good wishes. It is the season of peace and joy, all mixed in, of course, with a little bit of fun. These 2 cartoons were discovered by RW Bro Avron Jacobsen and we thought that our Brethren might enjoy them.



*Happy Christmas!*

## Lodge Cape Town Installation

On Monday 5 December Lodge Cape Town held its annual Installation and RW Bro Brian Rossouw was reinstalled as their Presiding Master. The Lodge has attracted several very enthusiastic young Brethren in the recent past and Brian has made it his business to see that they are properly looked after and stimulated. The enthusiasm amongst them is very evident and Brian can consider it a job extremely well done.



*Having installed him as his Deputy, RW Bro Brian Rossouw extends his congratulations to Wor Bro Len Kingsley. The PG Master of Ceremonies, Wor Bro Heinz Smekal is in the background.*

The Installation Ceremony was performed by Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Tommy Hardiman and his team and met the Division's usual high standard in this regard. The Lodge has been very active as far as visiting is concerned and it showed in the number of visitors in attendance.

*The Worshipful Master, RW Bro Brian Rossouw, introduces his team to the Provincial Grand Master and Installing Officer, RW Bro Tommy Hardiman.*



## Vaalrivier now a Uniform Interest Lodge

On 28 November 2016, the PGM of the Northern Division, RW Bro Alan van der Vyver was installed as the Master of Lodge Vaalrivier when it was reopened as a Lodge of Uniform Interest.

*Wor Bro Ini Akpan invests RW Bro Alan van der Vyver with his Master's Apron*



The Installation was the result of many months of planning and hard work by the DPGM, VW Bro Peet Roos, the PG Secretary, Wor Bro George Potgieter, and Wor Bro Fred Diener. They have remodelled a failing Lodge and created a Lodge of Interest which, with the input of dedicated new members, is confidently expected to grow from strength to strength.

The Lodge commences its brand new journey with 15 members and there are several more Brethren who are attracted to the concept and are interested in becoming a part of it.



*Visiting Dignitaries and PGL Officers*

Lodge Vaalrivier Brethren may now wear their uniforms, be it military, police or other. They plan to meet 4 times a year and to focus on recruiting not only current and former uniformed personnel, but also regular members by holding "What is Freemasonry" presentations at least twice a year.



*Bro A Smith, Wor Bro Godfrey Place, RW Bro Alan van der Vyver, VW Bro Peet Roos, Wor Bros Paul & Simon Nash.*

Vaalrivier's opening as a Lodge of Uniform Interest has been met with much interest from the Sister Constitutions and we were delighted to have several of their representatives at the Installation. These included the English Constitution's Assistant District Grand Master, Wor Bro Brian McDermott, and various other dignitaries.

**"The past is a foreign country, they did things differently there."**

*Unknown*

## GRAND LODGE REGALIA ITEMS

*"Wear them with pride".*

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

The price of the tie is R100.



The cufflinks cost R140.



Both items are only available whilst the current stocks last.

The Grand Lodge is also having printed some hard cover Lodge Attendance Registers with 300 pages. Price: R400

## Grand Master's New Year Message

As each year reaches its end it has become traditional to reflect on the year gone by and consider the prospects awaiting us in the year ahead.

As far as our Grand Lodge was concerned, 2016 was a most interesting year. Our focus has been on providing our Brethren with a Quality experience in an environment permeated by Brotherly Love and the application of our Freemasonry in a "fun" way. While we take our workings and the practice of our precepts extremely seriously, that really doesn't mean that they should ever be performed or applied in a manner which is anything less than thoroughly enjoyable. Striving to raise our standards is simply part of the "fun".

We have continued to endeavour to stimulate membership growth, but believe that this happens most effectively when our Brethren seek to include their friends and families in activities that they really find of value. We have also further promoted the holding of "What is Freemasonry?" events and have been more than delighted by the results that they have produced.

Our strivings to ensure that all of our Divisions work together in pursuit of our common goals continues to progress well. Such projects as the "Masonic Book of Life" and the "Ritual Excellence Program" are just two examples of our combined efforts and both are starting to bear real fruit. Our senior Brethren look forward to working together as we seek to continually improve such initiatives for the benefit of all our members.

As the Grand Lodge of South Africa, we are also very aware of the importance of our relationships with other Grand Lodges. This not only applies to our very close relationships with our English, Irish and Scottish Brethren, but also to our interactions with other African and foreign Grand Lodges. During the past year we have made real progress in this regard and, beyond the regular and greatly valued time that we share with our Sister Constitutions, we have also attended Installations in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Portugal and Benin.

From a personal point of view, Val and I were part of the Masonic group which spent 10 days visiting Israel and, without question, we had an experience way



*Myself & RW Bro Avron Jacobsen with MW Bro Nadim Masour, Past Grand Master of Israel*

above our highest expectations. Sakkie and Henda Heyneke are talking about a possible repeat in 2017 and, if they do and you possibly can, make sure that you are part of it! The Grand Lodge of Israel really treated us well and showed us what international Masonic contact can mean to its Brethren.

As a Grand Lodge we have also determined to strategically strengthen the ties between the Craft, the AASR of South Africa and our Royal Arch. We believe that the new Brother joining our Order has an extensive path ahead of him and his attention is now drawn to this right from the outset when he gets his "Book of Life".

During 2016 we installed two new Provincial Grand Masters and are confident that both RW Bro Tommy Hardiman (Southern) and RW Bro Keith Hutton (Eastern Cape) will be a credit to their Divisions and to the Grand Lodge of South Africa.



*Wishing RW Bro Tommy Hardiman (Eastern Cape) will be a credit to their Divisions and to the Grand Lodge of South Africa.*

As Grand Master, I am heavily dependent on the senior Brethren who so willingly support me. Our Deputy Grand Master, RW Bro Dave Duncan OSM has been a pillar of strength, as have our Assistants, all five of the Provincial Grand Masters and all the other Grand Lodge Officers who so willingly give of their time. I cannot thank them enough for their contribution.

2017 promises to be yet another most interesting and exciting year. We are scheduled to hold our now annual Chain's Conference in Bloemfontein at the end of February and, while time will be spent updating just where we are at, I have no doubt that a number of new ideas will be introduced shortly thereafter.

In May we elect a new Grand Master for the next 3 years and, all things being equal, he will be installed in Johannesburg in July. I have much enjoyed my time as Grand Master and will do everything in my power to ensure that he has just as much "fun" as I have had.

**MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM**

## Almoner's Corner

2016 has now reached its conclusion and, as with all years past, our Brethren have had their fair share of trials and tribulations. Sadly, we have said farewell to Brethren who have served our order well and have commiserated with their families and loved ones as they strived to come to terms with their loss.

We have also seen many of our Brethren being set back by various afflictions and have admired their fortitude as they faced their challenges. Some of them will fight on in the new year and we can only hope and pray that 2017 will see a resolution to their ailments. They are certainly always in our thoughts and prayers.

Others of our Brethren have been blessed with new children and grandchildren and, in other cases, entered into new relationships. May all these new additions to your lives receive the blessings of the Most High and serve to enrich your life experiences.

## 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***

