

The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 70 November 2017



Most Worshipful Brother David Duncan OSM.

"The Times They Are A-Changin'"

When Bob Dylan wrote and performed this song in 1964 he could not have had any real idea just how much *"the times were a'changin"*. His call was to *"start swimmin"* and to get with the change and embrace it, as we can't stop it from happening. He reflected that digging in our heels and resisting will only result in us *"sinking"*. He also commented on the fact that our children would leave us behind in the understanding of our environment and that it will seem to us that they will be living in a separate world.

Needless to say; he was branded a rebel by the traditional establishment of the time and declared to be out of touch with reality.

In the 53 years that that have passed since then, the changes in our environment have been so great that the world has become a place that no-one could have visualised at that time.

In 1969, a mere five years later, mankind left his planet and became a citizen of the greater universe when Neil Armstrong, the son of a Freemason, walked on the moon. His co-pilot, Buzz Aldrin, the second man to walk on the moon, is still an active Freemason. The progress stimulated by the technologies allied to that achievement has created the industries that many of us do not understand but that our children take for granted – but they weren't even dreamed of in 1964.

So, what was Bob Dylan telling us? Maybe it was that *"reality"* is no more a than a perception of the present and, just like an illusion, changes rapidly and even disappears. By clinging to the past, WE risk becoming irrelevant and out of touch.

Freemasonry has survived in a structured format for over 300 years and celebrations are currently taking

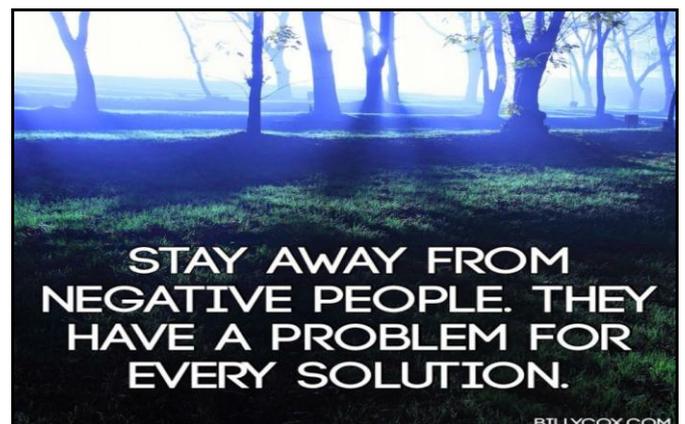
place all over the world to commemorate this achievement. There is no doubt that the Order has changed dramatically over those centuries in terms of its operational procedures, whilst staying true to its principles and tenets. It must have done; otherwise it would have become irrelevant to the community that supported it – and it certainly hasn't.

We have seen major changes surrounding Freemasonry in South Africa; which has repositioned itself many times to fulfill the needs of our society at critical periods in our history. Many of the beliefs and Institutions that we take for granted in our daily lives were pioneered and developed with the contribution of Freemasons. History shows that Freemasons have never failed to respond to the challenges of positive social development; particularly when called upon to be the leaders of our State, Institutions and business and social communities.

Emotionally, Freemasonry resides in our hearts and minds. Practically, it resides in our Temples and our Lodges. We must therefore ensure that whatever we do practically is relevant to our greater society and always promotes the creation and communication of happiness; that great aim of Freemasonry. By being happy in ourselves, we can spread it to all around us and so contribute in the facilitation of positive changes in attitude in the members of our communities.

Therefore Brethren; our Lodges must be *"happy places"* and this can only be achieved if every one of us participates passionately in making them so. Sitting passively on the sidelines of the Order deprives not only ourselves of finding that happiness, but also reduces the effectiveness of our masonic community of achieving the great aim. Freemasons have always been *"men of action"* and so let us all resolve to participate fully in the creation and communication of happiness to those in our communities who, in this ever changing world, are still struggling to cope with change.

**MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM
Grand Master**





Wor Bro Pat Smith (centre) with RW Bro Peet Roos (left), Wor Bros George Potgieter and Sarel Mulder (right)

Losie Brits Installation

On 2 September 2017, Wor Bro Pat Smith was reinstalled as Master of Lodge Brits, the ceremony being conducted by Wor Bro Sarel Mulder, Assistant PGM. Also present were the PGM, RW Bro Peet Roos, his Deputy PGM, Wor Bro George Potgieter, and Assistant PGMs Wor Bros Ini Akpan and Simon Nash.

The Brits Brethren take a great deal of pride in the appearance of their Temple and are well known for their Masonic hospitality. The "feast" prepared by the ladies of the Lodge lived up to its usual high standard.



Brethren at labour - preparing for the big event.

A Masonic Wedding Rededication

Having recently been formally married in a civic ceremony, Bro Edgar and Carleen Baron wished to have their commitments to each other rededicated in the de Goede Hoop Temple. Edgar is a member of Lodge Cape Town, while Carleen is an American lady from Connecticut. While not having been previously performed in South Africa, similar ceremonies seem to



have been held in Holland, Australia and various American States, while Turkey is the only Grand Lodge which appears to hold regular Masonic Weddings.

Carleen has relatives "back home" who have experienced similar ceremonies and she was keen to follow their example. RW Bro Brian Rossouw assisted

by RW Bro John Smith OSM, duly obtained and tuned a suitable ritual and the Lodge then set about preparing themselves. While quite beautiful, the ceremony was a very simple one and, being performed in an "open" Lodge in front of the general public, it was clearly devoid of any content which could see it in conflict with legal or Masonic demands.



At the formal festive *RW Bro John Smith OSM* board which followed the Temple event, toasts were proposed and much joyous celebration took place. Both the "Bride and Groom" were delighted and confirmed that their Wedding Rededication ceremony had more than lived up to their expectations.



The "Bride and Groom", surrounded by the Brethren.

The Widow's Pin

Our Grand Lodge has a Widow's Pin available for Lodges to award to Widows of their departed Brothers. This gold coloured pin has a wreath around a broken column with a square and compass at its base. It symbolises our support for the Widow of a departed Brother and comes with a beautiful printed card and message for presentation purposes.



If you wish to give such a pin to your Widows, please contact the Grand Lodge Office for cost details.

Provinsiale Groot Kapittel Bosberaad

Vanaf die 22st September tot en met die 25st September, gedurende die lang naweek was die tweede bosberaad gehou vir die Provinsiale Groot Kapittel Noordelike Afdeling in die pragtige Magalies berge op die plaas van Seer Verhewe Metgesel Bill King.



Eugene Steenkamp, Karl Venter, Martin Kotze, Marius Mostert

Die naweek was so goed geondersteun, dat alle akkomodasie vol geboek was. Die goeie dames het die naweek net soveel soos die metgeselle geniet, met lekker kuiers en oor as genoeg te ete en te drink. Daar was tot vir die dames naels gedoen deur Angela le Roux wat almal van gebruik gemaak het. Die naweek was n reuse sukses en die Provinsial Groot Kapittel Noordelike Afdeling moet almal bedank vir hulle bewoning en by drae veral Verhewe Metgesel Marius Mostert met die reelings en Verhewe Metgesel Rex Ingle wat die "SWOT" Vergadering gely het. Dit was n vurige vergadering en baie punte was aangeraak en heftig bespreek met positiewe uitkoms en nuwe rigting wat na gekyk gaan word oor die volgende paar maande.



Ontspan met die Grootmeester, HE Br Dave Duncan ODV

In die volgende uitgawe sal n verslag gelewer word van die uitkoms van die vergadering deur Verhewe Metgesel Rex Ingle.



Nou is dit 'n SWOT-span om op trots te wees!

Consecration of AASR Chapter Koh I Nor

On Monday 18 September 2017, for the first time in many years, the AASR Supreme Council for South Africa consecrated a new Chapter. Sovereign Grand Commander, MP Bro Boet du Plessis, granted petitioners permission to charter the Koh I Noor Chapter in Pretoria and it is hoped that this will initiate a resurgence of interest and participation in this very historic branch of Freemasonry. The new Chapter takes its name from its predecessor which was originally chartered under the Netherlandic Supreme Council in 1972 but which closed some years ago. Most of the petitioners are Lodge Koh I Noor members.



MP Bro du Plessis gave the Chapter these fine pictures.

The 17 Charter Members have high hopes to build the Chapter into a strong and dynamic entity practicing rituals of historic and moral significance. The consecration ceremony was followed by the installation of Illustrious Brother Brandon Topham as the Chapter's Most Wise Sovereign.

This extraordinary evening of fellowship and success, culminated in the conferring of the highest honour to a member of the Supreme Council, being the Meritorious Award. At any point there are never more than 3 living recipients of this award and it was an emotional and most surprised V Ill Bro Bernard Neuhaus who received this special honour from the Sovereign Grand Commander. Bro Bernard has been a Freemason for 58 years and remains active in South African Craft Masonry, the AASR and Royal Arch Masonry.



A special award was also presented to M Ill Bro Bennie Spies, another Meritorious Award holder, who continues to faithfully assist the Supreme Council. Both Brothers are shining examples and mentors to many Freemasons and make valued contributions.

The Supreme Council has Chapters operating throughout South Africa and all Master Masons are encouraged to continue their Masonic journey by enquiring from the local members as to how to join.



Chapter Koh I Nor with Ven Bro Brandon Topham and MP Bro Boet du Plessis in the centre.



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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

Lodge First United Installation

On Thursday 5th October VW Bro Basil de Kock was installed as the Master of Lodge First United. The ceremony was conducted by Wor Bro Grant Futter, Assistant PGM, and took place at the Port Natal Lodge complex on Durban's Berea. There were 27 Brethren present, including 4 from our Sister Constitutions.



VW Bro Basil de Kock with his First United team

Southern Division PGM visits Oudtshoorn

The English Constitution's Western Division visit their Lodges in George and Oudtshoorn each year to Install their new Masters. This year our PGM, RW Bro Tommy Hardiman, decided to go with the English Installation team which included RW Bro Jim Duggan (District Grand Master) and Wor Bro Ernest Malherbe (DGM designate) on their visit to Oudtshoorn. It is probably the first time that a Southern Division PGM has made this visit and the bonds between our Constitutions were further strengthened by it.



Bro Marco Petronio, Wor Bro Willie du Plessis,
Wor Bro Derrick Murray, RW Bro Tommy Hardiman.



Lodge Kango, incidentally, with a great deal of pride, display their Attendance Register - which includes the entry for Bro CJ Langenhoven (writer of "Die Stem") on his Initiation as a member of the Lodge.

Almoner's Corner

If anything is known about a Brother in distress, phone RW Bro Neville Klein OSM at 071 4148869 or send him an email to nevilleklein44@gmail.com

News from Eastern Division is that Wor Bros Eugene Rawstorne (Dromedaris), Grant Futter (Theophilus) and Anton van Rooyen (Meerensee) have all spent some time in hospital, as has RW Bro Vic Mühlenbeck's wife, Barbara. We are thinking of you all and trust that you are on the road to recovery.

Wor Bro Johan van Dyk (Jacob de Mist) and RW Bro Brian Rossouw (Cape Town) both lost their elderly mothers. Please accept our sincere condolences.

Wor Bro Ron Kessler (de Goede Hoop) has had a back operation, RW Bro Ken Manefeldt (Bellville) continues to struggle with his back pains and Wor Bro Ronnie Esau (de Goede Hoop) is progressing steadily and hopes to play the organ at the Christmas working.

Bro Neville Crole (Westerford) has been in hospital but is now at home recovering.

RW Bro Swenny Crofton assures us that he is feeling stronger, while VW Bro Johan Haasbroek is also progressing well. Both are Simon van der Stel.

Wor Bro Gideon van der Vyver (Orange), a long standing GLSA member, has been called to the Eternal East. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Wor Bro Keith White (Friendship) had heart bypass surgery and is now recovering.

May all of our Brethren who are faced with health challenges or personal losses, please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you at all times.

"You can never do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late." *Ralph W Emerson*

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.

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