

# The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 80 September 2018



Most Worshipful Brother David Duncan OSM.

## Am I my Brother's keeper?

*"May you live in interesting times"*. Reportedly a Chinese curse when wished upon you.

The socioeconomic pressures upon each and every one of us are increasing daily and time is becoming a precious commodity. We see this in the Order by a reduction in the attendance levels at Lodge. The reasons given invariably relate to family or working late. Both perfectly acceptable and reflect a balanced view; as we always state that family and business must come first and that Freemasonry must never compromise either.

The danger with human nature of course is that good reasons can become excuses. Have we really structured our lives to tackle the important things first? Have we considered our family, business and spiritual growth before spending time on other items such as amusements and escapism? I observe frequently that the exponential growth of social media has captured the precious time of many, to the point that they are neglecting those basic priorities in life.

I have even heard the comment that, due the social media groups created for the Lodge, we are better informed today than ever before and so we do not need to go to Lodge as often.

Brethren: May I suggest that the devices of our interesting times have become that Chinese curse. Social media has developed rapidly, just like the internet, to make information available at the push of a button and NOW. We are so much more aware of what

is happening to our family, friends and neighbours than ever before. Some even offer us the opportunity to live their daily lives with them, as they *"post"* what they are about to eat for supper. Have we become so passively involved in the lives of others that we are using up our precious time to escape from ours?

Information is great and, by careful manipulation and application, becomes knowledge and then wisdom. Does interaction with social media ever create wisdom? I believe that you can have all the knowledge in the world and yet know nothing that will help you to navigate the emotional paths of life. Our ritual even goes so far as to highlight this with the reference to library full of books.

So why would one immerse themselves in a disconnected fantasy world instead of living, developing and making a difference in the real world? All of the lessons in our rituals exhort us to do just this. A knowledge and understanding of which, is an essential part of becoming a better man. Remember Benjamin Franklin ..... *"involve me and I will learn"*.

I believe that we need to stress the importance of personal contact in the growth process of our Brethren. A meaningful discussion and debate cannot happen on social media. It is dangerous to reveal your innermost thoughts for the world to see. Sadly, someone out there will take them out of context and you may finish up being pilloried in the community at large. Look at what is happening all around us. Careless comments on social media have resulted in jail time.

*"Am I my Brother's keeper"*. Did we not take an oath to be such or did I get it wrong?

Brethren: We ARE our Brother's keeper and it is time to discharge that responsibility seriously. We must actively encourage every Brother we know who is inactive, to return to Lodge and enjoy the opportunity of the comradery created in a harmonious Lodge of like minded people. The Lodge is a sanctuary from the tribulations of daily life and a place where we can recharge our enthusiasm for life and, by the sharing of experiences, learn the lessons and interventions that will assist us to go forth and prosper.

**MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM**  
**Grand Master**

## New Assistant Grand Master appointed

The Grand Master has promoted **RW Bro Avron Jacobson** to an Assistant Grand Master. Avron, a Past PGM of Southern Division plays a leading role in our strategy around technology, particularly as regards our GrandView database.





*Makalani's new Master, Wor Bro (centre), with RW Bros Alf Brönner (L), Cor van Zyl (R) and the Brethren*

### **Makalani Installation the usual success!**

Those of you who have had the great privilege of attending a Lodge Makalani Installation weekend in Grootfontein, Namibia will know exactly what I am talking about when I describe it as "the type of GLSA experience that every Brother should make sure that he enjoys at least once". This year was no exception and the Brethren who were there had a great time and came back with the usual wonderful memories.

What makes it so special is the Lodge Makalani hospitality. The Brethren and their wives, coordinated by Lara Montgomery, really do go the extra mile to ensure that everybody present is treated like royalty.



This year saw Wor Bro Jacob Theron installed as Worshipful Master. The working was well performed by Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Cor van Zyl, and his Central Division team with RW Bro Alf Brönner leading the Grand Lodge delegation.



As always, there were a number of Brethren from South Africa and the Installation was well supported by all the Constitutions which are represented in Namibia.

*In this picture are Monty and Lara Montgomery with Lorna-lee and Shane. Monty and Lara really do set a fine example for all of us to follow.*

### **Possible new Military Lodge in Kimberley**

Under the enthusiastic guidance of Assistant Grand Master, RW Bro Alf Brönner, our Central Division Brethren are exploring the possibility of opening a new Military Lodge in Kimberley.



This picture, taken at the historic Kimberley Temple, shows RW Bro Alf Brönner with the Brethren who joined him in the visit to Kimberley to explore possibilities and to determine what might be needed to ensure the project's success – and Lodge Isandlwana will help as much as they can!

### **Westerford's Onesies bring much happiness!**

The Brethren of Lodge Westerford, supported by PGL Southern Division, decided that they wanted to do something a little different to help those in need. Led by Bro Marco Petronio and Wor Bro Sean Stuart they set about collecting funds to provide one-piece winter warmers for children in need, such as the 400 children at the Athlone School for the Blind. To say that the children were delighted is an understatement!



*Bro Marco Petronio*



*Wor Bro Sean Stuart*



### Royal Arch activities

The GLSA Royal Arch has been showing excellent growth in the recent past with several new Chapters being consecrated in our Northern Division. At the same time, the other regions are continuing to make good progress as shown by this recent picture taken at a Chapter Dromedaris Royal Arch working.



*MEZ, M Ex Comp Frans Roodt (red), surrounded by the Brethren who assisted in the working.*

### de Goede Trouw is making a real impact

Right now, the fastest growing Lodge in the Southern Division is our No 2 Lodge, de Goede Trouw. They are a young Lodge with a vibrant feel about them - and there is no doubt that the Brethren are having fun and enjoying their Freemasonry. The new Master, Wor Bro Craig Pedersen, centre right, is very excited about the year ahead.



### Losie Unie Install their new Master

On Saturday 1 September Losie Unie, No 4 on the roll of the Grand Lodge of South Africa and consecrated in 1864, held their annual Installation.

This historic Lodge, which includes such distinguished Past Masters as President Johan Brand, has had a challenging time recently with membership issues placing a real strain on the Lodge's resources.

The new Master, Wor Bro Philip Earley is determined to address this challenge and will be supported by all the senior members of the Division.

The Installation was very well performed by the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Cor van Zyl, while



*The new Master of Losie Unie, Wor Bro Philip Earley with RW Bros Alf Brönnner and Cor van Zyl on his immediate right.*

Assistant Grand Master, RW Bro Alf Brönnner, was the leader of the Grand Lodge delegation.

### AASR activities

As with Royal Arch, the Supreme Council for the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for South Africa is extremely active at present. The Sovereign Grand Commander, MP Bro Boet du Plessis, sets a fine example and is always extremely busy, whether it be entertaining senior overseas visitors such as the German SGC MP Bro Eberhard Desch, who is also Chairman of the Confederation of European Supreme Councils or fulfilling his role as the Chairman of the African Supreme Councils.

The Chapters and Consistories are also very active at present and the pictures below illustrate just 2 recent events involving our different Divisions.



*The Executive Sovereign Grand Inspector General for the Eastern Cape, M Ill Bro Nowellyn van Vuuren, and Brethren.*



*Kapittel Vrystaat performed an 18<sup>th</sup> degree working in Senekal at which several Brethren were passed. The working was conducted by the MWS, Ill Bro Eugene van Rooyen, and was attended by MP Bro Boet du Plessis accompanied by a number of 33<sup>rd</sup> degree Brethren.*

**"Excellence is not an Act - but a Habit" Aristotle**



## GrandView launch is in process

We are now living in the Technological Age and GrandView, our new Membership system, puts us right on the leading edge. The system, identified for us by RW Bro Avron Jacobson, was designed in the United States and now services the needs of some 383,337 Freemasons in 22 Grand Lodges around the USA and the Masonic world. The GLSA is the first Grand Lodge in Africa to have implemented the system and it is already proving to be a real game changer for us.



The GrandView system allows every individual member to maintain his own personal details and to ensure that they are always current. It will also provide online access for our members to such material as the Masonic Book of Life, Square and Compasses, our annual Year Book, a wide variety of Masonic articles related to the different degrees (access being dependant on the Brother's progress) and Lodge specific material such as Agendas, Minutes and various notices.

Lodge Masters and Secretaries will be able to monitor progress within their Lodges as will Provincial Officers within their Divisions and Grand Lodge Officers on a national basis. We now have information that is needed to assist us in our decision making and there is no doubt that we will be better equipped to service the ongoing needs of our members and to make being part of the GLSA an even richer experience.

## Little Mason gets Cape Town's support

Mason van Dyk was born with a very rare skin disease and given little chance of survival. His family, however, wouldn't accept that and decided to do all that they could to give Mason a chance. Now 7 years old, he needs some extremely expensive medical



*Carleen, Mason's Dad Jonathan van Dyk and Edgar Baron*

treatment that is only available in the USA. Lodge Cape Town, led by Wor Bro Edgar and Carleen Baron, held a memorable event, filled with fun and charity, and raised R20,000 towards the medical costs.

Working together with Southern Division's PGM, RW Bro Tommy Hardiman, our Sister Constitution's are also enthusiastically supporting the project. They too are making a very real contribution towards trying to ensure that little Mason gets every chance to live as close as possible to a normal life.

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

## Our new Grand Almoner

After many years as our Grand Almoner, during which he earned the respect of every member of our Grand Lodge, RW Bro Neville Klein OSM has reached the point where he has well earned his retirement.

Our new Grand Almoner is **RW Bro Nuno Calvet**. Nuno is an experienced Brother who joined the GLSA some 4 years ago after an extremely distinguished career with the Grand Lodge of Madagascar, in the course of which he received an OSM. He has already served us as a Grand Junior Warden. He belongs to Star of the West and Isandlwana and is a member of the GLSA Grand Committee. With the advent of our GrandView database, Nuno sees the opportunity to bring more structure into the role of our Almoners around the country and is determined that we will be seen as a caring organisation in each and every Lodge.



## Almoner's Corner

We are sad to report that, after a long fight with cancer, Wor Bro Marco Saunders (Helderberg), has been taken to the Eternal East. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this difficult time.

We are also sad to report that Wor Bro Dave Segal (Star of the West) who was recovering from a stroke has had a relapse and been taken from us. May his family be comforted by memories of good times shared.

Wor Bro Rodney Schreuder (Neerlandia), has been in hospital being fitted with a pace-maker and is now recovering at home. In his role as a Secretary, Rodney is a significant contributor to our Grand Lodge and we wish him a speedy recovery.

Wor Bro Corrie Grobelaar (Simon van der Stel) continues his fight against cancer, setting a fine example by his positive and cheerful attitude. He really misses very few call-outs despite his ongoing treatment.

VW Bro Johan Haasbroek (Simon van der Stel) who had a stroke a few months ago now, is still receiving ongoing support at Huis Redelinghuys, but remains as cheerful as possible in the circumstances.

Wor Bro Koos du Preez's (Simon van der Stel) wife Louise, who is a real contributor to Southern Division, is being treated for lung cancer. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers during this very challenging time.

If anything is known about a Brother in distress, please phone RW Bro Nuno Calvet at 083 5607838 or send him an email to [nunocalvet@gmail.com](mailto:nunocalvet@gmail.com)

"It is one of the most beautiful compensations of this life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself" Emerson