

# The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 71 December 2017



Most Worshipful Brother David Duncan OSM.

## “Be Happy!”

Freemasonry means many things to many people and trying to find an all-encompassing definition of its purpose has eluded most of us. Recent events, such as RW Bro Jim Daniel’s Prestonian Lecture, delivered around South Africa, and the UGLE’s 300 Year celebrations in London with 136 Grand Lodges present; have clearly demonstrated the power of that piece of ritual which indicates that Freemasonry’s grand design of is the *“creation and communication of happiness”*. Is this reasonable and valid?

In America, where many thousand Freemasons are found, the Declaration of Independence contains that well known phrase: *“Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness”*. This phrase gives three examples of the *“inalienable rights”* which the Declaration states have been given to all human beings by their Creator. (NB: remember that many of the signatories of this Declaration were known Freemasons.)

If the pursuit of happiness is an inalienable right; how do we structure our lives in an attempt to find it? It has been suggested that the happiest people are those with low expectations and the examples that are often cited are the results of studies carried out amongst so-called undeveloped hunter / gatherer peoples. They argue that as a society develops in sophistication and our expectations increase, it becomes more difficult to achieve a state of *“happiness”*. People start to want what they cannot have and become un-happy with their perception of their failure to realise their expectations. This *“failure”* is often blamed on external factors such as a lack of recognition and the negative emotions created by a perception of there being no opportunities for progress

in their environment. Hopelessness sets in. It is however, rarely blamed on the internal possession of unrealistic expectations. But, Brethren; in our *“Perfect Lodge”*, none of the above exist.

In the spirit of brotherly love and the facilitation of growth towards personal excellence; opportunities are afforded to every member to create realistic non-materialistic goals which rely on an expectation that they will be facilitated and mentored in the achievement of those goals. Through our ritual and the opportunity to participate in the management of the Lodge, life skills are learned in a passive environment that promotes and rewards effort and involvement. Recognition and positive reinforcement of effort are the cornerstones of personal growth and happiness and these are to be found in plenty in our *“Perfect Lodge”*.

A simple definition for the source of happiness is: *“happiness is generated by the positive fulfillment of expectations”*.

“Realistic personal expectations within the Masonic fraternity can be formulated, self-managed and experienced in a positive manner. By watching and learning, with humility, from more experienced Brethren than himself and by applying the Masonic principles, a Brother will recognise his shortcomings and learn what he needs to do to overcome them. Hence our first-Degree command; *“Know thyself”*. By making the tenets of Freemasonry his code for life and living them to the full, the Brother will not create unrealistic expectations and thus by definition; *“with no unrealistic expectations, he will find happiness”*.

Returning to my opening remarks; the Prestonian lecture, which has been presented to Brethren around the globe on the grand design of Freemasonry and the fabulous camaraderie experienced amongst the Freemasons of the world in London, it has been shown that there is a very happy place within the bosom of Freemasonry. All you need to do is to make the effort to create it within yourself and then communicate it to those who are nearest and dearest to you.

**MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM  
Grand Master**





*The GM, MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM, centre, with Eastern Cape PGM, RW Bro Keith Hutton, and the GL Officers and PGMs*

### Eastern Cape AGM

On 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018 the Eastern Cape AGM was held in Port Elizabeth. On the Friday night we had another very special annual dinner at Thatchwoods, Saturday morning saw the Grand Committee meet at the Walmer Golf Club and Saturday afternoon the AGM took place at the North End Temple.

The annual report presented by the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Keith Hutton, was indeed a more than encouraging one. During the past year the Division had successfully relocated the historic (No 3) Lodge de Vereening from its long time home in Graaff Reinet to Port Alfred and increased the active membership from 3 to more than 20. They had also consecrated Losie Sonheuwel and this new Lodge consisting of former Scottish Freemasons is really thriving in their new environment.

Nowadays, the Eastern Cape Division is growing rapidly and the Brethren are really enjoying their Freemasonry. It is a Division that we all look forward to sharing time with and is a credit to the GLSA.

On Saturday evening Keith and most of the out of town guests got together at "the Coachman" restaurant and we were reminded, once again, of how much we, as Freemasons, enjoy the camaraderie that we share.

### AASR of South Africa's 25 year celebrations

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November the Supreme Council



*M Ill Bro Paul Nash, V Ill Peter van den Heever, MP Bro Boet du Plessis and M Ill Nowellyn van Vuuren.*

for the AASR for South Africa celebrated 25 years as a sovereign Supreme Grand Chapter. The day was an extremely busy one starting in the morning with the coronation of 3 new 33<sup>rd</sup> degree members. The Sovereign Grand Commander MP Bro Boet du Plessis, then invested 2 new ESGIGs, M Ill Bros Paul Nash to head up the activities of the Northern Division and Nowellyn van Vuuren those of the Eastern Cape.

We then had an Executive meeting at which the SGC updated the Brethren on the developments around our Education program and announced that it would be formally launched, with international participation, at the 2018 AASR Annual Meeting in Cape Town.

It was then time for another historical first as the Grand Master of the GLSA, MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM was awarded an Honorary 33<sup>rd</sup> degree. While the AASR of South Africa is a fully independent structure, it is very closely tied to the GLSA and draws virtually all of its members from them.



MW Bro Duncan is a strong promoter of the greater Masonic offering and this honour was well deserved.



We then installed Ill Bro Reuven Coenen as the MW Sovereign of Chapter Eendracht Maak Magt. This Chapter is growing at an extraordinary rate and the year ahead is

likely to prove a stimulating and challenging one.

The day finished with a Banquet at which the SGC provided a detailed review of our 25 year history, recognised the contributions of a number of very worthy Brethren and presented awards to those whose above average contributions made a real difference.

## The African Grand Lodges meeting in Gabon

On 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> November, 17 of the African Grand Lodges met in Gabon to finalise the document defining the relationship between the African Grand Lodges and to attend the Gabon AGM. As the date clashed with the Eastern Cape AGM, the Grand Master could not attend and I was sent to represent the GLSA.

As I was well assured would be the case, I was extremely well received and enjoyed the very special



treatment that our African Brethren have become so well known for. After much, often heated, debate the Agreement document was completed and signed and the focus moved on to the Annual Meeting and the Banquet.



*The delegates to the African Grand Lodge's meeting*

There were 35 Grand Lodges in attendance and they represented Africa, Europe and the US. The AGM was well run and the very sumptuous Banquet held that evening was superb by any standards. Good contacts were made and firm Masonic friendships established.

Based on my experience, I strongly urge all of our Brethren to visit other Grand Lodges when you can!

## RW Bro Alan van der Vyver



*Newly initiated Bro Daniel Strydom surrounded by the Eastern Division Brethren*

## Eastern Division Combined Working

It has become traditional in Eastern Division to have a combined working involving all Lodges at the end of each year. This year was in Pietermaritzburg, at Lodge Dromedaris, on the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

## Visiting Foreign Grand Lodges

Brethren, visiting Foreign Grand Lodges is a special Masonic privilege - but please do it correctly and ask your Provincial Secretary to arrange a GLSA Letter of Introduction. This way the Grand Lodge that you are visiting will know to expect you. If you just show up at the door of a Temple, you may well be turned away!

## Albert J Haak se Bevestiging


Die Losie was weereens bevoorreg om ons jaarlikse bevestigingsvergadering te hou waartydens Agb Br Fred Kitching as Voorsittende Meester bevestig is. 'n Groot hoeveelheid Broeders het die vergadering bygewoon waaronder heelparty lede van die Suster Konstitusies.

Ons was ook vereer met 'n amptelike besoek



vanaf Grootlosie, wat deur SV Br Alan van der Vyver gelei is, tydens die vergadering is toekennings aan Agb Brs Simon Nash en Fred Kitching gemaak vir hul ritueel uitmuntendheid.

Die Losie was ook vereer deur die teenwoordigheid van 'n groot aantal dames en die feesmaal na die vergadering was van 'n baie hoë standaard en ons dank gaan aan almal wat die moeite gedoen het om die vergadering by te woon.



Reg No. 2002/031211/23

**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 R31,230. For more details contact Henda Heyneke +27 (11) 264 2783 or +27 (83) 256 6682

### Royal Protea Installation

On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November Lodge Royal Protea (East London) installed Wor Bro Hugo van der Merwe as their Master for the following year. The event was a Grand Lodge call-out led by RW Bro Alf Brönnner, who was supported by RW Bro Bernard Neuhaus and Wor Bros Fred Meiring, Flip Coetzer and Mark Hiles.

The Lodge is a small one and enjoys a very close working relationship with the Brethren from both the English and Scottish Constitutions.



RW Bro Alf Brönnner, Wor Bro Hugo van der Merwe and RW Bro Keith Hutton (PGM Eastern Cape)

### Lodge Westerford 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree working



Bro Quewin Keyser, RW Bro Tommy Hardiman, Wor Bro Frank Begot (de Goede Hoop), Bro Christian Laruelle (a visitor from France), Wor Bro Graham Symons

### The Widow's Pin



If you would like to recognise your Widows for the precious role that they play in your Lodge, present them with a most attractive "Broken Column" Pin. Please phone the GLSA Offices at 087 550 2965 or email [admin@grandlodge.co.za](mailto:admin@grandlodge.co.za) for all the details.

### Almoner's Corner

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

RW Bro Peter Watkinson OSM (Central Free State) has been in and out of hospital but remains his normal cheerful self while Marie Brits, the wife of Wor Bro Mike Brits (Central Free State), is being treated for cancer. Please keep her in your prayers.

Three van der Stel Brethren have medical challenges, being Wor Bro Corrie Grobbellaar who has lung cancer, RW Bro Swenny Crofton, who as we all know, is fighting cancer and VW Bro Johan Haasbroek who has had a severe stroke. While all are in the capable hands of their loved ones, they could always use our support, encouragement and prayers.

Wor Bro Ron Kessler (de Goede Hoop) has had a back operation and is making excellent progress.

Bro Neville Crole (Westerford) was hospitalised with diabetes related problems but is well on the mend.

Wor Bro Alan Pembroke (Neerlandia) had a very bad fall and was hospitalised as a result. He is still struggling with the various injuries that he sustained. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Bro Mark Collins' brother was tragically killed in a hit and run accident. Bro Mark, we can't imagine your pain - you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Wor Bro Frans Olivier (Losie Brits) has passed away at 91. He was always a very active Freemason and will be fondly remembered and sorely missed. Our condolences are extended to his family and loved ones.

*"The ultimate aim or purpose of human life is to achieve your own happiness."*  
Aristotle

### 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](mailto:secretary@grandlodge.co.za)