

# The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 74 March 2018



Most Worshipful Brother David Duncan OSM.

## "Do unto others as you would they do unto you"

Brethren, when we were initiated into our Ancient and Honourable Order, each and every one of us adopted our usual attitude of prayer and promised before TGOTU that we would observe the Commandment "*do unto others as you would they do unto you*". We did not promise to "*do unto others that which I perceive that they are doing unto me*". A relatively small difference in words, but a world of difference in allowable behaviour as a Freemason.

This is a very difficult code to live by and we often fail to fully respect this directive. However, it is the attempt of a Brother to live by this directive that earns him our respect in this rapidly changing world.

The advent of social media has changed the environment in terms of what we may say and what we may not say. A simple "post" travels the world in milliseconds and cannot be recovered. Once it has left the instrument used to transmit it, it has a life of its own. It can come back sometime in the future to embarrass us and even, perhaps, to change our lives in a very negative way.

We have all heard of ill-considered "posts" ruining work careers. Something considered funny and harmless is interpreted negatively by someone who can influence our lives. Remember that this is the rub; interpretation is far more powerful than intention. "*What you meant*" and "*what you said*" is truly in the mind of the receiver. Perception is reality and arguing your case afterwards is usually a waste of time.

We are also seeing the development of a sinister side to social media and this is the advent of the so-called "*trial by media*". How many internationally

famous celebrities have been accused on social media of wrongdoing; sometimes dating back to a decade or decades ago when social norms were very different. In the eye of the receiver, the perception is created that because it is on social media, it must be true. After all; there can be no smoke without fire!!! Whatever happened to "*innocent until proven guilty?*" There have been some very high-profile cases where innocence was later proven; but did this take away the stigma created by the false "post"? No; we will always remember the celebrity for what was not proven, not that they were later found innocent of any wrongdoing. In extreme cases, lives have been destroyed and even lost due to an unfounded "post".

The proliferation of social media sites for Lodges, Provinces, special interest groups etc creates the opportunity for misinformation to be broadcast to a wide range of Brethren. They will receive the "post" before any attempt or opportunity has been created for the determination of any truth in the matter. This cannot be fair in any civilised society and is certainly not acceptable in Freemasonry. Remember; we have also taken an oath regarding Brotherly Love and the transmission of an untested rumour does not, in my opinion, come close to fulfilling that obligation.

Brethren; even though it is rapidly becoming the norm in our somewhat damaged society, we must never be tempted to "*do unto others that which we perceive that they are doing unto us*". We must always act in manner befitting the practice of the principles and tenets of our Order. Our Order commands the moral high ground and we, as its members, must defend that position. After all; is that not what we are all about? Making good men better - and promoting the basic principles of Truth, Morality and Brotherly Love!

MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM  
Grand Master

## The Golden Rule!

The beautiful philosophy referred to in the message from our Grand Master, is endorsed by every religion in their Volume of Sacred Law. Some examples are:

**Buddhism**, "Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful." **Confucianism**, "Do not unto others what you would not have them do unto you."

**Judaism** "What is hateful to you, do not to your fellow man." **Taoism** "Regard your neighbour's gain as your own gain, and your neighbour's loss as your own loss."

**Christianity** "All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them." **Islam** "No one of you is a believer until he desires for his brother that which he desires for himself."

## An “Olde World” Adventure

Matjiesfontein is a Karoo village and is on the N1 some 30 kms on the Cape Town side of Laingsburg. It was founded in 1884 by an energetic Scottish railway man, James Douglas Logan. The village established itself as a fashionable Victorian health spa, and is now well known for its splendid historical buildings and a timelessness that is rare in modern-day South Africa.

Included in its colourful history are international cricketers, Olive Schreiner, fortification during The South African War (Anglo-Boer War) as headquarters for Cape Command, refuge for Jamieson Raid reformers and the venue of controversial war crimes hearings. Logan built the double-storey Milner Hotel in 1899 and it was used as a military hospital during the conflict with British forces. Some 10,000 troops were camped around the village during this time.

Logan was a Freemason and “Losieshuis”, aka the Masonic Lodge, was the first building constructed in 1887. It was a hostelry providing travellers’ lodgings. It was a fine example of late Victorian frontier town construction and design and is still standing today.



Anyway, at the end of 2017 Wor Bro Sean Stuart, WM of Simon van der Stel, decided that this would be a perfect venue for a Poker fund-raiser. He advertised the event and attracted not only Poker players, but also a number of Freemasons and their families who decided to go along and just enjoy the weekend. I’m told that the party on the 4 hour train trip on its own made the event both memorable and very worthwhile!



*Wor Bro Sean Stuart (4R) with some of the participants*

Everybody who was fortunate enough to go along had a great weekend and plans are already afoot with regard to the next outing – maybe with a little less Poker and a whole lot of other competitions and, of course, lots of Masonic camaraderie and fun.

## Lodge Alpha Installation

On Tuesday 6 February Wor Bro Albert Fotabong was installed as the new Master of Lodge Alpha. The event was very well supported with 8 Grand Lodge Officers, led by RW Bro Alan van der Vyver, 14 PGL Officers, led by RW Bro Peet Roos and a total attendance of 49 Brethren.

Wor Bro Leonard Eke presented a comprehensive report on the activities during his term of office. The Lodge had grown by 2 over the past year and now has 26 members. His record of regular visits to other Lodges had also indeed been a most impressive one.

Wor Bro Ini Akpan then proceeded to Install the new Master, Wor Bro George Potgieter read the Ancient Charges and Wor Bro Godfrey Place attended to the Board of Installed Masters.



*RW Bro Alan v d Vyver, Mrs and Wor Bro Albert Fotabong*

At the end of the evening all present retired to a pleasant and convivial festive board.



*Wor Bro Ini Akpan, RW Bro Peet Roos and Wor Bro George Potgieter*

## The Widow’s Pin



This beautiful “Broken Pillar” pin was designed as a Masonic memento to be presented to our Widows. It comes together with a card which recognises the importance our Widows play in our Masonic lives. The cost is R120 per pin and new stock is now available. If your Lodge would like to honour your Widows, please phone the GLSA Offices at 087 550 2965 or email [admin@grandlodge.co.za](mailto:admin@grandlodge.co.za) and place your order.



*Brethren from all 4 local Constitutions at the RA Chapter Dromedaris Excellent Master's working.*

### **Dromedaris RA have a busy time!**

Dromedaris RA Chapter in Pietermaritzburg have recently had a couple of most interesting evenings. An Excellent Master working saw 10 Companions, from all 4 Constitutions, passed in a single ceremony. ME Comp Neville Klein led the Grand Chapter team, while ME Comp Martin Kotze, Grand Superintendent of the Northern Division, was also present. Senior Brethren from all the local Constitutions played a part and they laboured together in a spirit of true Masonic harmony.

In the second evening the Chapter raised Wor Bro Johan van der Merwe to Mark Master Mason.



*Brethren present at the Mark Master's working.*

### **RW Bro Neville Rudram receives 50 year jewel**

Neville Rudram was initiated on 18<sup>th</sup> November 1967 into Lodge Star of the Rand. In the intervening 50 years he has enjoyed a long, effective and very distinguished Masonic career.



In 1970 he was appointed as Lodge Preparator and this was just the beginning of a mentoring role

that he still plays. His efforts have left a profound impression on many of our Order's younger members.

Neville was Founder Member of RA Chapter Fidelity and, by the time he was installed as Master of his Lodge in 1975, he had been Secretary of both the Lodge and Chapter. In 1975, he also joined the AASR.

He joined PGL in 1978 and PGRAC in 1979. Neville also played a leading role in the motivation, purchase and redesign of our Orange Grove facility. In 1982 the Temple was consecrated and, with the rest of the complex, still plays a leading role in the GLSA.

In 1983 he was appointed as an Assistant PGM and in 1984, initiated a monthly newsletter which he personally edited and published. In 1990, Neville was promoted to Deputy PGM.

In the 1990s he served the GLSA at the highest levels. He was the RA 1<sup>st</sup> Grand Principal from 1994 to 1997 and was appointed PGM of Northern Division in 1998; when there were many challenges to address.

Neville, remains an invaluable member of our Order. He continues to mentor the younger Brethren and is both loved and respected for his efforts.

### **Wor Bro Reuven Coenen promoted to APMG**

At the Star of the Rand Installation held on Tuesday 20 February, RW Bro Peet Roos, the Northern Division PGM, took the opportunity to obligate and invest Wor Bro Reuven Coenen as an Assistant PGM.



Wor Bro Reuven is a member of Golden City and Prince Fredrick Lodges and has spent several years in the PGL team, including a spell as PG Secretary. He is active in the AASR and is generally well respected for his contribution to Freemasonry and the GLSA.

## Another Year – Another Spring Ball

Even to those of us directly involved it seems unbelievable, but this is the 44<sup>th</sup> consecutive year in which we'll be holding a Masonic Spring Ball! Last year, of course, saw us handing over a record amount of R212,000, all for the benefit of the residents of the Masonic Homes. This year we hope to do even better.

If you'd like to know more about the project, or perhaps to participate in some way, please give us a call and we'll provide you with all the relevant details, or look us up on our web site - [www.springball.co.za](http://www.springball.co.za)



**MASONIC SPRING BALL**  
**2018**  
SATURDAY 8 SEPTEMBER – 19H30 TO MIDNIGHT  
AT KELVIN GROVE BALL ROOM  
144 CAMPGROUND RD NEWLANDS

**TICKETS R450.00 PP:**  
Includes 3 course meal and wine on the table

RESERVATIONS ESSENTIAL  
Tickets Available from the Provincial Grand Secretary  
secretarys@grandlodge.co.za - 021 461 5400

All proceeds in aid of the "Masonic Homes" – PBO No 930057584

## A visit to the United States

Visiting, is a real Masonic privilege and a Brother should take the opportunity to visit as often as possible. We teach that Freemasonry is global and reaches throughout the whole world and that the bond is contracted for our whole lives. One truly appreciates the meaning of this when received by Brethren elsewhere in the world.

Wor Bro Edgar Baron, the recently installed Master of Lodge Cape Town, spent some time in America and while there met the new Grand Master of Pennsylvania, MW Bro Eugene S Herritt, attended a working of St. John's Lodge, once presided over by Bro Benjamin Franklin, visited the House of the Temple in Washington DC and had tours and visits to the Grand Lodges of New York, Massachusetts and Connecticut as well as the Headquarters of the AASR Northern Jurisdiction.



If you ever have any input for Square & Compasses, please email it to [secretary@grandlodge.co.za](mailto:secretary@grandlodge.co.za)

## Almoner's Corner

Wor Bro Rodney Schreuder (Mngeni) went to hospital after a recent Lodge meeting and finished up having an operation. He's on the road to recovery.

Wor Bro Auret Weir's (Central Free State) wife, Mandy, had a recent operation but is recovering well.

Wor Bro Heinz Smekal (Hiram) was diagnosed with cancer but, after a couple of relatively small procedures, has been assured that he is fully clear.

VW Bro Johann Haasbroek (Simon van der Stel) is still struggling with the effects of his stroke and you should keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Wor Bro Corrie Grobbellaar (Simon van der Stel) is battling with his cancer but remains positive. His wife, Dalene, is recovering well after her setback.

Bro Rob le Roux (Johan van Riebeeck) had a back operation and will be immobilised for some 6 weeks. Let's try to ensure that he doesn't get too lonely!

Bro Dan Korn (de Goede Trouw) is having an operation shortly. Please keep him in your prayers.

Brethren all, let us never forget that we are Freemasons and, as such, we committed ourselves to caring about those in difficulty or distress. This includes those recently bereaved or facing health challenges as well as the widows of Brethren who have passed to the Eternal East. Let us make sure that we honour this promise in all our actions and undertakings.

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](mailto:nevilleklein44@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.

**"Progress is impossible without change – and those who cannot change their minds, cannot change anything".**  
*George Bernard Shaw*