

The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 69 October 2017



Most Worshipful Brother David Duncan OSM.

We live in interesting times

Brethren: "May you live in interesting times" when wished upon someone in China; is considered to be a curse!!! And yet today, most certainly, "We live in interesting times".

The rate of change that is taking place in our social, economic and political environments has become so fast that even the hardened public commentators are declaring that it has become impossible to predict what will happen next. We live in an environment perfect for the "Doomsday Preppers", rumourmongers and for those who wish to confuse and emotionally depress us.

This is taking a heavy toll on our ability to cope within our daily lives and yet; if we do not adapt to these changes, we will die. Maybe not literally; but certainly, from a peace of mind perspective. We are seeing this within our Lodges. Brethren are finding that they feel that they must forgo the camaraderie of their Lodge night because they perceive that they are either too tired from working too hard to stay alive or do not have the motivation to make the "effort".

Have these Brethren forgotten that the Lodge is actually a sanctuary from the toils and tribulations of everyday life? That when we pass between the two pillars at the entrance to our Temple, we are entering a special place of peace and tranquillity. It is a place where we believe that the Great Architect is present and that he will guide us through whatever opportunity we may be experiencing. Has anyone who is experiencing challenges in their daily life and has made the effort to go to Lodge, ever left the Lodge feeling more miserable than when they entered?

For me, it has never happened. Yes; I have gone to Lodge with a heavy heart when I felt that I should have been elsewhere addressing my problems. Yes; the quality of the working did nothing to excite me. Yes; the quality of the food at the festive board was somewhat unimaginative and the range of refreshments somewhat limited; but the ambiance of the evening was not diminished by the material things. The camaraderie of the Brethren and the warmth of emotion shown, lifted me to a new height and restored my faith in human nature. I was rejuvenated and felt happy. The journey home seemed to pass so quickly when compared to my perception of the boring journey to the Lodge. Curiously; it was often the case that the challenge with which I was most concerned, seemed to be so easy to resolve the next day when my spirits were high and my emotions positive.

Brethren: we must remember that our Lodge is not only a material building, it is a spiritual place. In all our Lodges, we have an altar with the VSL, Square and Compasses open at every meeting. These are landmarks of the Order and one of the requirements that makes us different to most other social organisations. The three great lights remind us of the journey that we have all promised, in the presence of our Deity, to undertake in his name. To perfect his creation by developing our character to fit into the spiritual blueprint laid down in terms of truth, morality and brotherly love. The knowledge of ourselves and the unselfish giving of our assistance, whenever deserved, promotes a sense of wellbeing that allows us to tackle whatever challenge life may throw at us.

The experience of and participation in the spreading of brotherly love is a spiritual experience of the highest kind and something that makes Freemasonry so different. It is up to each and every one of us to actively participate in making our Lodge an island of peace and serenity in a sea of confusion.

**MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM
Grand Master**

The Grand Design

I recently had the great privilege of listening to RW Bro Dr James W Daniel, this year's tercentenary Prestonian Lecturer, present his most interesting paper entitled "The Grand Design".



This beautiful philosophy forms part of the English Emulation ritual where the Installing Master trusts *"that we shall have but one aim in view, to please each other and unite in*

the grand design of being happy and communicating happiness ... (may) brotherly love and affection ever distinguish us as men and as Masons."

The Oxford Dictionary defines "happiness" as "being contented or pleased with one's lot" and this really is extremely relevant within our Masonic teachings. The illustration on the previous page, incidentally, is the Chinese symbol for Happiness.

RW Bro Jim Daniel who is, of course, a senior Officer and Past Grand Secretary of the UGLE, was in South Africa for just a few days and presented his address in Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg.



The Grand Master entering the Temple



RW Bro Tommy Hardiman presented the Trophy for the "2017 Best Masonic Paper" to Bro Mark van Dijk (de Goede Verwachting). Mark also plays a lead role in the compilation of the Masonic Spring Ball Magazine.



In Cape Town

RW Bro Tommy Hardiman (PGM - Southern Division), RW Bro Dr James Daniel (Prestonian Lecturer), RW Bro Jim Duggan (DGM - English).

In Johannesburg
MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM (GM - GLSA, Wor Bro Chris Adams (WM Lyceum Lodge), RW Bro Dr James Daniel, RW Bro Guy Charlesworth (DGM - English).



The "Secretary of the Year" was, for the 2nd year in a row, RW Bro Ron Smith (Hiram). The award was presented by the PGL Secretary Wor Bro Llew Lloyd-Jones. Ron is also a Grand Junior Warden.



Southern Division report on a Good Year

On Saturday 9 September Southern Division had their Annual Meeting and RW Bro Tommy Hardiman reported on the progress made during his first full term as the Provincial Grand Master. While faced with all the usual challenges, the year overall had been a most successful one and the Division is able to look back on a small growth in numbers, a sound financial situation, significant progress in a number of key activity areas and generally a strong culture of brotherly love and mutual support between the Brethren and the Lodges.

RW Bro Hardiman paid particular tribute to his Provincial team and acknowledged the very real contribution made by the PGL Commissioned Officers, Wor Bros Evangelos Doucas (Deputy), Jan Venter, Dennis Benadie and Dawie van Rooyen (Assistants).



Wor Bro Dennis Benadie is well known for his various charitable actions. This was formally recognised when RW Bro Tommy Hardiman, to much general approval, presented him with a well deserved "Charity Jewel".

RW Bro Cedric Moroukian has long been a leading contributor to both GLSA and Southern Division and all present were delighted when the Past Grand Master MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM gave him his very well served 50 Year Jewel.



The Provincial Grand Lodge, Southern Division team with RW Bro Tommy Hardiman, RW Bro Jim Duggan (DGM English) and guests from Northern Division, Eastern Division and even Nigeria.



1st Grand Principal Johan Britz, Grand Master MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM and the RA Grand Chapter Officers.

RA Southern's new Grand Superintendent

On Saturday 16th September the Royal Arch, Southern Division installed MEC Dawie van Rooyen as their new Grand Superintendent. This was at the end of an extremely well conducted Annual Meeting under the direction of the outgoing Grand Superintendent, MEC Brian Carstens, who has now been promoted to 3rd Grand Principal. Another highlight of the meeting was the address by MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM who outlined some of the challenges facing the GLSA and Freemasonry. The meeting was well attended by our own RA members as well as a very strong contingent from the Sister Constitutions.

MEC John Smith OSM presents the new Grand Superintendent with his Ceremonial Banner.



MEC Dawie van Rooyen introduces MEC Koos Snyman, his Deputy, to the 1st Grand Principal MEC Johan Britz.

A GLSA Freemason at South Africa Lodge

We recently received a very interesting email from Wor Bro Andrew Bergman. Andrew is a member of Lodge Mutual and emigrated to Holland in 1999. At the time that he left he was extremely active locally, was Senior Warden of his Lodge and played a leading role in such activities as the Spring Ball Magazine and the GLSA website. He was a Brother that we missed!

Anyway, while he retained his membership of Mutual, Andrew also joined Lodge Concord in Rotterdam and, a few years later, went through the Chair. His business commitments saw him spending more and more time in London and, as a result, he then moved his Masonic interests to England and joined South Africa Lodge working at Great Queen Street.

A few months ago, Lodge Mutual sent Andrew a Past Master's apron in recognition of his loyalty and progress in Europe and he was then given permission by South Africa Lodge to wear it to one of their meetings. This he did - with enormous pride.



"Baie Dankie" Agb Br Josh du Toit

Josh het by Losie "The Rising Star" (1022 EK) in Bloemfontein in 1973 by die Orde aangesluit, waarna hy na Pretoria verhuis het en by Losie Hoofstad aangesluit het. In 1983 het hy as Oktooi Meester by Losie "The Rising Star" (129 GLSA) in Bronkhorstspuit met die Losie se Konsekrasie aangesluit.



As Lid van die PGL en later as Assistent Provinsiale Grootmeester was hy 'n baie aktiewe Lid en het baie hard gewerk met die reëlings van funksies en PGL Lente Danse. Weens sy gesondheid kon hy die laaste klompie jare nie meer aktief deelneem aan Losie verrigtings nie, maar sy hand was altyd oop vir Liefdadigheid.

Met sy afsterwe het hy weereens bewys gelever vir sy Liefde vir die Orde en het die volgende geldelike erflatings gemaak:

- * Grootlosie R100,000
- * PGL Noordelike Afdeling R100,000
- * Losie "The Rising Star" R50,000

"Baie Dankie" Josh - ons betreur sy heengaan en sal hom altyd in ons harte dra.

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

Join us on this exceptional tour from 17 February 2018 to 1 March 2018 for only R35,211. For more details contact Henda Heyneke +27 (11) 264 2783 or +27 (83) 256 6682

Celebrating the 43rd Masonic Spring Ball

Southern Division's Masonic Spring Ball has an almost legendary place in South African Masonic history. It has now been running for 43 consecutive years and still sets a consistently high standard.

2017, though, was different - for the Ball moved from Winter to Spring! Pictured below are some of the guests - and judging by the comments passed and the photographs taken, everybody had a great time!



Northern Division PGM, RW Bro Peet and Marina Roos.



Bro Craig Pedersen with Bernice Burger



This rare photograph is of RW Bro Bernard Neuhaus with his charming wife Lily.

Adding still more lustre to the already glamorous event was the Grand Master, MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM, seen with his wife Louise.



Southern Division PGM, RW Bro Tommy Hardiman, together with Lily Wegener.



Bro Jesse and Jackie Bossenge-Nkoy.



Almoner's Corner

Two of the GLSA's really big contributors, our Almoner, RW Bro Neville Klein OSM, and our Web Master, RW Bro George Schuitemaker OSM, have both been in and out of hospital for treatment recently but seem to be recovering steadily.

Wor Bro Eugene Rawstorne (Dromedaris) was involved in a nasty car accident. While he is on the mend, he continues to receive medical attention.

RW Bro Brian Rossouw (Cape Town) lost his mother recently. She was well into her 90s, but there's never a time when we are prepared for losing a parent.

RW Bro Alf Rhodie (de Goede Hoop) had an eye operation, his wife, Thora, had a foot operation and RW Bro John Smith's wife Edelweiss also had a minor throat operation recently. All are progressing steadily.

RW Bro Morris Rozen (de Goede Verwachting) and Bro Neville Crole (Westerford) have been in hospital recently and are now on the mend.

Wor Bro Otto Conradie (Bultfontein) has got married, as has Bro Edgar Baron (Cape Town).

RW Bro Peter Watkinson OSM has been in and out of hospital for tests but, other than the normal aches and pains, his usual cheery manner continues.

Simon van der Stel are having a busy time at present. RW Bro Swenny Crofton continues in his ongoing fight with cancer, VW Bro Johan Haasbroek has been in and out of hospital with a heart condition and has water retention challenges and Wor Bro Corrie Grobbelaar is due for an operation.

RW Bro Kenny Manefeldt (Bellville) continues to battle with an almost crippling back problem.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all of our Brethren and their families who are going through difficult times. May the GAOTU sustain you..

If anything is known about a Brother in distress, 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 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 has also had printed some hard cover Lodge Attendance Registers with 300 pages. Price: R450.

The latest revised rituals in the A5 and larger print are available in Afrikaans and English from Grand Lodge at a price of R40 each.

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If you ever have any input for Square & Compasses, please email it to secretary@grandlodge.co.za