

The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 82 November 2018



Most Worshipful Brother David Duncan OSAI.

Look for the Grandfathers and find the lost generation!

Brethren, we cannot refute the reality that, whilst the principles of Freemasonry are probably more relevant today in society than they have ever been, we are not doing a great job in communicating them and exciting the public at large. Whilst we have always maintained that Freemasonry is not a numbers game and that quality is more important than quantity, we need a critical mass to be able to communicate the principles successfully. Personal contact is the most effective way of achieving our aim of making our communities better places. For this, we need a representation at every corner and level of society.

In his PhD thesis, published as *"The Freemasons of South Africa"*, Dr AA Cooper indicated that there were upwards of 26000 Freemasons active in South Africa in 1986. The population of the Country at that time was in the region of 34 million with 15% being from our legally allowable resource pool. If one considers the demographics of the time and takes a 50/50 split of males in the population, of which 50% were over the age of 21, it yields a traditional resource of approximately 1,3 million. In other words, Freemasons represented 2% of the target population.

In the old Transvaal, when I joined the Order, a popular perception of the numbers indicated that there were upwards of 2000 members in 50 Lodges within the GLSA. Today we are about 20% of that in half the number of Lodges. So, what happened?

Social organisations all over the world have suffered substantial reductions in numbers of members. Freemasonry has not escaped this phenomenon and along with Round Table, Rotary and even the Churches, we have all failed to keep pace with social change and to remain relevant in the perceptions of our traditional membership base and resource.

Freemasonry had a strong tradition of family connections, with sons following their Fathers into the Order. Somehow this seems to have dissipated and now, very few "*Lewis*s" are initiated into the Order. Did we do something wrong?

The norms of society have changed rapidly and dramatically over the last two generations. The number of Freemasons peaked in the late 1940s after World War II, when returning soldiers joined Masonry in an effort to retain aspects of the camaraderie built up during the conflict. A time when individualism was suppressed for the common cause. Personal discipline was strong and duty held in high regard. These were the Grandfathers of today's eligible members.

One of the changes experienced in society during the 50s and 60s was the rise of materialism. During the rest of the 20th Century, individualism and access to information became the norm. This allowed that generation to question everything of traditional value and a social "*revolution*" occurred. Human rights were stressed as an over-riding right. The accompanying "*responsibility*" was not mentioned and so the moral duty to facilitate the wellbeing of others less fortunate than ourselves became conveniently forgotten. It was "*all about me*" and the pursuit of financial and material gain. Whilst no-one will deny that this change in the norms of society has been responsible for the unbelievable technological progress that has been made during the last 40 years; many will question the cost in terms of morals and attitude?

The good news is that times are changing yet again. More and more Grandsons are looking back to see what made their Grandfathers the men that they were. A recent experience brought this home with impact. I was part of a delegation representing Freemasonry and met with the two young men responsible for the mechanics of the interaction. The first greeted us and indicated that his Grandfather had been a Freemason. In conversation, he indicated that, of all of the men in his family as he was growing up, his Grandfather had been the only one that he could really talk to. The second person involved in the production also indicated that his Grandfather had been a Freemason and recounted a similar experience. Neither of their Fathers or either of them had joined the Order. It had never been raised as a potential family tradition and so was not on the list of opportunities.

Both indicated that they were fascinated by the concept of Freemasonry but did not know how to explore it further. In both cases the family tradition was broken.

Is it time to repair the breakage and recover the sons of the lost generation? I believe that many of the Grandsons are interested in what made their Grandfathers good men. They are looking to rediscover the spiritual and social norms that guided them at that time and to evaluate for themselves their relevance in today's somewhat fractured society. Maybe it is worth exploring the family connections when interviewing a prospective Candidate and, if possible, re-awakening the knowledge that he is already a Freemason; just waiting to re-establish the family tradition.

**MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM
Grand Master**

East Rand Jukskei Competition

Members of Lodges Star of the East and Sonop and their families met in Springs on 20 October for a



social gathering and Lodge fund-raiser. The afternoon was spent competing at Jukskei – or, for the uninitiated, throwing horseshoes at a peg. Despite a storm in the early afternoon and the chilly weather, a great time was had by all those lucky enough to be present. The afternoon finished with a family braai and prizegiving.

At the end of the fierce competition, the eventual winners were Glory Gamede and her daughter Londi. Runners up were Leonard Stapelberg and his girlfriend Charné.



Seated front at the Royal Arch Southern Division AGM are MECs Brian Carstens, John Smith, Geoff Edwards, Johan Britz (1st Grand Principal), Dave Duncan (Grand Master), Dawie van Rooyen, Martin Kotze and the heads of visiting Constitutions.

Royal Arch AGMs a Great Success

On Saturday 29th September 2018 the GLSA Royal Arch spent the day in Cape Town. In the morning it was the turn of the Southern Division to hold their AGM, while in the afternoon it was the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of South Africa.



Front: Alan Pembroke, Johan Britz, Tommy Burke, Back: Geoff Edwards, Dave Duncan, John Smith, Brian Carstens

In the morning session, MEC Dawie van Rooyen reviewed his first year in office as Grand Superintendent - Southern Division. His report was a most positive one and, while they have had their setbacks, he and his team are getting encouraging results. They are optimistic about the future.

The afternoon session was in the hands of our First Grand Principal, MEC Johan Britz. After an extremely successful first term in Office, he was duly installed for a further period. In his annual report he updated the Companions on the progress made over the past couple of years and the growth that we are currently experiencing. We have consecrated Chapters Brixton 790, St Andrew 647, Golden Thistle 245 and Acacia 231 and there is another one being consecrated in the near future. This has also positively impacted on Cryptic Council and Royal Ark Mariners, of course, and the energy in the Royal Arch is palpable.

MEC Johan Britz acknowledged the major contribution being made by the various members of his Executive team and thanked them all for their efforts, commitment and enthusiasm. In particular, he noted

the exceptional performance of Deputy First Grand Principal, MEC John Smith, and to the approval of the Companions present, awarded him a MSA. John is, of course, already the holder of an OSM and now joins a small but very illustrious group who have been awarded both of these very prestigious honours - and both have been very well earned.



After the afternoon AGM the Companions sat down to a thoroughly enjoyable formal festive board.

First United Installation

On Saturday 6th October, it was Eastern Division's First United's turn to have their annual Installation. The outgoing Master, RW Bro Basil de Kock, provided an extremely positive report and has certainly left the Lodge in a sound state for Wor Bro Henry Selzer to build on during his term of Office.

The Deputy PGM, Wor Bro Grant Futter, led the PGL delegation and, assisted by the PGL Officers, performed an excellent Installation.

The Grand Lodge delegation was led by the Grand Master, MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM and he took the opportunity to make 2 most important awards.



In the first of these, Wor Bro Eugene Rawstorne received his 50 year jewel. Wor Bro Eugene is a dedicated Mason who has served the Order well. He is currently a member of Dromedaris and

is our Grand Lodge Inner Guard.

The second award was for GLSA Secretary of the Year, being Wor Bro Rodney Schreuder. He has excelled as both the Secretary of Eastern Division and of various Durban based Lodges. His attention to detail and his commitment to excellence makes a real difference. It is Brothers such as Rodney who have ensured that the GrandView project has enjoyed the successful installation which it has.



“Incredible India” Luncheon

A few months ago, Bro Syed Mugeemuddin joined Lodge Cape Town, having been raised in India and initiated into their Grand Lodge. He wanted to show his new Brethren how much he appreciated their kindness and so, assisted by the Worshipful Master,



Edgar (centre) and Syed (top right) with Cape Town team. Wor Bro Edgar Baron, Bro Syed and his wife produced an Indian lunch of outstanding quality and organised such Indian cultural activities as traditional dancing to make the occasion even more special.



On Saturday 6th October, **Losie Parys installed their new Worshipful Master, Wor Bro Donovan le Roux.** In this picture we have RW Bro Cor van Zyl (Provincial Grand Master) on his immediate right, VW Bro Frans Appelgryn (Deputy PGM) next to Cor and Brethren from PGL, the Lodge and visitors from our own and Sister Constitutions.



Proudly wearing their Rose Croix Collars and 28° jewels, the 6 new members of Consistory Eendrag Maak Mag are Ven Bros Nicolas Mulligan, Wayne Hunt, Emmanuel Nwaubani, Reginald Shaver, Ian Huntly and Kingsley Wakelin.

AASR Northern Region's 6 new 28th Degrees

On Friday 26th October 2018, AASR Consistory Eendrag Maak Mag had the unusual distinction of passing 6 Brethren to the 28th Degree. The ceremony was held at the Orange Grove complex and in the chair was Eminent Commander, Ill Bro Reuven Coenen.

Almoner's Corner



It is with much sadness that we report the passing to the Eternal East of VW Bro Johan Haasbroek (Simon van der Stel) after a lengthy illness. Johan was a Brother who lived a full Masonic life and contributed a great deal over the years. He was a Past Grand Master of Ceremonies and, prior to that, an Assistant Provincial Grand Master in Southern Division. Our thoughts and prayers are with Elise and the family at this time.

Our Almoner, RW Bro Nuno Calvet (Star of the West) has been battling with blood pressure problems. All Provincial and Lodge Almoners are urged to keep this in mind when performing their duties! ☺

The 5 year old son of Wor Bro Otto Conradie (Bultfontein) has been experiencing immune deficiency issues. Keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

The amazing RW Bro Bernard Neuhaus (Alpha) fell and cracked his patella. While it's certainly slowed him down, he assures me he'll be up and about soon.

Wor Bro Corrie Grobelaar (Simon van der Stel) continues to fight cancer in his inimitably positive manner while Louise du Preez (Koos' wife) who is receiving treatment for lung cancer is also sounding a lot more optimistic at present.

Wor Bro Heinz Smekal (Hiram) is battling with a spine injury after an ATM mugging and is also undergoing radiation therapy. Please keep him and Alyson in your thoughts and prayers.

Louise Venter (Jan's wife), who badly broke her arm in a nasty fall, is making progress and is still slowly recovering from her injury.

Dennis Knight (Marina) is about to go into hospital for a vein operation. Best of luck, Dennis.

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

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

Masonic Spring Ball Pictures

We have been approached by a number of Brethren asking for more Spring Ball pictures as well as the link to the full selection. We trust that you'll enjoy the pictures that we have selected below and that, by clicking on the link at the end, you'll find the specific photographs that you are looking for.



Masonic Spring Ball Photographs 2018