

The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 79 August 2018



Most Worshipful Brother David Duncan OSA.

Is Freemasonry still relevant in our daily lives?

I believe that every Mason, at some time or other, has asked himself this question. I also believe that most Masons have decided that it is relevant and, having made that decision, have resumed their Masonic lives with renewed vigour. Sadly, however, some Masons have decided that it is no longer relevant for them to outwardly practise their craft. Why should this be?

A Mason is pledged to obey the moral law, search after truth and maintain the highest principles of honesty and integrity. This pledge is not to be applied in the Lodge room only, but in his everyday life. How can these lofty principles NOT be an aspiration level in our daily lives?

Before attempting to answer that question, I would like to examine what Freemasonry is to most of us. The spectrum of Freemasonry is very wide ranging, from academic pursuit, enlightenment through personal and spiritual growth, charity and social interaction. All of these facets, in some form or other, attract the interest of a Freemason and every member is free to participate actively in whatever interests him. In all of these activities however, he is not alone, he will always have likeminded Brethren around him. It is the collective participation of these Brethren that creates the positive social interaction within the Lodge and so determines the ambiance that promotes the harmony within that Lodge. Any dis-harmony in the Lodge will ultimately detract from the enjoyment of the members and probably prompt the above question.

Man is a social animal and thrives on interaction. Finding a community where brotherly love, peace and order are the norm, is very rare these days. This is why we structure our Lodges in a definite way and maintain strict discipline regarding anti-social behaviour. Sadly, we are all human, and the Founding Fathers of our Order were well aware that passionate beliefs have accounted for far too many disagreements and conflicts. In the landmarks of the Order, they banned discussion of such emotive subjects within the Lodge and promoted discourse on the other issues of life. Truth, morality and brotherly love were substituted for the divisive subjects of politics and religion.

The emphasis was to create harmony through purpose and brotherly love through the caring of every member for his neighbour. Freedom of thought was encouraged and an acute awareness of any prevailing social injustice was developed through calm reflection rather than heated debate. Freemasons have been at the forefront of most positive social change for many centuries and the Constitution of the United States is a very good example of this. Freemasons meet on the level and are equal on the square. It is suggested that most of our modern charters on human rights have been based on these principles. It is sad to reflect however, that as man's greed takes hold and dictates his actions, it is not long before "some men become more equal than others".

We see that, even now in our own society, the principles of the Constitution and Bill of Rights are being eroded by corruption and greed within the political and law enforcement systems. It is widely felt that justice is already outside of the realm of the ordinary man and that well-financed greed triumphs without challenge.

So where does Freemasonry fit into this scenario? I believe that if we live our Masonic principles in our everyday life, we become protected against the frustrations of our society. We draw satisfaction as responsible members of society by giving back to it in greater proportion to that which we receive.

By practicing the principles of our Masonry in the form of tolerance, charity and brotherly love, we can make a difference. Consider your daily life in respect of the opportunities that it throws at you. Don't you wish that you could stand back from retaliating when provoked, forgive the transgressor and calmly go about making a positive difference in your microcommunity? If we did, it may only be one metaphorical brick that each one of us has to handle; but 5 million bricks, the estimated number of Masons around the world, can build a beautiful structure for all to admire. This is where we must be. It is not just a case of making high impact statements. It is a process of slowly changing

our way of life to demonstrate our principles in all that we do, and so, impacting positively on all around us.

By showing brotherly love, tolerance and charity and never compromising truth in our everyday lives, we can still make a difference in our communities. By leading by example, we can hope to incite others to follow, and hence make our own world a better place.

**MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM
Grand Master**

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

Northern Division have most successful AGM

On Saturday 7th July the Northern Division AGM was held at the Park Lane Temple in Johannesburg. The PGM, RW Bro Peet Roos, gave a positive report on the progress over the past year and then installed his new team. Significant changes saw the installation of Wor Bro Simon Nash as Deputy PGM, of Wor Bro Freddie Diener as an Assistant PGM and of Wor Bro Frik Brits as the PGL Secretary.



Assistant GM, RW Bro Alf Brønner, with RW Bro Peet Roos

At the conclusion of the formal meeting in the Temple a most convivial festive board was attended by most of the Brethren present.

The Grand Master, MW Bro David Duncan OSM, shared some time with local legends RW Bro Ben Spies and wife Cynthia.



The formal festive board was relaxed and enjoyable and many informal ideas were shared.



Scottish guests Bros Bob Law and Jim Kerr are seen with RW Bro Vic Mühlenbeck, MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM and the Deputy Grand Master, RW Bro John Smith OSM.

AASR experience a busy Month!

The AASR, under Sovereign Grand Commander, MP Bro Boet du Plessis, is really enjoying a most active time nowadays - and July was no exception. At a special 33rd degree meeting convened in Johannesburg, much loved V Ill Bro Schalk Stapelberg was crowned as a Sovereign Grand Inspector General



MP Bro Boet du Plessis (41), V Ill Bro Schalk Stapelberg (51) and senior Brethren of the AASR.

Later in the month, at a well supported meeting held at Durban's Consistory Natal, the 32nd degree was conferred on Ill Bros Reuven Coenen, Rex Ingle and Keith Hutton, all of whom are well respected senior offices in Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Lodge.



Ill Bros Reuven Coenen, Rex Ingle and Keith Hutton



The attendees at the Consistory Natal meeting with MP Bro Boet du Plessis and P Bro Vic Mühlenbeck in centre

Also at the Durban meeting, it was announced that M Ill Bro Neville Klein was, due to ongoing health challenges, stepping down as a member of the AASR of South Africa Grand Executive. The Sovereign Grand Commander duly announced that he had appointed M Ill Bro Alf Brønner as his replacement.



In this picture M Ill Bro Alf Brønner, who is from the Central Division, is congratulated on his promotion by the Sovereign Grand Commander, MP Bro Boet du Plessis.



The Morgenster Installation - Wor Bro Johnny Cambanis (centre), flanked by MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM and RW Bro Cor van Zyl.

Morgenster Installation sets new standards!

On an unforgettable Free State afternoon, PGM RW Bro Cor van Zyl, and his team did a good job of reinstalling Wor Bro Johnny Cambanis as Master of Lodge Morgenster, The valedictory report for the past year was a positive one and the Lodge had achieved a good balance between formal and social activities.

The Grand Master, MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM, was accompanied by 10 Grand Lodge Officers and all felt optimistic about the direction in which the Lodge is now headed. Enthusiasm and commitment really can result in some special results!

After the Installation some 60 people adjourned to the local Conference Centre for a Greek style festive board. It was truly magnificent - and the belly dancer who provided the cabaret wasn't half bad either! This really does set a new trend for Masonic celebrations.

Neerlandia Install their new Master

On Saturday 30th June, RW Bro Basil de Kock and his PGL Eastern Division team performed the installation of Wor Bro Jeremy Rundle as the new Worshipful Master of Lodge Neerlandia.

Having been consecrated in 1922, Neerlandia is very much the most senior of our Eastern Division Lodges and the Brethren are already starting to plan for their centenary celebrations.

Blanket Drive Success again

Northern Division's 2018 Blanket Drive initiative has once again proved to be an enormous success. The Division raised some R40,600 which they used to purchase donations to such needy causes as the Walking Tall feeding scheme, the Solheim Old Age Home, the Child Youth Care Foundation and the Johannesburg Children's Home.



Bro Karl Venter with Prof Lesiba Masaung of Child Youth Care Foundation



Wor Bro Simon Nash with Jeff Ellis - the founder of Walking Tall



Wor Bro Jeremy Rundle and RW Bro Basil de Kock surrounded by PGL Officers, Neerlandia Brethren and guests

Remembering those who gave their all!



Wor Bro Johan van der Merwe is the Wor Master of Lodge Isandlwana and Assistant Provincial Grand Master of Eastern Division. It was fitting, therefore, that he represented the GLSA at the annual wreath-laying ceremony at the Memorial event for those South African heroes who died at Delville Wood in World War 1 in 1916.

They gave their all - may we never forget them.

Ritual Excellence Program Successes

The most important Ritual Excellence Program continues to make real progress with a number of our Brethren posting good scores over the past few weeks.

Some of the July highlights included:

- Wor Bro Demos Markantonis (Golden City) achieved Ritualist status in one night.
- RW Bro Jacques Markantonis (Golden City) achieved 12 points in one night.
- Wor Bro Johnny Berger of Golden City achieved 13 points in one night.
- Wor Bro Alexandre Kabamba (Flaming Star) achieved 20 points in the 3rd degree in one night. He is just 4 points away from Senior Ritualist.
- Bro Ethelbert Ejimadu (Alpha) has increased his score to 35 points in the 3rd degree.
- Wor Bro Achille Katumbay (Flaming Star) is now just 2 points away from Ritualist status.
- Bro Jesse Bossenge-Nkoy (de Goede Hoop) is now a Senior Ritualist. He has accumulated some 22 points in the 1st degree and 19 points in the 2nd.
- MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM (de Goede Hoop) earned 12 points in the 2nd degree towards his stated goal of Master Ritualist status.

Masonic Spring Ball 2018 - Coming up Soon!



Southern Division Masters and Wardens

On Saturday 30th June PGL Southern Division held their annual Masters and Wardens meeting. This year RW Bro Tommy Hardiman decided to try something a little different and, after presentations on such topics as the History of Southern Division, the Masonic Homes and the Spring Ball, the Ritual Excellence Program and the Masonic education Fund, various awards were given to some of the local stars. This was followed by a memorable dinner party.



Bro Michael van der Linde, left, (de Goede Trouw) was awarded leading Apprentice. Bro Lucas van der Schyff (Johan van Riebeeck) was given the Fellowcraft award and Bro Marco Petronio (Westerford) received the

award for Master Mason. A special award was given to RW Bro Avron Jacobsen for his ongoing contribution.



Left - Marco was away on business and his daughters proudly represented him.

Right - Avron received a clock embellished with a Southern Division crest.



All present enjoyed the PGM's new format for the annual event and thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

Almoner's Corner

Wor Bro Dave Segal (Star of the West) had a mild stroke and is now recovering at home.

RW Bro Hymie Becker (de Goede Verwachting) had a pacemaker implanted. He is now struggling with his back, but assures us that he is otherwise well.

Wor Bro Dawie van Rooyen (de Goede Hoop) is recovering from his shoulder surgery and assures us that he'll be perfect within a week or two.

Wor Bro Marco Saunders (Helderberg) is having a really difficult time with his cancer and is bed-ridden at home now. Keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Wor Bro Corrie Grobelaar (van der Stel) has his doctors a bit confused. While he remains cheerful, his struggle against cancer continues without respite.

Louise, wife of Wor Bro Jan Venter (Johan van Riebeeck), continues battling on with her broken arm. It's healing - but she feels it is much too slow!

And for some good news, Bro Tertius van Zyl (Marina) and his wife Natalie are the proud parents of a new baby girl, as are RW Bro Tommy Hardiman (Westerford) and wife Lily. All parties are doing well.

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